

Sumerian readings II

Name of the course: Sumerian readings II

Syllabus academic years: 2024–2025

Lecturer: Ludovica Bertolini

Number of lessons: 7 lessons

Hours per lesson: 2

Language of instruction: English

Type of attestation: credit (zápočet)

Requirements for acquiring the credits: weekly translation of assigned texts.

Abstract: This course is designed to enhance students' skills in translating Sumerian texts through direct engagement with a variety of textual typologies. Students will work with both administrative and literary texts, enabling them to deepen their understanding of Sumerian language structures and cultural context. For the first time, we will introduce texts from the Old Babylonian period, offering a comparative approach alongside the more familiar Ur III materials. This will broaden students' exposure to the evolution of Sumerian language and its use across different historical contexts.

Textual selection: Each week, students will receive new texts to translate in preparation for class. During class discussions, they will present their translations and analyses, allowing for a collaborative review of grammatical structures, vocabulary, and interpretative challenges. This process will encourage active engagement and collective problem-solving.

Prerequisites:

Students enrolling in this course must have completed prior courses in Sumerian grammar and Sumerian readings. A foundational understanding of Sumerian language structure and basic translation skills is essential for engaging with the advanced texts and discussions in this class.

Bibliography and suggested readings:

1. Frayne, D. R. 2007, *Presargonic Period (2700–2350 BC)*. Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia. Early Periods, 1. Toronto: University Press of Toronto.
2. Frayne, D. R. 1997, *Ur III Period (2112-2004 BC)*. Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia. Early Periods, 3/2. Toronto: University Press of Toronto.
3. Jagersma, B 2010. *A Descriptive Grammar of Sumerian*. Universiteit Leiden.
4. Labat, R – Malbran-Labat, F. 1988. *Manuel d'épigraphie akkadienne: signes, syllabaire, idéogrammes*. 6th edition. Paris: Librairie Orientaliste Paul Geuthner.

5. Sallaberger, W. 2023. *Sumerisch: Eine Einführung in Sprache, Schrift und Texte. Band 1: Die sumerische Sprache*. Gladbeck: PeWe-Verlag.
6. Schneider, N. 1935. *Die Keilschriftzeichen der Wirtschaftsurkunden von Ur III, nebst ihren charakteristischsten Schreibvarianten*. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute.
7. Volk, K 2012. *A Sumerian Chrestomathy. Subsidia et instrumenta linguarum orientis 5*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.