

INTRODUCTION TO AKKADIAN

Assyriology 200 (AWAS 0200)

FALL 2014

Location: Sayles Hall room 305

Day & Time: MWF 11:00 – 11:50 a.m.

Office hours: M 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.*

Instructor: Prof. Matthew Rutz

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Tel.: 401-863-6312

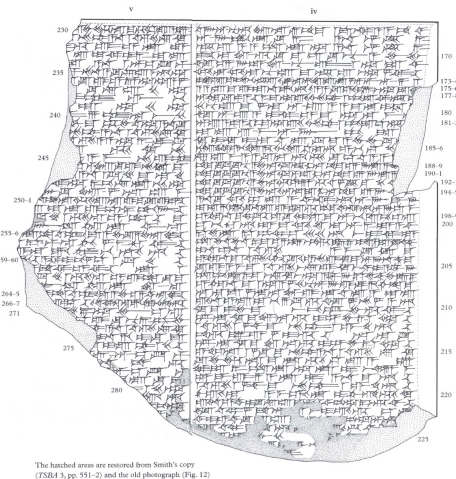
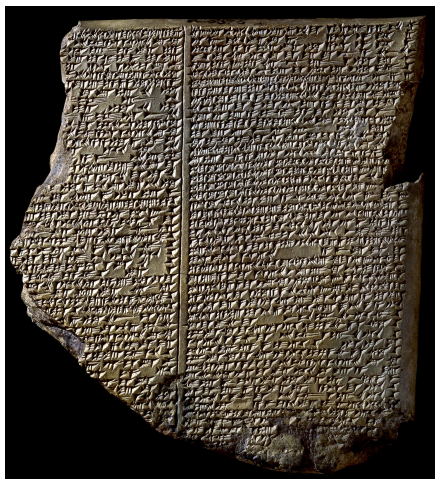
Office: Wilbour Hall room 204



COURSE DESCRIPTION, AIMS, AND OBJECTIVES

This course is the first semester of an intensive, yearlong introduction to the basic grammar of the Akkadian language, first attested over four thousand years ago in Mesopotamia, the core of which roughly corresponds to present-day Iraq. Also referred to by the names of its two main dialects, Babylonian and Assyrian, Akkadian is the earliest known member of the Semitic family of languages, which includes more familiar languages like Arabic and Hebrew. Akkadian was in use for over two and half millennia across a wide expanse of the Near East, from the Iran in the east, to Egypt in the west, as far as Turkey in the north, and south into the Arabian Peninsula. Throughout the semester students can expect:

1. To gain insights into the cultures of ancient Mesopotamia through an in-depth exploration of one of its principal languages.
2. To grapple with the intricacies of the cuneiform (“wedge-shaped”) writing system from ancient Mesopotamia and master what scholars refer to as the Neo-Assyrian monumental script.
3. To master the fundamentals of the phonology, morphology, and grammar of Akkadian, with an emphasis on the classical dialect of the Old Babylonian period (i.e., the early 2nd millennium BCE).
4. To read Mesopotamian texts in the original script and language, including selections from the famous Laws of Hammurapi, as well as excerpts from myths, hymns, prayers, historical documents, letters, and other texts.



The hatched areas are restored from Smith's copy (FSBA 3, pp. 551-2) and the old photograph (Fig. 12)

* Or by appointment. My office is on the second floor of Wilbour Hall (2 Prospect Street), which is located on the northwest corner of Prospect and George Streets next to the Rockefeller Library.



COURSE MATERIALS

Texts

The primary **required** textbooks may be available at the Brown University Bookstore as well as on reserve in the Rock. Please **note** that you will need both of these books for Intermediate Akkadian (AWAS 0210, Semester II), so don't get rid of them too quickly come December!

