

**Anthropology 3969-01 (4436) & 5969-01 (4457)**  
**MID E 4880-1 (5346)**  
**Creation Stories of the Middle East**  
**Summer Semester 2009**  
**Dr. Ewa Wasilewska**

### **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](mailto:Mruczek@AOL.com)  
Website: [www.ewas.us](http://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

**Required texts:** **Ewa Wasilewska: Creation Stories of the Middle East. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2000. (Book)**

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:**

Book: Introduction. Pp. 9-12.

**RESERVE:**

Kurtz, Paul: UFO Mythology: The Escape to Oblivion. In "*Skeptical Inquirer*," July/August 1997. Pp. 12-14.

Gardner, Martin: Heaven's Gate: The UFO Cult of Bo and Peep. In "*Skeptical Inquirer*," July/August 1997. Pp. 15-17.

Puhvel, Jaan: Introduction. The Study of Myth. In "*Comparative Mythology*." The John Hopkins University Press: 1987. Pp. 1-20.

Kirk, G.S.: Myth, Ritual and Folktale. In "*Myth, Its Meaning and Functions in Ancient and Other Cultures*." Cambridge University Press: 1973. Pp. 1-41.

**MEETING # 2: May 21, 2009**

**Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East. Part 1.**

**Readings for meetings # 2 & 3:**

Book: Introduction. Pp. 13-17.

**RESERVE:**

Eickelman, Dale F.: Anthropology, the Middle East, and Central Asia. In "*The Middle East and Central Asia*." Prentice Hall: 1998. Pp. 1-26.

Soden, Wolfram von: I. The Term "Ancient Orient" and Its Demarcation. II. The Scene. III. Peoples and Cultures in the Ancient Orient. In "*The Ancient Orient*." William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: 1994. Pp.1-30.

**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:**

Book: Part I. Pp. 20-42.

**RESERVE:**

Kramer, Samuel Noah: Introduction. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4. In "*History Begins at Sumer*." Doubleday Anchor Books: 1959. Pp. XVII-XXV, 1-28.

Meeks, Dimitri & Christine Favard-Meeks: Introduction. In "*Daily Life of the Egyptian Gods*." Cornell University Press: 1996. Pp. 1-10.

Faulkner, R.O.: Introduction. In "*The Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead*." University of Texas Press: 1997. Pp. 11-16.

Wallace, Howard N.: Chapter II. The Yahwistic Source and Its Oral Antecedents. In "*The Eden Narrative*." Scholars Press: 1985. Pp. 29-64.

Cross, Frank Moore: 11. The Priestly Work. In "*Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic. Essays in the History of the Religion of Israel*." Harvard University Press: 1973. Pp.293-325.

Oldenberg, Hermann: Introduction. The Sources. In "*The Religion of the Veda.*" Motilal Banarsidass: 1988. Pp. 1-22.

Rajaram, Navaratna S. & David Frawley: Chapters 1 & 2. In "*Vedic 'Aryans' and the Origins of Civilization.*" W.H. Press, Inc.: 1995.

Esposito, John L.: The Content of Law. In "*Islam. The Straight Path.*" Oxford University Press. 1988. Pp. 89-95.

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

**MEETING # 5: June 2, 2009**

**Creation of Universe: Out of Watery Order or Chaos. Part 1.**

**Readings for meetings # 5 & 6:**

Book: Chapter 5. Pp. 44-74.

**RESERVE:**

Foster, Benjamin R., tr.: Epic of Creation. In "*From Distant Days. Myths, Tales, and Poetry of Ancient Mesopotamia.*" CDL Press: 1995. Pp. 9-51.

Ions, Veronica: In "*Egyptian Mythology.*" New York: Peter Bedrick Books. 1983. Pp. 21-23.

Wilson, John A.: The Memphite Theology of Creation. In "*ANET*" edited by James E. Pritchard. Princeton University Press. 1973. Pp. 1-2.

Allen, James P.tr.: From Papyrus Leiden I 350 (1.16). In William W. Hallo, editor, K. Lawson Younger, Jr. Associate Editor, *The Context of Scripture. Volume I: Canonical Compositions from the Biblical World.* Leiden, New York, Köln: Brill. 1997. Pp. 23-26.

The Jerusalem Bible: Reader's Edition: Genesis. 1968. Pp. 4-15.

Selections from "*The Qur'an. The First American Version.*" Amana Books. 1985.

**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:**

Book: Chapter 6. Pp. 75-118.

**RESERVE:**

Kramer, Samuel Noah and Maier, John: Inanna and Enki: The Transfer of the Arts of Civilization from Eridu to Erech. In "*Myths of Enki, The Crafty God.*" New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1989. Pp. 57-68.

