

Archaeology of Ancient Near Eastern Warfare and Empire

Course: NEAR E 350 / ARCHY 369B

Term: Fall 2018

Room: Denny 259

Time: T/TH 3:30-5:20

Instructor: Stephanie Selover

Course Format: Lecture and Discussion

Office Hours: Wed. 11:30-1:30, Denny M220E

Email: sselover@uw.edu

Course Description:

Evidence of violence between human groups is visible from even the earliest archaeological remains, and the threat of violence has shaped the way humans live, where they place their settlements, and how power and leadership are created in society. This course is an overview of the archaeological evidence of warfare and violence in the ancient Near East, from the earliest settlements through the rise of Alexander the Great.

The course is split into two parts. Part I is a study of the various theoretical schools in the anthropology of warfare, and of the archaeological evidence of violence. We will examine how anthropologists and archaeologists study warfare and violence, along with how warfare is studied through the archaeological record. We will cover such questions as: When did violence first become an ingrained aspect of society, or it is ingrained in our very DNA? What is the place of violence and warfare within various ancient Near Eastern societies? How was the threat of violence or actual violence utilized by ancient rulers to create and maintain power? The archaeology of warfare presents a special case in archaeology, as often, we rely on texts to inform us about war. Without these texts, what evidence, direct or secondary, is left in the archaeological record and what can be deduced from that record? What are the limitations of the archaeology of warfare? How can texts and archaeology work together to create a more complete picture of our violent past?

Part II will cover a chronological look at the archaeology of warfare in the ancient Near East, from the earliest human populations (ca. 10,000 BCE) until the conquest of the Classical world by Alexander the Great (333 BCE). This section will consist of a series of case studies from the ancient Near East, and the archaeological remnants of warfare, from the remains of battlefields to displays of slaughter depicted on the walls of palaces and temples.

Students will be responsible for all readings, one in-class presentation, a final paper or project, a map quiz in the second week, an in-class midterm in week 6, and a final at the end of the quarter.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students are expected to learn:

- How the geographic regions in the Near East affected the rise of various local populations
- Key archaeological sites in the ancient Near East and their relation to ancient warfare
- Key historical and archaeological figures in the study of ancient Near Eastern warfare
- How warfare, conflict and conquest affected the various cultures of the ancient Near East
- How violence and warfare appear in the archaeological record
- The modern problems and shortfalls of Near Eastern archaeology

- The various considerations necessary in the comparison of textual evidence to archaeological evidence
- How to critically read archaeological publications

Course Format:

Class will meet twice a week. Each class is expected to be a discussion rather than a straight lecture by the instructor, so students are responsible for all readings before the start of class and are expected to actively contribute. Often, the class will be split into smaller groups to further discuss the themes of the class and then each group will present their collected ideas. Other times, we will have hands-on demonstrations or activities, inside and outside of the classroom.

At some point during each class session, a short “one-minute” essay will be given on the topic of the day, based on the readings. Please come to class prepared. There is no make-up for the one-minute essays if a student misses class, unless cleared with the professor prior to class.

Each student is responsible for *all* assigned readings before the start of class and must be prepared to discuss them. The discussion section of the course will utilize both a voluntary method of question and answers, as well as a Socratic one, where the instructor may choose who will answer the question.

In the second week of the quarter, on October 4, a short map and geography quiz will be given at the start of class. Understanding the geography of the ancient and modern Middle East is of great importance in order to understand the various cultures and peoples covered in this course.

All students are required to create a final project, on the topic of the student’s choice that relates to the topics covered in class. You may choose between a final paper, 5-7 pages in length, or a project that relates to the themes of the class, with the permission of the professor. All topics must be cleared by the instructor. The final version of the final project will be due to the instructor by 11:59pm on December 7. Topics for the paper/project will be due to the instructor during Week 6, by the start of class on November 1. Students are recommended to make an appointment with the instructor to go over their topic before then.

Students will give a five-minute presentation to the class on their project, on either November 29 or December 4. A sign-up sheet will be passed around in class during Week 2 to sign up for the presentation dates.

A midterm will be administered in-class at the start of Week 6, on October 30, covering all material from the first five weeks of the course. A final exam will be administered during finals week, on Thursday December 13, covering material from the entire course, with an emphasis on the final five weeks of the course.

Prerequisites:

This course is open to all students interested in archaeology, anthropology, the ancient Near East, history, warfare or anthropology. No prior experience in archaeology, anthropology or the ancient Near East is necessary.