- Caplice, Richard. *Introduction to Akkadian*. 4th edition (revised reprint of 3rd edition). With the collaboration of Daniel Snell. Studia Pohl: Series Maior 9. Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 2002. (ISBN: 8876535667; ISBN13: 9788876535666) [= Caplice, *Introduction*]

ROCK RESRV PJ3251 .C36x 1988

- Black, Jeremy, Andrew George, and J. Nicholas Postgate. *A Concise Dictionary of Akkadian*. 2nd (corrected) edition. SANTAG 5. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2000. (ISBN: 3447042648; ISBN13: 9783447042642) [= *CDA*]

ROCK RESRV PJ3525 .C659x 2000

The following books will be helpful for the course; however, it is not necessary to purchase them, since they will also be found on reserve in the Rock:

- von Soden, Wolfram. *Grundriss der akkadischen Grammatik*. 3rd revised, expanded edition (1st edition 1952, 2nd edition 1969). Analecta Orientalia 33. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1995. [GAG]
ROCK RESRV 1-SIZE PJ3251 .S73x 1995
- Labat, René. *Manuel d'épigraphie akkadienne: signes, syllabaire, idéogrammes*. Revised and expanded by Florence Malbran-Labat. 6th edition. Paris: Librairie orientale P. Geuthner, 1995. [Labat, *Manuel*]
ROCK RESRV 1-SIZE PJ3193 .L3x 1988

Additional materials will be distributed in class and/or posted to the course website or OCRA online reserves including the following supplemental readings:

Course website: <https://canvas.brown.edu>

OCRA reserves (password: **akkadu**): <https://library.brown.edu/reserves/>

- Diakonoff, I. M., and L. E. Kogan. "Akkadian Morphology." Pp. 3-48 in volume 1 of *Morphologies of Asia and Africa*, ed. Alan S. Kaye. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2007.
- George, A. R. "Babylonian and Assyrian: a History of Akkadian." Pp. 31-71 in *Languages of Iraq, Ancient and Modern*, ed. J. N. Postgate. London: British School of Archaeology in Iraq, 2007.
- Huehnergard, John, and Christopher Woods. "Akkadian and Eblaite." Pp. 218-287 in *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the World's Ancient Languages*, ed. Roger D. Woodward. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
[= Huehnergard and Woods 2004]
- Wener, Stefan, ed. *The Semitic Languages: An International Handbook*. Handbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft 36. <http://josiah.brown.edu/record=b7246519~S7>
[see The Semitic Languages and Dialects II: East Semitic, pp. 330-424, with contributions by Bert Kouwenberg, Michael P. Streck, Gabor Zolyomi, and Wilfred H. van Soldt]

Recommended Books and Resources

The following titles may provide useful background or supplementary perspectives on topics presented in class:

Grammar

- Huehnergard, John. *A Grammar of Akkadian*. 2nd edition (1st edition 1997). Harvard Semitic Studies 45. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2005. [Huehnergard, *Grammar*]
ROCK RESRV PJ3251 .H84 2005
- Huehnergard, John. *Key to A Grammar of Akkadian*. 2nd edition (1st edition 1997). Harvard Semitic Studies 46. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2005.
ROCK RESRV PJ3251 .H85 2005

