Elementary Akkadian
NEJS 101A Fall 2016
Thursday & Friday 12:30–1:50 PM
Room: Lown 302

Contact Information & Office Hours:
Lenin Prado
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Office: Lown 110
Office Hours: M & W, 1:10-1:50, 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.

Books:
Required
Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2011.

________. Key to A Grammar of Akkadian. 2nd ed. Harvard Semitic Studies 46. Winona Lake,
Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2005.
**Course Requirements:** In general, this course will follow the structure of the class textbook, John Huehnergard's *A Grammar of Akkadian*. Readings and homework assignments for each week will be handed out (or emailed) by the preceding Friday. Course readings and assignments must be completed before class and will be necessary to get the most out of each class session. Class sessions will consist of brief lectures, group and individual exercises, and review of the homework.

Each class session will begin with a short 5–10 minute quiz covering vocabulary, grammar, and/ or cuneiform signs. For this reason, it will be necessary to arrive to class on time; accommodations for tardiness may be granted on a per case basis (those with difficulty getting to class on time should discuss this with me prior to the second class session). In the case of an unexpected absence, you may make arrangements with me to retake up to two of these quizzes; any missed exam must be completed before the next class session.

**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:** Regular attendance will be necessary for successful progress through this course. Thus, students will be afforded only two unexcused absences; any further absences could result in a lower grade of as much as 5% per absence. Excused absences may be granted at the discretion of the instructor, all doctor-ordered absences will be respected, though special arrangements will need to be made in the event of any extended absence.

**Passes:** Students will be allowed two passes from class session evaluation. This means that a student may, on two occasions, attend a class session but will not be responsible to answer any questions during the session (this includes the quiz at the beginning of the class)

**Grade Breakdown:**

- Class Participation and Homework: 25%
- Class Participation consists of the following:
  - Attendance!
  - Have homework completed and be prepared to translate and discuss any of the exercises.
  - Bring questions about material that was difficult or confusing
  - Participate in all in-class exercises
- Regular Quizzes: 20%
- Midterm Exam: 15%
- Final Exam: 40%
Course Schedule:

Week One: 8/26
Review of the Syllabus
Introduction to the Akkadian language; start Huehnergard ch. 1
Sign List #1

Week Two: 8/30, 9/2
Huehnergard Introduction
Ch. 1 The Sounds of Akkadian, etc.
   Exercises: A; D; E evens
Ch. 9.2 The Writing System (skip 9.1 for now)
   Write 3 vocabulary words from chapter 1 in cuneiform signs
Pass out Sign List #2

Week 3: 9/6, 9/9
Ch. 2 Noun Declension, etc.
   Exercises: A; C 1-8; E 1-5; F even numbers; G 1-3
   Write 3 vocabulary words in cuneiform signs
Ch. 3: Exercises C (choose 3 words); D; E 1-5; D 11-20
Ch. 4: Exercises C; D (choose 1 word); E; F 1-5; G 1-8

Week 4: 9/13, 9/16
Chs. 6 & 7

Week 5: 9/20, 9/23
Ch. 8 & 9

Week 6: 9/27, 9/30
Chs. 10 & 11

Week 7: 10/4, 10/7
Tuesday, 10/4: no class, Rosh Hashanah
   Review for Midterm!
Week 8: 10/11, 10/14
    MIDTERM EXAM (Tuesday, 10/11)
    Ch. 12

Week 9 :: 10/18, 10/21
    Chs. 13 & 14

Week 10: 10/25, 10/28
    Tuesday, 10/25: no class, Monday Schedule
    Ch. 15

Week 11: 11/1, 11/4
    Chs. 16 & 17

Week 12: 11/8, 11/11
    Chs. 18 & 19

Week 13: 11/15, 11/18
    Chs. 20 & 21
    Introduction to resources for the study of Assyriology

Week 14: 11/22, 11/25
    Friday, 11/25: no class, Thanksgiving
    Special Assignment: Using Assyriological Resources

Week 15: 11/29, 12/2
    Chs. 22 & 23

Week 16: 12/6
    Ch. 24

Final Exam: TBD