

**San José State University**  
**Department of History**  
**Hist 112-01, The Ancient West to 500 B.C.E., Fall, 2022**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor: Isabelle Pafford  
Office Location: ART 117  
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Email: isabelle.pafford@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-10 and by appointment  
Class Days/Time: Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30-11:45  
Classroom: Dudley Moorhead Hall 163

**Course Description**

This course will cover the political, social and cultural history of the Ancient West (Europe, the Middle East and North Africa) from ca. 15,000 BCE to 500 BCE. you will critically read primary sources in translation and learn to use them in the study of ancient culture and society. Finally, you will be challenged to think about the "why" of ancient history, its development, and its impact on later. The class will also improve your reading, writing and analytical skills.

**Course Format**

This course meets in person, although we will have a simultaneous zoom call for those who may be unable to attend due to illness on any one day. These class meetings will also be recorded.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

CLO 1: Understand the impact of physical geography and climate on the development of the ancient West

CLO 2: Describe the changing nature of religion and ethnicity and the relationship between the two.

CLO 3: Analyze the changing political and administrative structures of the ancient West and the effect these have had.

**Textbooks**

Marc Van De Mieroop. A History of the Ancient Near East, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2015. ISBN-13: 978-1118718162 (ANE)

Marc Van De Mieroop. A History of Ancient Egypt. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. ISBN-13: 978-1405160711 (AE)

Thomas R. Martin, Ancient Greece, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Yale Nota Bene, 2000, ISBN: 978-0300084931.

Neil Asher Silberman and Israel Finkelstein. The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Israel and the Origin of Its Sacred Texts. Touchstone, 2002. ISBN-13: 978-0684869131.

NOTE: These editions are preferred, but other editions are acceptable and all four texts can be accessed as ebooks through the SJSU Library.

### **Other Readings**

I will supplement the textbooks with a few other ebooks from our library and PDF's available on canvas. Additionally, I have built a Leganto list for your reference.

### **Other technology requirements / equipment / material**

#### **Use of Zoom Conference Software**

(From the SJSU Online Instruction Syllabus Guidance F 2022)

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.

### **Packback Questions**

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can ask open-ended questions to build on what we are covering in class.

### **Packback Requirements:**

Your participation on Packback will count toward 20% of your overall course grade.

The deadline for submissions will be Mondays at 11:59PM PST. There will be a Weekly Monday at 11:59PM PST deadline for submissions. In order to receive full credit, you should submit the following per each deadline period:

- 1 open-ended Question most weeks with a minimum Curiosity Score of 35, worth 50% of each

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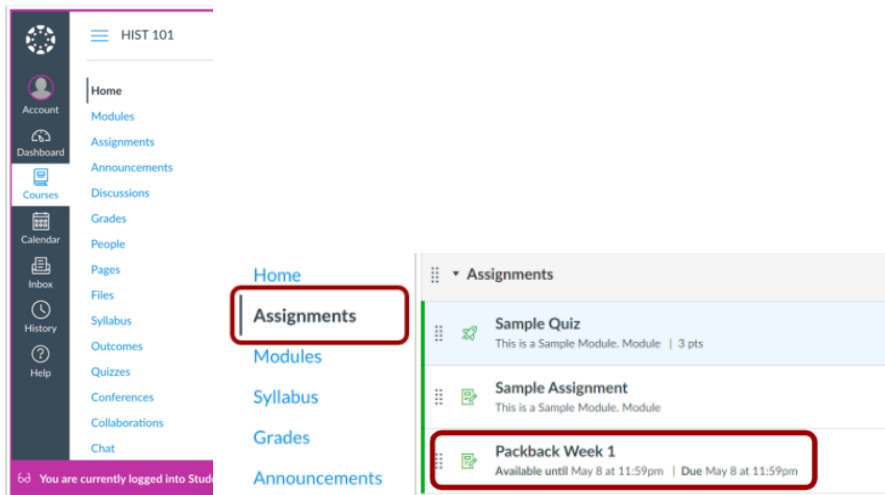
assignment grade

- 3 Responses every week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 35, worth 50% of each assignment grade
- Half credit will be provided for questions and responses that do not meet the minimum curiosity score. (Half credit is generated by the learning tool, not the instructor).
- The instructor will moderate all the computer-generated grades for these discussions and adjust the final grades in Canvas as needed. Please use the feedback from the learning tool as a guide, and let the instructor know about any concerns.

## How to Register on Packback:

Note: Only access Packback through **Canvas** in order to ensure your grades sync properly

1. Click the Packback assignment link within Canvas to access the community



2. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

3. **In order for your grade to be visible in Canvas** make sure to click each Packback assignment link as

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you post your Packback submissions.

Packback may require a paid subscription. Refer to [www.packback.co/product/pricing](http://www.packback.co/product/pricing) for more information.

### **How to Get Help from the Packback Team:**

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at [help.packback.co](http://help.packback.co). If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at [help@packback.co](mailto:help@packback.co).

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmikrD68>

### **Library Liaison**

The History Department Library Liaison is Nyle Monday ([Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu](mailto:Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu)). Contact him for help with any library assignments in your History classes. His telephone number is (408) 808-2041.