Cuneiform Writing System

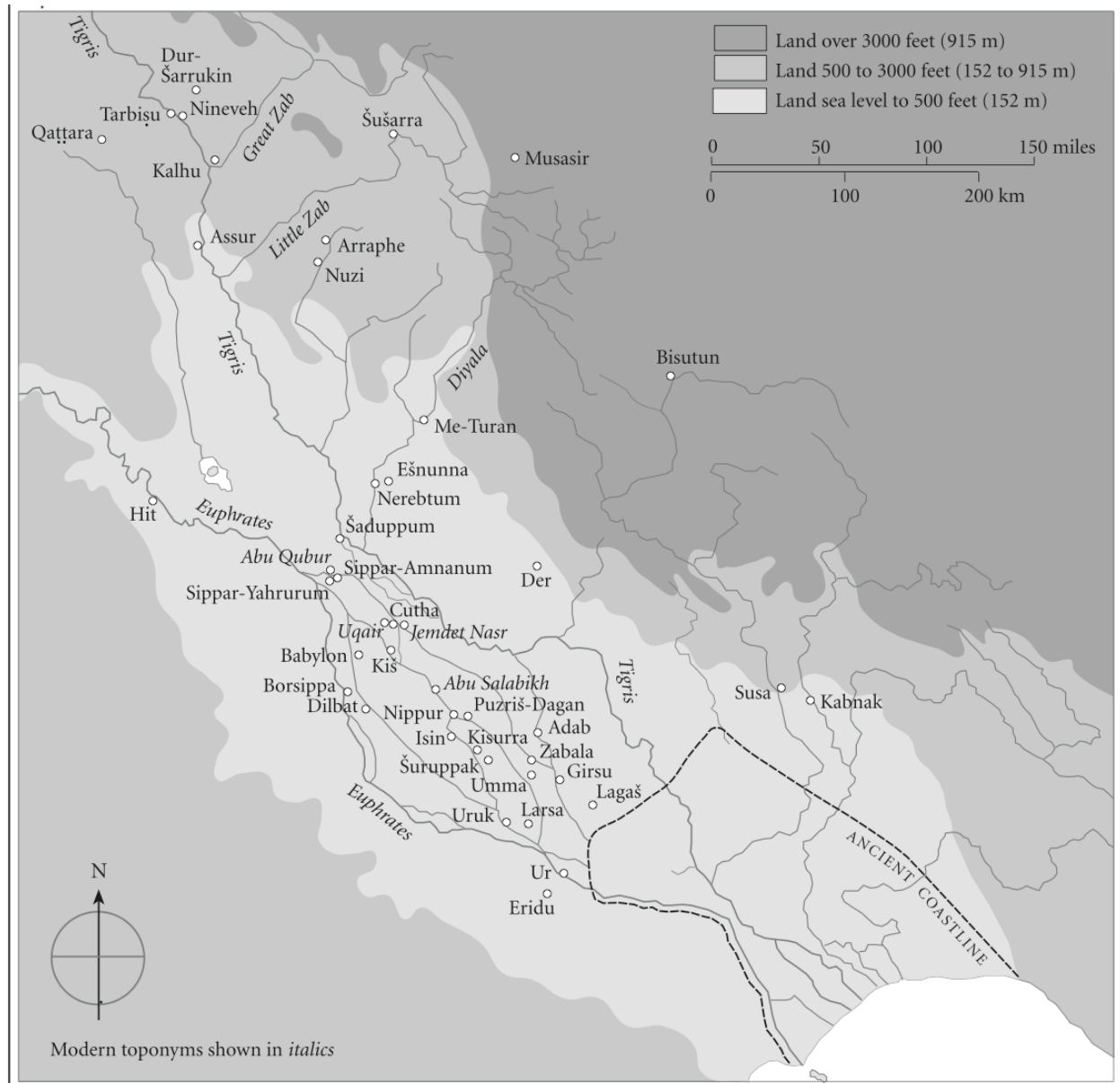
- Walker, C. B. F. *Cuneiform*. Reading the Past 3. Berkeley: University of California Press; London: British Museum, 1987.
ROCK PJ3193 .W35 1987

Electronic Resources

The following are among the few reliable electronic resources for the study of Akkadian/cuneiform:

- Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative (cdli) <http://cdli.ucla.edu>
- cdli:wiki <http://cdli.ox.ac.uk/wiki/doku.php?id=start>
- Cuneiform Revealed! <http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/saao/knpp/cuneiformrevealed/index.html>

CDLI is to a repository for standard sign lists, many of which are accessible in a digital format, with an emphasis on early cuneiform writing: <http://cdli.ucla.edu/> > Tools and Resources > Sign Lists



Map with major site in Assyria (N) and Babylonia (S)