Required Reading and Attendance:

There is no course textbook for this class. The readings from this course come from a variety of journals and book chapters. All readings will be made available in .pdf form on the class Canvas website. All assigned readings are to be completed by each student before the start of the class. Staying on top of the readings will maximize a student’s learning experience and prepare them for discussions.

It also allows the students to ask relevant questions during class. Readings are subject to change as determined by the instructor, with at least one week's notice.

All assigned readings are to be completed by each student **before** the start of each class. Staying on top of the readings will maximize a student's learning experience and prepare them for in-class discussions. It also allows students to ask relevant questions during class. The material covered in the readings will not repeat exactly the material covered in class, so both readings and good class attendance are a must for getting the most out of the course.

Please arrive on time for class. It is rude and disrespectful to both your fellow students as well as to the instructor to arrive after the start of class, interrupting lecture or discussion. Everyone here is an adult, please be responsible for your own time management.

Grading Policy

➤	In-Class Participation	10%
➤	In-Class One Minute Essays	15%
➤	Map Quiz (Oct. 4)	10%
➤	Midterm Exam (Oct. 30)	15%
➤	In-Class Presentation (Nov. 29, Dec. 4)	15%
➤	Final Essay/Project (Due Dec. 7)	15%
➤	Final Exam (Dec. 13)	20%

Grade Scale:

You can always track your grades throughout the quarter on the online gradebook on the class Canvas website. I encourage you to do so to gauge your progress in the class. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if you suspect there are any errors.

Letter	Number	Percentage	Letter	Number	Percentage	Letter	Number	Percentage
A+	4.0	>95%	B-	2.8	83%	C-	1.6	71%
A	3.9	94%	B-	2.7	82%	C-	1.5	70%
A-	3.8	93%	B-	2.6	81%	D+	1.4	69%
A-	3.7	92%	B-	2.5	80%	D+	1.3	68%
A-	3.6	91%	C+	2.4	79%	D+	1.2	67%
A-	3.5	90%	C+	2.3	78%	D	1.1	66%
B+	3.4	89%	C+	2.2	77%	D	1.0	65%
B+	3.3	88%	C	2.1	76%	D	0.9	64%
B+	3.2	87%	C	2.0	75%	D-	0.8	63%
B	3.1	86%	C	1.9	74%	D-	0.7	60-62%
B	3.0	85%	C-	1.8	73%	E	0.0	<62 %
B	2.9	84%	C-	1.7	72%			

Technology in Class:

The use of laptops in class is allowed for note taking and for referencing class readings. Surfing the web, checking emails, checking Facebook, online shopping, etc. is prohibited. Such activity is disruptive to the individual, the instructor, and to the remainder of the class. However, I would highly

encourage students to take notes in class by hand, as numerous studies have shown handwritten notes to be far more useful for students than typed notes.

If I do find a student using a laptop for any purpose other than note taking, the privilege of using the laptop in class will be revoked after one warning.

Please turn off your cellphones before coming to class; the use of cellphones is prohibited for any reason.

Disability Resources for Students:

If you need any type of accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Resources for Students (<http://www.washington.edu/students/drs>). We are happy to work with Disability Resources to provide appropriate accommodation.

Make-Up Policies:

Make-ups for the map quiz, midterm, presentations or final paper will not be permitted except in the case of documented emergencies or medical reasons.

No make-up exams will be allowed for the midterm or final unless for dire situations, (illness with doctor's note, kidnapped by aliens, leg caught in a bear trap at the time of midterm, etc.), with proper documentation (e.g. doctor's note, picture of the aliens, etc.). Please remember and understand I am more able to help you if you ask for extensions *before* a due date than after.

Please be on time to class, and if for any reason you must leave early, please leave quietly and do not disrupt the other students on your way out. No talking during class, except during discussion periods. However, always feel free to ask the instructor a question at any point during class. If you have a question, chances are five other students have a similar question, please speak up.

