

William Propp
Fall, 2010

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN MYTHOLOGY
HINE 113

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Class aims: to approach ancient Near Eastern civilizations through their myths and legends; to see what themes unite them and what themes make them distinct.

Requirements: 2 six-page (12-point, double-spaced, black ink) essays (25% each), 1 final multiple-choice ID examination (45%), class participation (5%)

N.B. For all essays, you must submit a marked-up first draft along with your final draft.

Attendance: You and I have a standing social engagement three times a week. If you are going to be absent (or drop the course), please have the courtesy to email me. Repeated “no-shows” will be disastrous for your participation grade.

Texts for purchase (also on reserve, except coursepack):

1. Stephanie Dalley, *Myths From Mesopotamia*
2. Michael D. Coogan, *Stories From Ancient Canaan*
3. Robert A. Segal, *Myth, a Very Short Introduction*
4. Coursepack (at AS Soft Reserves in Old Student Center) (cp)

Books on Geisel Library reserve (r):

1. *The Phoenician History of Philo of Byblos*, ed. Harold W. Attridge and Robert A. Oden,
2. C. Auffarth and L. T. Stuckenbruck, eds. *The Fall of the Angels*
3. Richard J. Clifford, *Creation Accounts in the Ancient Near East and in the Bible*
4. Neil Forsyth, *The Old Enemy*
5. Tikva Frymer-Kensky, *In the Wake of the Goddess*
6. Cyrus H. Gordon, *Forgotten Scripts*
7. William W. Hallo, Walter K. Simpson, *The Ancient Near East*
8. Hesiod, *Theogony* (ed. M. L. West)
9. Thorkild Jacobsen, *The Treasures of Darkness*
10. Thorkild Jacobsen, *The Harps that Once...*

- 11.G. S. Kirk, *Myth*
- 12.Risa Levitt Kohn and Rebecca Moore, *A Portable God*
- 13.Lynn Meskel, *Archaeology Under Fire*
- 14.Siegfried Morenz, *Egyptian Religion*
15. Simon B. Parker, *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry*
- 16.*Plutarch's De Iside et Osiride*; edited by J. Gwyn Griffiths
- 17.William H. C. Propp, *Exodus 1-18*
- 18.J. M. Sasson, ed., *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East IV*
- 19.Neal A. Silberman, *Between Past and Present*
- 20.Neal Walls, *Desire, Discord and Death*
- 21.*The New Oxford Annotated Bible*

Coursepack (cp)

- Syrian Adonis (Attridge and Oden, 15-17)
- Creation by Atum (Pritchard, 3-4)
- The Memphite Theology (Lichtheim, 1.51-57)
- Creation of the Pickax (Kramer, 51-53)
- The Worm and the Toothache (Pritchard, 100-101)
- Horus and Seth (Lichtheim, 2.214-223)
- Introduction, Song of Kumarbi (Hoffner, 38-43)
- Song of Ullikummi (Hoffner, 52-61)
- The Two Brothers (Lichtheim, 203-211)
- The Flood (Attridge and Oden, 19-20)
- Kombabos (Attridge and Oden, 29-39)
- The Israelite Epic (Cassuto, 2.69-109)

Sources:

- J. B. Pritchard, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*.
- M. Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian Literature* (vols. 1 and 2)
- S. N. Kramer, *Symerian Mythology*
- H. A. Hoffner, *Hittite Myths*
- H. W. Attridge and R. A. Oden, Jr., *De Dea Syria*
- U.Cassuto, *Biblical and Oriental Studies*, vol. 2

1. Where and When is the Ancient Near East? What is Mythology?
(9/24)
 Essay Guide (handout)
2. On Writing Papers (9/27)

- Read: Segal, Intro, chaps. 1-3; De Dea Syria (Syrian Adonis)
(cp)
3. Myth and Science, Religion, Philosophy (9/29)
Read: Segal, chaps. 4-6
 3. Myth and Ritual, Literature, Psychology (10/1)
Read: Segal, chaps. 7-Conclusion
 4. Myth and Structure, Society (10/4)
Read: Hallo and Simpson, 184-296 (r)
 5. Ancient Egyptian History (10/6)
Read: Creation by Atum (cp); The Memphite Theology (cp);
Clifford, *Creation*, 99-113 (r)
 6. Creation Myths (10/8)
Read: Horus and Seth (cp), Walls, *Desire*, 93-125 (r)
 7. Horus and Seth (10/11)
Read: Hallo and Simpson, *Ancient*, 14-149 (r)
 8. Ancient Mesopotamian History (10/13)
Read: Jacobsen, *Harps*, 1-84; Jacobsen, *Treasures*, 24-73 (r);
Frymer-Kensky, *In the Wake*, 14-69 (r)
 9. Inanna and Dumuzi (10/15)
Read: Dalley, *Myths*, 182-188; 39-120; 136-153
 10. Adapa, Gilgamesh (10/18)
Read: Dalley, *Myths*, 154-181; Jacobsen, *Treasures*, 194-219
(r); Kirk, *Myth*, 132-171 (r)
 11. Gilgamesh and the Underworld (10/20)
Read: Dalley, *Myths*, 228-281; 1-38; The Creation of the Pickax
(cp); The Worm and the Toothache (cp).
 12. Creation and Flood (10/22)
Read: Hurrians (Anchor Bible Dictionary, 3.335-338 [SSH
reference]); Introduction (cp); Song of Kumarbi (cp); Song of
Ullikummi (cp)
 13. Hurrian Mythology (10/25)
Read: Coogan, *Stories*, 1-74
 14. Kirta, Daniel (10/27)
Read: Coogan, *Stories* 75-115
 15. Baal (10/29)
Read: Parker, *Ugaritic*, 181-228 (r)
 16. Minor Ugaritic Myths (11/1)
Read: Hesiod's *Theogony* (r or online)
 17. Greek Mythology from the Near East- Hesiod (11/3)
Read: Attridge and Oden, *Philo*, 1-71 (r); The Flood (cp)