COURSE STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS

Each class will generally consist of two parts: (1) a lecture introducing new material; (2) a review of homework assigned for the week. You are responsible for reading each chapter before the lecture. Each lecture is intended to complement and explicate the reading, so consistent attendance will be crucial for attaining mastery of the material. Your grade for the course will be determined in the following way:

Participation/Preparation	10%	<i>Every class!</i>
Homework/Pop Quizzes	10%	weekly as indicated below
Examination #1	15%	Week 5 (Mon., Sept. 29, in class)
Examination #2	20%	Week 8 (Fri., Oct. 24, in class)
Examination #3	20%	Week 12 (Fri., Nov. 21, in class)
Examination #4	25%	Exam Period (Thurs., Dec. 18, 2:00, TBD)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Since this is the first part of a two-part sequence, the course schedule may be subject to some modification as we progress through the material. Students are expected to have completed the reading assignment for class on the day it is assigned (marked READ). Unless I indicate otherwise, homework assignments are due on the dates indicated below (marked DUE).

NOTE: Readings and assignments are subject to change at my discretion. All additions, modifications, and deletions of readings/topics will posted on the course website and/or announced via email.

Week 1: Sept. 3–5

Wednesday ~ Introduction: welcome to the course; overview

Friday ~ Akkadian and the Semitic family of languages; Cuneiform writing in ancient Mesopotamia: principles, origins, and development

Week 2: Sept. 8–12

Monday ~ Cuneiform writing in ancient Mesopotamia: principles, origins, and development (cont.)

- READ: Huehnergard and Woods 2004, 218-225

Wednesday ~ Cuneiform writing system and the phonology of Akkadian

- READ: Andrea Seri, “Adaptation of Cuneiform to Write Akkadian.” Pp. 85-98 in *Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond*, ed. Christopher Woods. Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.
- READ: Caplice, *Introduction*, Introductory and Appendix I §82. Akkadian Historical Phonetics
- DUE: Sign List practice (1)

Friday ~ Cuneiform writing system and the phonology of Akkadian (cont.)

- DUE: Sign List practice (2)

Week 3: Sept. 15–19

Monday ~ Script and/versus language; parts of speech; the noun

- READ: Caplice, *Introduction*, Lesson 1

Wednesday ~ Nominal Declension, I: Status Rectus (SR)

- DUE: Lesson 1, exercises 1-2 (through *ummun ra-bi-tum*)

Friday ~ Nominal Declension, I

- DUE: Lesson 1, exercises 2 (remainder)-3

Week 4: Sept. 22–26

Monday ~ Nominal Declension, II: Absolute (SA) and Construct (SC) States; Pronominal Suffixes

- READ: Caplice, *Introduction*, Lesson 2
- DUE: Lesson 1, exercise 4

Wednesday ~ Nominal Declension, II

- DUE: Lesson 2, exercise 1

Friday ~ Nominal Declension, II

- DUE: Lesson 2, exercise 2

Week 5: Sept. 29–Oct. 3

Monday ~ **EXAM #1** (Lessons 1-2: writing system, noun, pronominal suffixes)

- **Midterm Examination #1**

Wednesday ~ The Verbal System: G-Stem of the Strong Verb, I

- READ: Caplice, *Introduction*, Lesson 3
- DUE: Lesson 2, exercise 3

Friday ~ G-Stem of the Strong Verb, I

- DUE: Lesson 3, exercises 1-2

Week 6: Oct. 6–10

Monday ~ G-Stem of the Strong Verb, I

- DUE: Lesson 3, exercise 4

Wednesday ~ G-Stem of the Strong Verb, II: Verbal Suffixes; Ventive; ‘Subjunctive’/Subordination

