

NEJS 202b Akkadian Mythological/Religious Texts II



Spring 2016 The Historical Epic – Syllabus

M 3:30–4:50p.m., Room TBD

Instructor: Bronson Brown-deVost

Course Description: The Akkadian historical epic represents one of the earliest literary forms in Mesopotamia. These texts present a unique view of how the scribal cultures of Mesopotamia embellished and celebrated the tales of their illustrious and even legendary kings. We will read texts of this genre written in number of Akkadian dialects from the Old Assyrian to the Neo-Assyrian period.

Contact Information and Office Hours:

Bronson Brown-deVost

bronson@brandeis.edu

Office: Lown 113.

Office Hours: Mon, Wed. 5–6, or by appointment.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to have completed introductory Akkadian; they should also have a grasp of scholarly French and German since some resources for the class will be in that language. Course readings and assignments are to be completed before class and will be necessary to get the most out of each class session.

NEJS 202b Akkadian Mythological/Religious Texts II

Policies:

Disabilities: If you are a student with a documented disability at Brandeis University and if you wish to request a reasonable accommodation for this class, please see me immediately. Please keep in mind that it is not necessarily possible to provide accommodations retroactively.

Absences: Regular attendance will be necessary for successful progress through this course. Thus, students will be afforded only two absences for legitimate, but undocumented, reasons. In the event of an absence, the student is responsible for arranging a time during office hours to catch up on the missed class material.

Excused absences may be granted at the discretion of the instructor, all reasonable documented absences will be respected, though special arrangements will need to be made in the event of any extended leave from the course.

Passes: Each student will be afforded two in class passes. This means that the student may come to class but will not be required to participate, nor will that class be counted towards the class participation grade.

Classroom Restrictions: No computers or electronic devices shall be used in class and traditional note taking is strongly discouraged. Most of what we discuss in class will be readily available on the Latte website or in the course readings; class notes would largely be superfluous. It is perfectly admissible to bring food and drink provided that no appreciable distraction is caused. Please wait until after class to consume larger meal items.

Academic Integrity: You will be expected to abide by the terms of academic integrity outlined in Section 4 of the Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities Handbook (available at <http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/sdc/rr/>). This means that you are expected to cite the sources for all work that is

NEJS 202b Akkadian Mythological/Religious Texts II

not your own original contribution to scholarship. If you have questions about plagiarism or academic standards of originality, please see me. Violations of the University standards will be referred to the Office of Student Development and Conduct and could result in failure of the course.

Course Assignments: Each student is expected to fully prepare each text we are reading before the beginning of class. This will entail knowing the cuneiform signs, looking up the difficult words in the CAD and AHW, and difficult morphological and syntactical elements in the relevant grammars (GAG, etc.). Any secondary readings will be posted on the Latte site in the relevant course unit.

There will be one midterm exam and a final exam.

Grade Breakdown:

Class Participation and Presentations: 30%.

Midterm Examination: 30%.

Final Examination: 40%.

Course Texts (subject to change):

Sargon Birth Narrative

Sargon's Banquet at Kanesh

Epic of Zimri-Lim

Epic of Tukulti-Ninurta