18. Phoenician Mythology; **Essay 1 due** (11/5)
Read: Levitt Kohn and Moore, 1-7, 21-32 (r)
19. Israel and the Hebrew Bible (11/8)
Read: Isaiah 51:9-11; Habakkuk chap. 3; Psalms 74, 77, 89; Job chaps. 40-41; Cassuto, "The Israelite Epic" (cp)
20. Israelite Myth (11/10)
Read: Exodus chaps. 15-17; Psalm 114; Revelation chaps. 8-13, 20; Propp, *Exodus*, 554-562, 606-613; 620-622 (r)
21. Myth Recycled: Red Sea, Restoration, Apocalyptic (11/12)
Read: Exodus chap. 2; Propp, *Exodus*, 155-160; 165-166 (r)
22. The Foundling; the Disillusioned Prince (11/15)
Read: Read: The Two Brothers (cp); Kombabos (cp); Gang Bing (Wikipedia); Genesis chap. 39; Proverbs chap. 7
23. The Chaste Youth (11/17)
Read: Forsyth, *Old Enemy*, pp. 441-455 (r); Propp, *Exodus*, 31-36 (r)
24. The Hero (11/19)
Read: Genesis 6:1-4; Judges chap. 5; Isaiah chap. 14; Ezekiel chap. 28; Psalm 82; Job chap. 1; Revelation chap. 12; Auffarth and Stuckenbruck, *Fall*, 11-34 (r); Forsyth, *Old Enemy*, pp. 124-211 (r)
25. Fallen Stars, the Birth of the Devil (11/22)
Read: Genesis chaps. 1-11
26. Anti-myths of Creation (11/24)
Read: *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* vol. IV pp. 2729-41, 2753-64 (r); Neil Asher Silberman, *Between Past and Present*, chap. 10 (r, or online edition available via Roger catalogue entry); Zainab Bahrani, "Conjuring Mesopotamia," *Archaeology Under Fire* chap. 8 (r, also online under book title)
27. Rediscovery of the Ancient Near East (11/29)
Read: Gordon, *Forgotten Scripts*, 19-113 (r)
28. Decipherments (12/1)
29. General Summary (12/3)

FINAL Exam; Essay 2 due Tuesday 12/7, 11:30; do not come late!

Your two essays will each analyze a myth from the ANE, applying one or two of the methods from Segal's book. You must do background research in

the library, consulting and citing 2-5 secondary sources. **Do not cite Segal's book; consult the authors themselves.** Always, always aim for depth rather than breadth.

Supplementary Bibliography (in addition to reserves list):

General on Myth

A. Dundes, *The Flood Myth*

A. Dundes, ed., *Sacred Narrative: Readings in the Theory of Myth*

M. Eliade, *Cosmos and History: The Myth of the Eternal Return*

M. Eliade, *Myth and Reality*

W. A. Lessa and E. Z. Vogt, eds., *Reader in Comparative Religion: An Anthropological Approach*

B. Lincoln, *Theorizing Myth*

J. Puhvel, *Comparative Mythology*

P. Veyner, *Did the Greeks Believe in Their Myths?*

General on ANE Myth

W. Burkert, *Structure and History in Greek Mythology and Ritual*

W. Burkert, *The Orientalizing Revolution: Near Eastern Influence on Greek Culture in the Early Archaic Age*

H. and H. A. Frankfort, ed., *The Intellectual Adventure of Ancient Man*

A. R. W. Green, *The Storm God*

W. W. Hallo and K. Lawson Younger, eds. *The Context of Scripture, vol. 1: Canonical*

Compositions from the Biblical World

S. H. Hooke, *Myth Ritual and Kingship: Essays on the Theory and Practice of*

Kingship in the Ancient Near East

J. B. Pritchard, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*

P. Walcot, *Hesiod and the Near East*

Essays in J. M. Sasson, ed., *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*