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

Exam One (on-line)	15%
Exam Two (on-line)	15%
Library Assignment One	15%
Library Assignment Two	15%
Packback Discussions (10)	20%
Attendance and Participation	5%
Final exam (cumulative)	15%

Study Guides will be available for all exams. The library assignments are available in Canvas.

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](#)
- [University's Syllabus Information web page](#)

*[University Policy S16-9](#), Course Syllabi requires the following language to be included in the syllabus:*

“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**

We will have an on-line final exam during the final exam period. All students must take the final exam to pass the course.

[University policy S17-1](#) which states that

“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

#### Numerical Grade Equivalents

98 and above	A+
93% - 97%	A
92% - 90%	A-
89% - 88%	B+
87% - 83%	B
82% - 80%	B-
79% - 78%	C+
77% - 73%	C
72% - 70%	C-
69% - 68%	D+
67% - 63%	D
62% - 60%	D-
Below 60%	F

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](#)
- [University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12](#)
- [University Grading System Policy F18-5](#)

### Classroom Protocol

Please come to class, join the zoom call or listen to the recordings.

Complete the short lecture summaries.

Please don't come to class if you are unwell.

As a courtesy to the instructor, please wear a mask during in-person meetings.

Please be respectful and courteous to the instructor and your classmates in all discussion.

Most importantly, please enjoy this opportunity to explore the evidence for our shared past.

### University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), 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](#) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## History 112/ The Ancient West

### Course Schedule

Reading: *ANE*= Van De Mieroop. *A History of the Ancient Near East*  
*AE*= Van De Mieroop. *A History of Ancient Egypt*

Week	Date	Packback Deadlines	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/22		Introduction to the Class
	8/24		<b>Module 1</b> – The Neolithic in Western Asia and the Mediterranean. Reading: Gates, Chapter One, pp. 15-29. <i>ANE</i> Chapter 1, Optional.
2	8/29		<b>Module 2</b> – The Sumerians and the earliest cities. Reading: <i>ANE</i> Chapters Two and Three.
	8/31		The invention of cuneiform and the transmission of the earliest literature. Reading: The Epic of Gilgamesh in Pritchard 39-72.
3	9/5		Labor Day – No Classes
	9/7		<b>Module 3</b> Predynastic Egypt and the Old Kingdom Reading: AE Chapter Two.
4	9/12	Packback Deadline	The Social Structures of the Pyramid Builders Reading: AE Chapters Three and Four
	9/14		<b>Module 4</b> The Akkadians and Old Babylonians <i>ANE</i> Chapters Four and Five
5	9/19	Packback Deadline	Conflict, warfare, and empire building in the late third millennium B.C.E.
	9/21		<b>Module 5</b> Egypt during the Middle Kingdom. Reading: AE Chapter Five
6	9/26	Packback Deadline	The Middle Kingdom and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Period Reading: AE Chapter Six. Library Discussion Due
	9/28		<b>Module 6</b> The Era of the Territorial States Reading AE Chapter Seven <i>ANE</i> Chapter Seven
7	10/3	Packback Deadline	Exam One – covering modules 1-4 – On-Line – No Class Meeting
	10/5		Hammurabi and his Law. Library Assignment One Due
8	10/10	Packback Deadline	<b>Module 7</b> – The Minoans and the Mycenaeans Reading: Martin Chapter Two
	10/12		<b>Module 8</b> Egypt during the New Kingdom Reading AE Chapter Eight and Nine
9	10/17	Packback Deadline	Warfare and monumental building during the New Kingdom
	10/19		<b>Module 9</b> The Bronze Age Collapse Reading: <i>ANE</i> Chapters 10 and 11

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Packback Deadlines</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
10	10/24	Packback Deadline	<b>Module 10</b> The Rise of the Neo Assyrians and the Kingdom of Israel. Reading: ANE Chapters Twelve and Thirteen, Begin Silberman
	10/26		Imperial policies and strategies for resistance under the Neo Assyrians. Discuss Silberman
11	10/31	Packback Deadline	<b>Module 11</b> The Greeks and the Phoenicians during the Iron Age Reading: Martin Chapter Three
	11/2		The Homeric Epics
12	11/7	Packback Deadline	Exam Two covering modules 5-9 – No Class Meeting
	11/9		<b>Module 12</b> The Neo Babylonians Reading: ANE Chapter 14
13	11/14	Packback Deadline	The Archaeology of the Bible. Reading: Discuss Silberman
	11/16		Module 13 The Persian Empire and Second Temple Judaism ANE Chapter 15
14	11/21		Persian Administration of their Territories
	11/23		Non-Instructional Day – No Class – Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving
15	11/28		Module 14 Greece in the Early Archaic Period Reading: Martin Chapter Four
	11/30		The origins of Democracy. Reading: Martin Chapter Five
16	12/5	Packback Deadline	Last Day of Instruction - Library Assignment Two Due
Final Exam	12/12		The Exam will be online and available from 12/7 to 12/12