

San José State University
College of the Humanities and the Arts
Department of Art History
ARTH 183A, Art of Egypt and Mesopotamia, Section 01, Spring, 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Isabelle Pafford
Office Location:	ART 123 (But I'm not allowed on campus yet ☺)
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Email:	isabelle.pafford@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 and by Appointment in Zoom.
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30-2:45
Classroom:	Virtual Classroom in Zoom

Course Description

The Arts of Egypt, Sumer, Akkad, Babylonia, Assyria, Anatolia, Hittites, and Persia (Elamite to Sassanian).

Course Format

Technology Intensive, Synchronous and Asynchronous

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, this course will be taught with a combination of Synchronous and Asynchronous on-line options. You will need access to the internet, the ability to upload and download files, and the ability to participate in video-conferencing. In the first week, we will work through a series of exercises to make sure you have the resources you need. Laptops and other equipment may be checked out for use with the course For more information see [SJSU IT Work Anywhere](#) and [Student Computing Services](#).

Department Advising

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for a change of major/minor forms and a list of advisors: <http://www.sjsu.edu/art/> or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, 408-924-4320, art@sjsu.edu

Use of Zoom Conference Software

(From the SJSU Online Instruction Syllabus Guidance F 2020)

Recording Zoom Classes This course or portions of this course (i.e., lectures, discussions, student presentations) will be recorded for instructional or educational purposes. The recordings will only be shared with students enrolled in the class through Canvas. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the semester. If, however, you would prefer to remain anonymous during these recordings, then please speak with the instructor about possible

accommodations (e.g., temporarily turning off identifying information from the Zoom session, including student name and picture, prior to recording). Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission. Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S12-7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

Students are encouraged to turn on their cameras during the Zoom session, but not required. Students may also opt to identify themselves as Anonymous + *last five numbers of the SID. Use of the SID allows the instructor to credit any participation or quiz points.

Learning Outcomes

Course Goals

In this course, students should develop an appreciation for artistic expression in the cultures of ancient Egypt Mesopotamia. Students will explore how that expression changed over time. By the end of the semester, students shall be able to:

1. Identify the major artistic movements, genres and artistic techniques of the ancient Egyptians and Mesopotamians.
2. Identify the historical context of ideas and cultural practices of the Egyptians and Mesopotamian, as well as their dynamic relations to other historical contexts.
3. Explain how a culture changes in response to internal and external pressures or demands.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. recognize aesthetic qualities and processes that characterize works of the human intellect and imagination as it relates to ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian art;
2. respond to works of ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian art both analytically (in writing) and affectively (in writing or through other forms of personal and artistic expression); and
3. write clearly and effectively.

Recommended Texts/Readings

Textbooks

You are not *required* to purchase any textbooks. I recommend two books (which are unfortunately not available on-line through our library). For each module, I will list the recommended reading from these books and also provide you with supplemental reading from our library, or from museum websites. (Metropolitan, British Museum, Oriental Institute, etc.).

- Manley, Bill. *Egyptian Art*, 2017. 978-0-500-20428-3. (You should be able to get this for under \$12.)
- Bahrani, Zainab. *Art of Mesopotamia*, 2017. (This text is available to rent on Amazon for as low as \$32).
<https://www.amazon.com/Art-Mesopotamia-Zainab-Bahrani/dp/0500292752>)

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott: email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu. Phone: (408)-808-2094

Canvas

This course is managed on Canvas. The syllabus, assigned essays, assignments, updates, and the links to upload assignments are all on this course site.

How to access: [Go to the SJSU Home Page](#), click on the link to Canvas, and use your SJSU ID and password to login.

For problems and issues contact the Help Desk at 408-924-2377.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

[University policy F69-24](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Study guides will be provided for all exams. Please see the Schedule of class meetings for dates and times. Dates and times subject to change with reasonable notice.

Expectations for the Paper/Project -

You will write one paper or complete one project for this class. You may work as individuals on a traditional essay, or you may work individually or collaboratively on a web design, gallery installation or virtual reality project. Your papers/projects will undergo a rough draft/peer editing/revision process. A traditional visual analysis/research paper written by an individual requires a minimum of 2000 words of edited text. A project which involves web-design, gallery presentation or a virtual reality installation requires 1000 words of edited text per individual.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination or Evaluation

“Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

Grading Information

Paper	35%
Module Exercises	25%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm	10%
Final Exam	20%

Numerical Grade Equivalents

93% and above	A	77% - 73%	C
92% - 90%	A-	72% - 70%	C-
89% - 88%	B+	69% - 68%	D+
87% - 83%	B	67% - 63%	D
82% - 80%	B-	62% - 60%	D-
79% - 78%	C+	Below 60%	F

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

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Course Schedule

Module	Lecture Dates	Module Topics and Important Dates
1	1/27/21	Introduction to the class
2	2/1-2/3	Prehistoric Art and material culture of Mesopotamia and Egypt
3	2/8-2/10	Uruk – the First City
3	2/15/20	The Sumerians and their Art (Although this is President’s Day, we have a scheduled class).
5	2/17/20	Predynastic Egypt
5	2/22-2/24	The Old Kingdom
6	3/1-3/3	Akkadian Art
7	3/8-3/10	The Middle Kingdom
7	3/15-3/17	The Middle Kingdom, continued
8	3/22-3/24	The Age of Hammurabi Preparation for the Paper Begins
	On-line – opens 3/25	Midterm – Midterm covering material presented through week Eight.
	3/29-3/31	Spring Break
9	4/5-4/7	Assyrian Arts at the End of the Bronze Age
10	4/12-4/15	The Amarna Period in Egypt
11	4/19-4/21	Neo-Assyrian and Neo Babylonian Art
12	4/26-4/28	The Late Bronze Age
13	5/3-5/5	The Art of the Persian Empire Paper Due 5/7/21
14	5/10-5/12	Egypt and Mesopotamia in the context of a Greco-Roman world
	5/17	Last Day of Instruction – Prepare for the Final Exam
Final Exam	Wednesday 5/19	Official Date for the Final Exam. On-line exam available until Midnight.