Mesopotamia

J. Bottéro, *Mesopotamia: Writing, Reasoning and the Gods*

B. Foster, *Before the Muses: An Anthology of Akkadian Literature*

T. Jacobsen, *The Harps that Once...Sumerian Poetry in Translation*

S. N. Kramer, ed., *Mythologies of the Ancient World*
S. N. Kramer, *Sumerian Mythology*
A. L. Oppenheim, *Ancient Mesopotamia*
J. M. Tigay, *The Evolution of the Gilgamesh Epic*

Egypt

G. Hart, *Egyptian Myths*
E. Hornung, *Conceptions of God in Ancient Egypt: The One and the Many*
V. Ions, *Egyptian Mythology*

Canaan

S. B. Parker, *The Pre-Biblical Narrative Tradition*
N. H. Walls, *The Goddess Anat in Ugaritic Myth*

Israel

B. W. Anderson, ed., *Creation in the Old Testament*
B. Batto, *Slaying the Dragon: Mythmaking in the Biblical Tradition*
D. E. Callender, Jr., *Adam in Myth and History: Ancient Israelite Perspectives on the Primal Human*
R. J. Clifford and J. J. Collins, eds., *Creation in the Biblical Traditions*
F. M. Cross, *Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic*
J. Day, *God's Conflict with the Dragon and the Sea*
D. N. Freedman, ed., *The Anchor Biblical Dictionary*
R. E. Freedman, *Who Wrote the Bible?*
C. Kloos, *Yhwh's Combat with the Sea*
E. Leach, *Genesis as Myth and Other Essays*
E. Leach and D. A. Aycock, *Structuralist Interpretations of Biblical Myth*
J. D. Levenson, *Creation and the Persistence of Evil: the Jewish Drama of Divine Omnipotence*
S. Niditch, *Chaos to Cosmos: Studies in Biblical Patterns of Creation*
R. A. Oden, *The Bible Without Theology*
J. W. Rogerson, *Myth in Old Testament Interpretation*
S. Shaked, ed., *Genesis and Regeneration: Essays on Conceptions of Origins*
M. S. Smith, *The Origins of Biblical Monotheism*
K. van der Toorn et al., *Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible*
G. E. Wright, *The Old Testament Against Its Environment*

Journals: *Orientalia*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, *Ugarit-Forschungen*, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Vetus Testamentum*, *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*, *American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literature*, *Biblica*, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, *Revue biblique*, *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*

Encyclopedia: J. M. Sasson, ed., *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* (in SSH Library Reference)

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN MYTHOLOGY STUDY GUIDE

Upper Egypt
Lower Egypt
Old Kingdom
Middle Kingdom
New Kingdom
Hieroglyphic
Hieratic
Demotic
Nile
Hyksos
Syncretism
Amarna
Akhenaten
Osiris
Horus
Seth
Isis
Nephthys
Geb
Nut
Shu
Tefnut
Atum
Primordial mound
Ptah
Re
Hathor
Nun
Ennead
Ogdoad
Mesopotamia
Sumer
Akkad
Babylonia
Assyria
Nineveh
Sargon (the Great)
Cuneiform

Early Dynastic Period

Tigris

Euphrates

Uruk

Hammurapi

Hatti/Hittites

Hurrians

Enuma Elish

Apsu

Tiamat

An

Ea

Enki

Marduk

Qingu

Atrahasis

Enlil/Ellil

Belet-ili

Mami

Aruru

Ishtar

Inanna

Dumuzi/Tammuz

Geshtinanna

Adapa

Gilgamesh

Ninsun

Enkidu

Shamhat

Shamash

Utnapishtim

Bull of Heaven

Ur-shanabi

Humbaba

Siduri

Kumarbi

Tesub

Ullikummi

Ugarit

El

Baal
Haddu
Athirat/Asherah
Anat
Kirta
Yassib
Aqhat
Daniel
Huraya
Kothar and Khasis
Paghit
Yamm
Mot
Shapsh
Dawn and Dusk
Yarikh
Phoenicia
Philo of Byblos
Sanchuniathon
Tautos
Elioun
Ouranos
Ge
Kronos
Rhea
Muth
Hesiod
Prometheus
Zeus
Hera
Titan
Typhoeus
Torah
Judah
Israel
Canaan
Yahweh
Elohim
Leviathan
Rahab

The Serpent/Dragon
Birth of Sargon
Combabus
Galli
Anubis
Bata
Joseph
Potiphar
Satan
Lucifer
Athtar
Sons of God
Helel
Phaethon
Watchers
Jubilees
Enoch
Yahwist (J)
Priestly Writer (P)
Adam
Eve
Cain
Abel
Seth
Lamech
Noah
Tower of Babel
Rawlinson
Champollion
Rosetta Stone
Behistun Inscription