Course: Archeology and History of the Near East (1st millennium BC)

Code: ADVSV0016
Instructor: Prof. Heather Baker (University of Toronto)
Course Dates: see below

Assyria and Babylonia in the First Millennium BC
This lecture series presents an introduction to the history and archaeology of Assyria and Babylonia in the first millennium BC. It traces the history of imperialism, beginning with the rise of Assyria in the 9th century BC and ending with the Persian conquest of Babylonia, which saw Mesopotamia ruled for the first time by an external power. The series focuses on the nature of imperial organization and governance, including the role of the king, his officials, the major institutions (palace and temple), the judicial system, and the military. It also addresses the footprint of empire by examining the urban landscape, including not only the major cities but also settlement patterns and the agricultural hinterland. Finally, the lectures address social structure and economic life, including: family and household; the role of women; slavery; the workforce; entrepreneurs and traders; the priesthood; taxation and tribute, and land ownership and tenure.

Thematic areas/Dates:
Assyria in the 1st Millennium BC (911–c. 612 BC)
1. Formation and Government of an Empire (Monday, 13 May, 10:50-12:25, C426)
2. Landscapes of Empire: City and Countryside in Assyria (Tuesday, 14 May, 9:10-10:45, C102)
3. Assyrian Society and Economy (Tuesday, 14 May, 10:50-12:25, C102)

The Neo-Babylonian Empire (626-539 BC)
4. Palace and Province: the Neo-Babylonian Kings and their Domain (Wednesday, 15 May, 9:10-10:45, C102)
5. The Urban Landscape of Babylonia (Wednesday, 15 May, 10:50-12:25, C102)
6. Society and Economy in First Millennium Babylonia (Thursday, 16 May, 9:10-10:45, C102)

A. Assyria in the 1st Millennium BC (911–c.612 BC)

Class 1. Formation and Government of an Empire


Further Reading


Class 2. Landscapes of Empire: City and Countryside in Assyria


**Further Reading**


Class 3. Assyrian Society and Economy


Further Reading


B. The Neo-Babylonian Empire (626–539 BC)

4. Palace and Province: the Neo-Babylonian Kings and their Domain


**Further Reading**


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**Class 5. The Urban Landscape of Babylonia**


**Further Reading**


Class 6. Society and Economy in First Millennium Babylonia


Further Reading


