Contact Info:
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Office Hours: Mondays 3-5 or by appointment.

Course Description: Akkadian is an ancient language from the same family as Hebrew, Aramaic, and Arabic. It was at home in and around the area of modern-day Iraq, but was also the international language of diplomacy throughout the ancient world in the second and early first millennium BCE. Its corpus contains everything from receipts and legal documents, to royal inscriptions, literary compositions and religious texts. Akkadian was written in cuneiform, a script that consists of wedge-shaped impressions made in clay and stone (as well as a few other materials). This course in elementary Akkadian is an introduction to the fundamentals of Old Babylonian grammar and a large number of the commonest Neo-Assyrian cuneiform signs. No prior knowledge of other Semitic languages is required.

Academic Integrity: All of your work for this class is expected to be your own. If you have any questions concerning academic honesty, please see me to discuss the situation.

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 reasonable accommodations are not provided retroactively.

Absences: Because of the relatively quick pace of the coursework, regular attendance for this class is crucial. You will be afforded only two unexcused absences and any further absences may result in a lower grade for the course. Excused absences may be granted at the discretion of the instructor and all doctor-ordered absences will be respected, though special arrangements will need to be made in the event of any extended absence.

Homework time: Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation you will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, homework, preparation for exams, etc.).

Quizzes: Each Wednesday there will be a short quiz on vocabulary and cuneiform signs assigned for the previous two class sessions (the previous Monday and Wednesday classes). The cuneiform signs that appear on the quizzes will be cumulative. Each student will have the opportunity to skip one quiz (see: Passes) and I will also automatically drop your lowest quiz score.

Passion Project: Write a three page (double-spaced) essay on any topic concerning Mesopotamian (linguistic, religion, culture, gender, history, etc.) that you are interested in. This
essay should use at least three scholarly sources, but is not intended to be a serious research paper and need not be written with excessive formality.

**Passes:** You will be allowed two passes from class participation. Although you will still be expected to attend, you will not have to participate in homework evaluation or answer questions. One of these passes can also exempt you from taking the quickly quiz.

**Grade Breakdown:**
- Homework and Attendance (20%)
- Weekly Quizzes (20%)
- Passion Project (5%)
- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Final Exam (30%)

**Required Books:**


**Tentative Class Schedule:**
Week 1
  *Wednesday Aug. 28*
  - Lesson 1

Week 2
  *Monday Sept. 2 (Labor Day, no class)*
  *Wednesday Sept. 4*
  - Lesson 2, 9.2

Week 3
  *Monday Sept. 9*
  - Lesson 3
  *Wednesday Sept. 11*
  - Lesson 4

Week 4
  *Monday Sept. 16*
  - Lesson 5-6
  *Wednesday Sept. 18*
  - Lesson 7

Week 5
Monday Sept. 23  
- Lesson 8

Wednesday Sept 25  
- Lesson 9, 13.2

Week 6

Monday Sept. 30 (Rosh Hashanah, no class)

Wednesday Oct. 2  
- Lesson 10

Thursday Oct. 3 (Brandeis Monday)  
- Lesson 11

Week 7

Monday Oct. 7  
- Lesson 12

Wednesday Oct. 9 (Yom Kippur, no class)

Week 8

Monday Oct. 14 (Sukkot, no class)
Tuesday Oct. 15 (Brandeis Monday)  
- Lesson 13

Wednesday Oct. 16  
- Midterm Review

Week 9

Monday Oct. 21 (Shmini Atzeret, no class)

Wednesday Oct. 23  
- Midterm (in class)

Week 10

Monday Oct. 28  
- Lesson 14

Wednesday Oct. 30  
- Lesson 15

Week 11

Monday Nov. 4  
- Lesson 16

Wednesday Nov. 6  
- Lesson 17

Week 12
Monday Nov. 11  
- Lesson 18  
Wednesday Nov. 13  
- Lesson 19

Week 13  
Monday Nov. 18  
- Lesson 20-21  
Wednesday Nov. 20  
- Lesson 22-23

Week 14  
Monday Nov. 25 (No class)  
- Passion Project  
Wednesday Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving, no class)

Week 15  
Monday Dec. 2  
- Lesson 24  
Wednesday Dec. 4  
- Lesson 27

Week 16  
Monday Dec. 9  
- Final Review  
Final Exam  
TBA