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to treat their fellow classmates and instructors with honesty and respect throughout the course. All exam answers and online posts must reflect original work. No form of cheating will be tolerated. The following link has information on academic honesty, plagiarism, and consequences: <http://www.washington.edu/uaa/gateway/advising/help/academichonesty.php>

Student are expected to adhere to the University of Washington Code of Student Conduct which can be found at the following link: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=478-120>

The University of Washington is committed to fostering an environment where the free exchange of ideas is an integral part of the academic learning environment. Disruption of classroom discussions can prohibit other students from fully engaging and participating. Any student causing disruption may be asked to leave any class session, and, depending on the severity and frequency of that behavior, an incident report may be filled with Community Standards and Student Conduct. As a condition of enrollment, all students assume responsibility to observe standards of conduct that will contribute to the pursuit of academic goals and to the welfare of the academic community. For more detailed information on these standards, please visit:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=478-120>.

Course Schedule

The course schedule or readings are subject to change. Any changes made will be announced in class as well as on the course Canvas website, with at least a week's notice.

Part I

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

September 27– Introduction to the Course: Defining Warfare, Violence and Conflict

Required Reading:

- Otterbein, K.F. 2004 *How War Began*, Texas A&M University Press, College Station- Chapter 1, "Introduction," pages 3-21

Week 2: The Anthropology of Warfare

October 2- The Anthropology of Warfare

Required Reading:

- Keeley L.H. *War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage*, Oxford University Press, Chapter 1 "The Pacified Past: The Anthropology of War" pages 3-24 and Chapter 2 "The Dogs of War: The Prevalence and Importance of War" pages 25-40

Optional Additional Reading:

- Otterbein, K.F. 2009 *The Anthropology of War*, Waveland Press
- Nielson, A.H., W.H. Walker eds., 2009 *Warfare in Cultural Context: Practice, Agency and the Archaeology of Violence*, University of Arizona Press
- Thrope, J.N. 2003 "Anthropology, Archaeology and the Origin of Warfare" *World Prehistory* 35(10); pages 145-165

October 4- The Case for Human Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East

Map Quiz at the Start of Class

Required Reading:

- G.M. Schwartz, 2011 "Archaeology and Sacrifice" in G.M. Schwartz and A. Porter, *Sacred Killing: The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*, pages 1-32

Optional Additional Reading:

- Pongratz-Leisten, B. "Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East: Offering and Ritual Killing" in G.M. Schwartz and A. Porter (2011), *Sacred Killing: The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*, pages 291-304
- Alberto Ravinell Green, *The Role of Human Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East* (Missoula, Montana: Scholars Press, 1975)

Week 3: The Archaeology of Warfare

October 9- The Evidence of Warfare: Bioarchaeology and Iconography

Required Reading:

- Walker, P.L. 2001, "A Bioarchaeological Perspective on the History of Violence" 2001 *Annual Review of Anthropology* 30, pages 573-596

Optional Additional Reading:

- Nigro, L. 1998 "The Two Steles of Sargon: Iconography and Visual Propaganda at the Beginning of Royal Akkadian Relief" *Iraq* 60; pages 85-102
- Pearson, M.P., Thorpe, I.J.N, eds. 2005 *Warfare, Violence and Slavery in Prehistory*. BAR International Series 1374, Hadrian Book Ltd
- Soltysiak, A. 2017 "Antemortem Cranial Trauma in Ancient Mesopotamia" *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 27, pages 118-128
- Willey, P. 1990 *Prehistoric Warfare on the Great Plains: Skeletal Analysis of the Crow Creek Massacre Victims*, Garland

October 11- The Evidence of Warfare: Weapons (and Tools)

Required Reading:

- Gabriel R., and Metz K.S. 1991 *From Sumer to Rome*, Greenwood Press; Chapter 3 "Weapons and Lethality" pages 47-80

Optional Additional Reading:

- Trimm, C. 2017 *Fighting for the King and the Gods: A Survey of Warfare in the Ancient Near East*. SBL Press. Chapter 7 "Weapons and Armor" pages 513-552
- Shimelmitz R., and Rosenberg D. 2013 "Dull-edges Weapons and Low-level Fighting in the Late Prehistoric Southern Levant" An Evolutionary Paradigm for the Study of Human Aggression" *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 23(3); pages 433-452

Week 4: The Archaeology of Warfare Part II

October 16- The Evidence of Warfare: Fortifications and Battlefields

Required Reading:

- Düring, B.S. 2011 "Fortifications and Fabrications: Reassessing the Emergence of Fortifications in Prehistoric Asia Minor." In Düring, Wossink and Akkermans eds. *Correlates of Complexity*, Nederlands Instituut Voor Het Nabije Oosten; pages 69-86

Optional Additional Reading:

- Burgess, C., Topping P., Mordant C., and Maddison M., eds. 1988 *Enclosures and Defenses in the Neolithic of Western Europe*. BAR I.S. no. 403(i), British Archaeological Reports
- Burke, A. 2008 *Walled Up to Heaven: The Evolution of Middle Bronze Age Fortification*

October 18 – Primates, Early Hominids and Early Humans: Are We Programmed to Fight?