- READ: Caplice, *Introduction*, Lesson 4
- DUE: Lesson 3, exercise 5

Friday ~ G-Stem of the Strong Verb, II

- DUE: Lesson 4, exercises 2-3

Week 7: Oct. 13–17

Monday ~ Fall Weekend – **NO CLASS**

Wednesday ~ G-Stem of the Strong Verb, II

- DUE: Lesson 4, exercises 1 and 4

Friday ~ Gt-Stem; Modals; Demonstratives and Interrogatives

- READ: Caplice, *Introduction*, Lesson 5
- DUE: Lesson 4, exercise 5

Week 8: Oct. 20–24

Monday ~ Gt-Stem; Modals; Demonstratives and Interrogatives

- DUE: Lesson 5, exercises 1-2

Wednesday ~ Gt-Stem; Modals; Demonstratives and Interrogatives; Review

- DUE: Lesson 5, exercise 3

Friday ~ **EXAM #2** (Lessons 3-5: G and Gt-Stems of the Strong Verb)

- **Midterm Examination #2**

Week 9: Oct. 27–31

Monday ~ D, Š, Dt, Št-Stems; Independent Pronouns

- READ: Caplice, *Introduction*, Lesson 6
- DUE: Lesson 5, exercise 4

Wednesday ~ D, Š, Dt, Št-Stems; Independent Pronouns

- DUE: Lesson 6, exercises 1-2

Friday ~ D, Š, Dt, Št-Stems; Independent Pronouns

- DUE: Lesson 6, exercise 3

Week 10: Nov. 3–7

Monday ~ N, tn, ŠD-Stems; Indefinite Pronouns

- READ: Caplice, *Introduction*, Lesson 7
- DUE: Lesson 6, exercise 4

Wednesday ~ N, tn, ŠD-Stems; Indefinite Pronouns

- DUE: Lesson 7, exercises 1-2

Friday ~ N, tn, ŠD-Stems; Indefinite Pronouns

- DUE: Lesson 7, exercise 3

Week 11: Nov. 10–14

Monday ~ Weak Verbs: III-Weak; The particle *ša*

- READ: Caplice, *Introduction*, Lesson 8
- DUE: Lesson 7, exercise 4

Wednesday ~ Weak Verbs: III-Weak; The particle *ša*

- DUE: Lesson 8, exercises 1-2

Friday ~ Weak Verbs: III-Weak; The particle *ša*

- DUE: Lesson 8, exercise 3

Week 12: Nov. 17–21

Monday ~ Weak Verbs: III-Weak; The particle *ša*

- DUE: Lesson 8, exercise 4

Wednesday ~ Review – **NO CLASS**

- DUE: questions for review

Friday ~ **EXAM #3** (Lessons 6-8: D/Dt, Š/Št, N, tn, ŠD-Stems; III-Weak; pronouns; particle *ša*)

- **Midterm Examination #3**

Week 13: Nov. 24–28

Monday ~ Weak Verbs: II-Weak; Nominal Typology

- READ: Caplice, *Introduction*, Lesson 9
- DUE: Lesson 9, exercise 2

Wednesday ~ Thanksgiving – **NO CLASS**

Friday ~ Thanksgiving – **NO CLASS**

Week 14: Dec. 1–5

Monday ~ Weak Verbs: II-Weak; Nominal Typology

- DUE: Lesson 9, exercise 1

Wednesday ~ Weak Verbs: II-Weak; Nominal Typology

- DUE: Lesson 9, exercise 3

Friday ~

- DUE: Lesson 9, exercise 4 (4:00 p.m., my office)

Reading: Dec. 8–10

Monday ~ Introduction to the Laws of Hammurapi; REVIEW

- READ: Pp. 1-10, 71-76 in Martha T. Roth, *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor*, 2nd edition, Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997.

<http://josiah.brown.edu/record=b6589814~S7>

Wednesday ~ REVIEW

- DUE: Normalize and translate selection from the Laws of Hammurapi (LH) (TBD)

NOTE: Although I will not have regular office hours, I will be available by appointment during Reading/Exam Period.

EXAMS: Dec. 12–20

Final Examination: Thursday, Dec. 18, 2:00 p.m.

- Exam #4
- Location: TBD

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