COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Dr. Ewa Wasilewska

Office hours: By appointment only. Please call the Department of Anthropology (581-6251) and leave your name, phone number, and class number. E-mail: Mruczek@AOL.com Website: www.ewas.us

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m.

Location: Campus: ST 205

Important dates: May 27, 2009 – last day to drop classes June 1, 2009 – last day to register, to elect CR/NC option or to audit classes June 5, 2009 – last day to withdraw June 19, 2009 – last day to reverse CR/NC option


This book can be purchased at the University Bookstore, in Barnes & Noble and on Internet. Two copies of this book are available at the Marriott Library.

RESERVE (Marriott Library):

Since the only book in English, which can be used for this course, is the one written by the instructor, additional readings are required. These are mostly translations of the original texts, which were selected as based on their readability and closeness to the original text. They are on electronic reserve for your use instead of the reading packet, which would be too expensive. Those that could not be put on electronic reserve for whatever reasons are available in a paper copy at the Marriott Library desk. Their titles are listed below, under specific topics for each meeting.
Subject: This course is designed to introduce students to creation stories of the ancient Middle East which have influenced modern religious systems and through them other aspects of socio-cultural systems. Each set of myths is presented within its specific historical, socio-economic, political and cultural context. In order to encourage students to learn how to analyze and interpret myths of different societies, theoretical and methodological issues are scheduled to be discussed and mostly translations of ancient texts are used.

Requirements: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The final grade is based on three take-home exams and a final paper on creation stories of the Middle East (10-12 pages plus bibliography). Exams are especially designed for the type of material that will be covered during class meetings. In order to pass these exams it is necessary to attend lectures and to read the required material.

The most important information, names, terms, definitions, etc., can be found in the notes prepared by the instructor in order to structure the learning process in the most effective way.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

In addition to the requirements listed above, graduate students are required to write a research paper of ca. 20 pages (plus bibliography). Each topic must be discussed with the instructor first.

MEETING # 1: May 19, 2009

Introduction to the course. Myth: its origin and meaning.

Readings for meeting # 1:

RESERVE:


MEETING # 2: May 21, 2009
Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East. Part 1.

Readings for meetings # 2 & 3:

RESERVE:


MEETING # 3: May 26, 2009
Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East. Part 2.

MEETING # 4: May 28, 2009
Religion: The Non-Existent Concept. Written sources from the Middle East -- a survey.

Readings for meeting # 4:

RESERVE:


TAKE-HOME EXAM: to be turned in on June 4, 2009.

MEETING # 5: June 2, 2009

Readings for meetings # 5 & 6:

RESERVE:


MEETING # 6: June 4, 2009
Creation of Universe: Out of Watery Order or Chaos. Part 2.

MEETING # 7: June 9, 2009
Creation of Universe: Divine Order and Its Creators.

Readings for meeting # 7:


**RESERVE:**


**MEETING # 8: June 11, 2009**  
Creation of Universe: Almost Divine: Chosen People.

**Readings for meeting # 8:**  

**RESERVE:**


TAKE-HOME EXAM: to be turned in on June 18, 2009

MEETING # 9: June 16, 2009
Creation of Humankind.

Readings for meeting # 9:

RESERVE:


Please review "Enuma Elish, " "Genesis" and selections from the "Qur'an."

MEETING # 10: June 18, 2009
Destruction of Humankind.

Readings for meeting # 10:

RESERVE:


Please review "Genesis"

MEETING # 11: June 23, 2009
The End.

Readings for meeting #11:

RESERVE:


TAKE-HOME EXAM: to be turned in on June 30, 2009
RESEARCH PAPER: to be turned in on August 1, 2009

IMPORTANT!!!

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Please familiarize yourself with the University of Utah CODE OF STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (“STUDENT CODE”) at http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html

The following is an excerpt from this CODE explaining specific actions, which won’t be tolerated in this class.

“2. “Academic misconduct” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information, as defined further below. It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

a. “Cheating” involves the unauthorized possession or use of information, materials, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise, or the unauthorized communication with another person during such an exercise. Common examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, copying from another student's examination, submitting work for an in-class exam that has been prepared in advance, violating rules governing the administration of exams, having another person take an exam, altering one's work after the work has been returned and before resubmitting it, or violating any rules relating to academic conduct of a course or program.

b. Misrepresenting one's work includes, but is not limited to, representing material prepared by another as one's own work, or submitting the same work in more than one course without prior permission of both faculty members.

c. “Plagiarism” means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or
credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one’s own, without attribution, any other individual’s words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

d. “Fabrication” or “falsification” includes reporting experiments or measurements or statistical analyses never performed; manipulating or altering data or other manifestations of research to achieve a desired result; falsifying or misrepresenting background information, credentials or other academically relevant information; or selective reporting, including the deliberate suppression of conflicting or unwanted data. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data and/or results.”

The following sanctions will be imposed in this class for a student engaging in academic misconduct:

1. A failing grade for the specific assignment, paper, exam, etc., without possibility to re-write it, re-take it, etc. This academic misconduct will be reported to the Chairman of the Department of Anthropology.

2. The second offense will be sanctioned with a failing grade for the whole course. In such a case, the following rule of the University of Utah CODE OF STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES is applicable and will be followed: “If the faculty member imposes the sanction of a failing grade for the course, the faculty member shall, within ten (10) business days of imposing the sanction, notify in writing, the chair of the student’s home department and the senior vice president for academic affairs or senior vice president for health sciences, as appropriate, of the academic misconduct and the circumstances which the faculty member believes support the imposition of a failing grade.”

3. For more information concerning sanctions for academic misconduct (additional sanctions might be imposed) and your rights and procedures to appeal these sanctions please refer to the aforementioned CODE.

If you need more information and/or explanations please don’t hesitate to contact the instructor.