Required Reading:

- Givens, R.D. 2009, "Aggression in Nonhuman Primates: Implications for Understanding Human Behavior" in Nielson and Walker 2009 *Warfare in Cultural Context: Practice, Agency and the Archaeology of Violence*, University of Tucson Press; pages 263-280
- Otterbein, K. 2009 *The Anthropology of War*, Waveland Press. "Origins of War: Two Paths" pages 65-82

Optional Additional Reading:

- Corning, P.A. 1975 "An Evolutionary Paradigm for the Study of Human Aggression" in Nettleship and Givens, eds. *War, Its Causes and Correlates* Mouton; pages 357-387

Part II

Week 5: Early Violence and Warfare at the Rise of Civilization, (ca. 4000-2000 BCE)

October 23– The Kings of Akkad: The First Empire

Required Reading:

- Hamblin, W.J. 2006 *Warfare in the Ancient Near East to 1600 BC: Holy Warriors at the Dawn of History*. Routledge. "The Akkadian empire" pages 73-102

Optional Additional Reading:

- Ferrill, A. 1985 *The Origins of War from the Stone Age to Alexander the Great*, Thames and Hudson
- Gabriel, R., and A. Metz, 1991 *From Sumer to Rome: The Military Capabilities of Ancient Armies*. Greenwood Press

October 25- The Trojan War: Fact or Fiction

Required Reading:

- Bryce, T. 2006, *The Kingdom of the Hittites*, Oxford University Press, Chapter 14 "The Trojan War: Myth or Reality?" pages 392-405

Optional Additional Reading:

- T. Bryce, 2006 *The Trojans and Their Neighbors* (2006), Routledge

Week 6 – The Late Bronze Age (ca. 1600-1100 BCE)

October 30- In-Class Midterm

November 1- The Late Bronze Age and the Battle of Kadesh
Final Essay/Project Subject Due at Start of Class

Required Reading:

- Santoso A. 1996 “Kadesh Revisited: Reconstructing the Battle Between the Egyptians and the Hittites” *The Journal of Military History* Vol. 60:3, pages 423-444

Optional Additional Reading:

- Bryce 2003 *Letters of the Great Kings of the Ancient Near East*, “The Interaction of the Players: Imperial Administration and International Relationships” pages 38-49 and “The Club of Royal Brothers” pages 70-88
- Pearson, W. 2010 “Ramses II and the Battle of Kadesh: A Miraculous Victory?” *Ancient History, Resources for Teachers*, Vol. 40:1, pages 1-20
- Spalinger A. 2003 “The Battle of Kadesh: The Chariot Frieze at Abydos” *Aegypten und Levante*, Vol 13, pages 163-199

Week 7- Total Empire: The Late Bronze Age to the Neo-Assyrians (ca. 1600-500 BCE)

November 6- Egypt, Collapse, and the ‘Sea Peoples’

Required Reading:

- Jung, R. 2017 “The Sea Peoples After Three Millennia: Possibilities and Limitations of Historical Reconstruction” In *Sea Peoples Up-To-Date*, P.M. Fischer and T. Bürge, eds., Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, pages 23-42

Optional Additional Reading:

- Millek, J.M.. 2017 “Sea Peoples, Philistines, and the Destruction of Cities: A Critical Examination of Destruction Layers ‘Caused’ by the ‘Sea Peoples’” In *Sea Peoples Up-To-Date*, P.M. Fischer and T. Bürge, eds., Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, pages 113-140
- Spalinger, A.J. 2011 “Military Institutions and Warfare: Pharaonic” in *A Companion to Ancient Egypt*, Vol. 1 A.B. Lloyd, ed. pages 425-445
- Spalinger, A.J. 2005 *War in Ancient Egypt: The New Kingdom*, Blackwell Publishing
- Partridge, R.B., 2003 *Fighting Pharaohs: Weapons and Warfare in Ancient Egypt*, Peartree Publishing

November 8- The Neo-Assyrian War Machine: Death and Destruction

Required Reading:

- Faust, A. 2015 “Settlement, Economy and Demography under Assyrian Rule in the West: The Territories of the Former Kingdom of Israel as a Test Case.” *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 135:4, pages 765-789

Optional Additional Reading:

- De Backer, F. 2009 “Some Basic Tactics of Neo-Assyrian Warfare 2: Siege Battles” *State Archives of Assyria Bulletin*, Vol. XVIII, pages 265-286

- Hackett, J.W., 1989, *Warfare in the Ancient World* Facts on File “The Assyrians” pages 36-53
- Jacoby, R. 1991 “The Representation and Identification of Cities on Assyrian Reliefs” *Israel Exploration Journal*, Vol 41:1/3, pages 112-131

Week 8- Archaeology and Warfare in the Bible (ca. 500-300 BCE)

November 13- Biblical Warfare: The Battle of Lachish

Required Reading:

- Ussishkin, D. 1990 “The Assyrian Attack on Lachish: The Archaeological Evidence from the Southwest Corner of the Site” *Tel Aviv* 17:1; pages 53-86

Optional Additional Reading:

- Bagg, A.M. 2013 “Palestine under Assyrian Rule: A New Look at the Assyrian Imperial Policy in the West. *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 133:1, pages 119-144
- Katz, H. and Faust, A. 2012 “The Assyrian Destruction Layer at Tel ‘Eton” *Israel Exploration Journal*, Vol. 62:1, pages 22-53.
- Ussishkin, D. 1980 “The ‘Lachish Reliefs” and the City of Lachish” *Israel Exploration Journal* Vol 30.3/4, pages 174-195

November 15– Class Cancelled

Week 9- Warfare and the Persians

November 20– Cyrus the Great and the Persian Empire

Required Reading:

- Hackett, J.W., 1989, *Warfare in the Ancient World* Facts on File “The Persians” pages 82-103

Optional Additional Reading:

- Piller, C.K. 2013 “The Cadusii in Archaeology? Remarks on the Achaemenid Period (Iron Age IV) in Gilan and Talesh” *Iran and the Caucasus* Vol. 17, pages 115-151
- S. Razmjou (2013) Curtis J. & Tallis N. (eds.), *Forgotten Empire. The World of Ancient Persia*, (British Museum Press) “Transport and Warfare” pages 210-235
- Holland, T. 2005 *Persian Fire: The First World Empire and the Battle for the West*, Anchor Books
- Bartolini, P. 1988 *The Phoenicians* Bompiana; “Army, Navy and Warfare” pages 132-139
- Morillo S., Black J. Lococo P. 2008 *War in World History: Society, Technology and War from Ancient Times to the Present, Volume 1*, McGraw Hill
- van Creveld, M. 1989 *Technology and War from 2000 BC to the Present*, The Free Press

November 22- Class Cancelled for Thanksgiving

Week 10 – The Greeks and Beyond (333 BCE – 50 CE)

November 27- Alexander the Great and the Rise of the Greeks

Required Reading:

- Shipley, G. 2005 “Between Macedonia and Rome: Political Landscapes and Social Change in Southern Greece in the Early Hellenistic Period.” *The Annual of the British School at Athens*” Vol. 100, pages 315-330

Optional Additional Reading:

- Borza, E.N. 1987 “The Royal Macedonian Tombs and the Paraphernalia of Alexander the Great” *Phoenix*, Vol. 41:2, pages 105-121
- Carey, B.T. 2009 *Warfare in the Ancient World*, Ch. 3 “Warfare in the Hellenistic Era: The Rise of the Macedonian Art of War” pages 64-89 and Ch. 4 “Republican Rome at War: The Rise and Evolution of the Legion” pages 90-120
- Chrissanthos, S.G. 2008 *Warfare in the Ancient World: From the Bronze Age to the Fall of Rome* Praeger Series on the Ancient World
- Hackett, J.W., 1989, *Warfare in the Ancient World* Facts on File. “Alexander the Great” pages 104-129
- Roth, J.P. 2009 *Roman Warfare* Cambridge University Press

November 29- Class Presentations

Week 11- Warfare and the Modern Day

December 4- Class Presentations

December 6- Warfare and Colonialism in the Modern Middle East
Discussion class, no assigned reading

Final Essay/Project Due December 7, by 11:59pm

Final Exam: Thursday, December 13, 4:30-6:20PM in Denny 259