Foster, Benjamin R.tr.: Anzu, The Bird Who Stole Destiny. In "*From Distant Days. Myths, Tales, And Poetry of Ancient Mesopotamia.*" CDL Press. 1995. Pp. 115-131.

Matthews, Victor H. & Don. C. Benjamin: Stories of Ishtar and Tammuz. In "*Old Testament Parallels.*" Paulist Press. 1997. Pp. 305-311.

Quirke, Stephen: Power in Heaven. In "*Ancient Egyptian Religion.*" Dover Publications. 1997. Pp. 21-51.

Hoffner, Harry A.: Old Anatolian Myths. Hurrian Myths. In "*Hittite Myths.*" Scholars Press. 1990. Pp. 9-22, 38-62.

Curtis, Vesta Sarkhosh: Introduction. The Gods And The Creation of The Ancient Iranian World. In "*Persian Myths.*" University of Texas Press. 1993. Pp. 7-20.

Mark S. Smith: The Story of Baal Cycle. In "*The Ugaritic Baal Cycle.*" E. J. Brill: 1994. Pp. XXII-XXVIII.

Meshel, Ze'ev: Did Yahweh Have a Consort? In *Biblical Archaeology Review*, 1979. March/April. Pp. 24-36.

**MEETING # 8: June 11, 2009**

**Creation of Universe: Almost Divine: Chosen People.**

**Readings for meeting # 8:**

Book: Chapter 7. Pp. 119-134.

**RESERVE:**

Foster, Benjamin R.tr.: How Adapa Lost Immortality. Etana, the King without Heir. In "*From Distant Days. Myths, Tales, And Poetry of Ancient Mesopotamia.*" CDL Press. 1995. Pp. 97 -- 114.

Dalley, Stephanie: The Epic of Gilgamesh. In *Myths from Mesopotamia.* Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press. 1989. Pp. 39-153.

Silverman, David P.: Divinity and Deities in Ancient Egypt. In Shafer, Byron E. ed. *Religion in Ancient Egypt. Gods, Myths, and Personal Practice.* Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press. 1991. Pp. 7-87.

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

**MEETING # 9: June 16, 2009**

**Creation of Humankind.**

**Readings for meeting # 9:**

Book: Chapters 8-10. Pp. 136-173.

**RESERVE:**

Lichtheim, Miriam: Instructions. Merikare (1.35). In William W. Hallo, editor, K. Lawson Younger, Jr. Associate Editor, *The Context of Scripture. Volume I: Canonical Compositions from the Biblical World*. Leiden, New York, Köln: Brill. 1997. Pp. 61-67.

Kramer, Samuel Noah & John Maier: Enki and Ninmah: The Creation of Humankind. In *"Myths of Enki, the Crafty God."* Oxford University Press. 1989. Pp. 31-37.

Kramer, Samuel Noah & John Maier: Enki and Ninhursag: A Sumerian Paradise Myth. In *"Myths of Enki, the Crafty God."* Oxford University Press. 1989. Pp. 22-30.

Hinnells, John R.: The Myth of Creation... In *"Persian Mythology."* Peter Bedrick Books. 1985. Pp. 59-63.

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

**Meeting # 10: June 18, 2009**

**Destruction of Humankind.**

**Readings for meeting # 10:**

Book: Chapter 11. Pp. 174-184.

**RESERVE:**

Foster, Benjamin R. tr.: Story of the Flood. In *"From Distant Days. Myths, Tales, And Poetry of Ancient Mesopotamia."* CDL Press. 1995. Pp. 53-77.

Lesko, Leonard H. Ancient Egyptian Cosmogonies and Cosmology. In Shafer, Byron E. ed. *Religion in Ancient Egypt. Gods, Myths, and Personal Practice*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press. 1991. Pp. 88-122.

Malandra, William W.: Yima. In *"An Introduction to Ancient Iranian Religion. Readings from the Avesta and Achaemenid Religion."* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 1983. Pp. 175-182.

Please review "Genesis"

**Meeting # 11: June 23, 2009**

**The End.**

**Readings for meeting # 11:**

Book: Part 4. Pp. 186-199.

**RESERVE:**

Dalley, Stephanie: Nergal and Ereshkigal. In "*Myths from Mesopotamia..*" Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press. 1989. Pp. 163-181.

Foster, Benjamin R.tr.: When Ishtar Went to the Netherworld. In "*From Distant Days. Myths, Tales, And Poetry of Ancient Mesopotamia.*" CDL Press. 1995. Pp. 78-84.

Faulkner, R.O., tr.: Spell 175. In "*The Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead.*" University of Texas Press. 1997. Pp. 175.

**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.