Introduction

This subject focuses on the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia (Iraq), Anatolia (Turkey), Persia (Iran) and Syria-Palestine (i.e. Israel, Syria, Jordan) before the Greco-Roman period. Lesser known civilizations such as those of Nubia, Libya, the Hurrians, Edomites and Moabites are also included. The cultural treasure of the Ancient Near East contains an abundance of written and unwritten sources. The written documents comprise a great variety of literary and non-literary works, while the unwritten documents consist of a variety of archaeological and iconographic (symbolic artefacts) material.

The Ancient Near East is treated from a cultural perspective. Culture is the product of human creativity in a wide variety of fields of thought and activity. This variety is reflected in the variety of topics included in this course, ranging from the world views, ideologies, religion and future expectation of these people to what they did, and manufactured in their daily life including education, family life, agriculture, sport, games, recreation, literature and art. The comparative method is applied to different facets of community life such as customs, traditions, institutions and perceptions. All these courses consist of a theoretical as well as a comparative component.

General Information

- There are no language requirements
- Credit for a degree is granted for either ATC101 and 102 or ANE100.

Transitional Arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study unit passed</th>
<th>Modules which may not be taken</th>
<th>Outstanding modules</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANE100</td>
<td>ATC101, 102</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANE201</td>
<td>ATC201, 202</td>
<td>ATC203 or 204</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANE202</td>
<td>ATC203</td>
<td>Any ONE of ATC201, 202, 204</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANE301</td>
<td>ATC301, 302</td>
<td>ATC304, 305, 306</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANE302</td>
<td>ATC303, 304</td>
<td>ATC305, 306, 301 or 302</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANE303</td>
<td>ATC305</td>
<td>ATC304, 306 and any TWO of 301, 302, 303</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANE304</td>
<td>ATC306</td>
<td>ATC304, 305 and any TWO of 301, 302, 303</td>
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- Students who have already passed the module ATC302B have to complete any other four third-level modules in this course for major subject purposes.
- Students who have already passed the module ATC204A have to complete any other two second-level modules in this course for major subject purposes.

Ancient Near Eastern Culture as a Major Subject

Compulsory modules for a major subject combination:

- First level: ATC101, 102
- Second level: ATC201, 202, 203
- Third level: ATC301, 303, 304, 305, 306

Syllabus

**FIRST-LEVEL MODULES**

**ATC1013 Introduction to the Ancient Near Eastern Cultures (S1 and S2)**

*Syllabus:*

Peoples and cultures of the Ancient Near East:

- African connection: Egyptians, Nubians, Ethiopians, Libyans
- Canaanite connection: Canaanites, Philistines, Phoenicians, Israelites, Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites
- Asiatic connection: Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Aramaeans, Persians, Elamites, Ammonites
- Indo-European connection: Hittites, Hurrians, Urartians

The cultural model, cultural chronology and cultural categories of the Ancient Near East
ATC1024  Mythology of the Ancient Near East (S1 and S2)*
Syllabus:
(a)  Introduction to the mythology of the Ancient Near East: mythological thought, development of the Gilgamesh epic
(b)  Comparison of selected literary works of the Ancient Near East: comparison of creation, deluge and fertility myths

SECOND-LEVEL MODULES
Prerequisite: ATC101, 102 or ANE100

ATC2016  Verbal communication in the Ancient Near East (S1 and S2)*
Syllabus: Languages and scripts of the Ancient Near East; elementary introduction to hieroglyphic, cuneiform and alphabetic writings, and an introduction to the ancient Semitic, Hamitic and Indo-European languages

ATC2028  Nonverbal communication in the Ancient Near East (S1 and S2)*
Syllabus: Art, symbolism and iconography of the Ancient Near East, and various other forms of nonverbal communication: body communication, gestures, posture, expression, paralanguage

ATC2039  Cultural change in the Ancient Near East (S1 and S2)
Syllabus: Innovation, discoveries, acculturation and diffusion in the Ancient Near East

THIRD-LEVEL MODULES
Prerequisite: ATC101, 102 or ANE100

ATC301A  Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (S1 and S2)*
Syllabus: Major discoveries, layout of sites, and the importance of various archaeological sites: the Asiatic connection: Ur, Nippur, Babylon, Ashur, Nineveh, Susa and Persepolis; the Canaanite connection: Ebla, Ugarit and Mari; the Indo-European connection: Çatal Höyük, Boghazköy (Hattushas) and Kültepe (Kanesh); the African connection: Giza, Memphis, Beni Hasan, Thebes, El-Amarna, Napata (Kush) and Aksum

ATC303C  Comparative literature of the Ancient Near East (S1 and S2)*
Syllabus: Introduction and a comparative study of historical, judicial and wisdom literature of the Ancient Near East

ATC304D  Ancient Near East and its “outside” world (S1 and S2)
Syllabus: The Ancient Near East and interdisciplinary studies in Anthropology, Sociology and other human sciences; trade and other relations with societies outside the Ancient Near East; environmental studies of the Ancient Near East, and the influence of the Ancient Near East on current society

ATC305E  Detailed study of one of the major cultures of the Ancient Near East (S1 and S2)*
Syllabus: Geographical and historical awareness of one culture in the Ancient Near East; cultural categories of one group in the Ancient Near East, and the world view of one culture in the Ancient Near East

ATC306F  Essay and seminar (S1 and S2)
Syllabus: One extended (written) essay and an oral presentation on a cultural topic from the Ancient Near East: either one cultural aspect of one society in the Ancient Near East, or a comparative study of the cultural aspects of various societies in the Ancient Near East (it should be clear that the student is acquainted with handling both source types (written and unwritten [iconographic and archaeological] material).

NB

- For the calculation of the final mark for the module (ATC306F) the written essay will count 70% and the oral presentation 30%, with a subminimum of 40% for both sections. The module must be passed as a whole in the same academic year. Credit will therefore not be given for the essay or the oral presentation separately.
- There is no written examination for this module.
- The written essay of approximately 30–40 pages (A4, typed, double spacing) has to be handed in under guidance of the lecturer concerned before 31 May/30 October and in its final form for examination.
- If it is impossible for the student to deliver the presentation at Unisa, the student may submit a cassette recording (30 min) of the presentation.