

ANEL 4000/6000

Introduction to Akkadian I

Semester	Fall 2022
Instructor	Dr. Joshua Jeffers Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Email: jeffers@sas.upenn.edu Office Hours: By appointment Office: Babylonian Section, Penn Museum
Requirements	None
Time and Place	MW 3:30–5:00 pm Room: WILL 320

Description

ANEL 4000/6000 is the first half of a two-semester program designed to provide a basic introduction to the Akkadian language, the earliest attested language of the Semitic family. Akkadian first appeared in southern Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) in the mid-third millennium BCE and became the *lingua franca* of the ancient Near East in the latter part of the second millennium. Ultimately, Akkadian died out as a spoken language in the late first millennium, though it continued to be employed in writing until the mid-first century CE.

The course will lead students in acquiring skills for comprehending the grammar, syntax, and morphology (both nominal and verbal forms) of Old Babylonian Akkadian. This dialect of Akkadian presents a relatively consistent and uniform model of the language that is ideal for beginning students. Furthermore, the course will instruct students in the cuneiform writing system, which was a fairly complex encoding mechanism by which the spoken language could be recorded on physical mediums. These objectives will be achieved through completing the various lessons and exercises in the course textbook, as well as working on selected readings from actual cuneiform texts, particularly from the famous Law Code of Hammurabi.

Goals

Students are expected to: 1) gain a general understanding of the Mesopotamian context in which the Akkadian language flourished; 2) learn Old Babylonian Akkadian grammar, the “classical” form of the language; 3) memorize the basic cuneiform signs (in Neo-Assyrian script) and the pertinent Akkadian vocabulary; 4) transliterate, transcribe, and translate into English various Old Babylonian cuneiform exercises and texts; 5) become familiar with the primary Akkadian grammars and dictionaries; and 6) complete all course assignments and requirements.

Course Textbook

Caplice, Richard. *Introduction to Akkadian*. Fourth Edition. Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 2002.

Additional Akkadian Resources

- Black, Jeremy, Andrew George, and Nicholas Postgate, eds. *A Concise Dictionary of Akkadian*. Second Edition. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2000. [Abbr. *CDA*]
- Borger, Rykle. *Mesopotamisches Zeichenlexikon*. Second, Revised Edition. AOAT 305. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2010.
- Huehnergard, John. *A Grammar of Akkadian*. Third Edition. Harvard Semitic Studies 45. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2000.
- Labat, René. *Manuel d'Épigraphie akkadienne: Signes, Syllabaire, Idéogrammes*. Sixth Edition. Paris: Librairie Orientaliste Paul Geuthner, S.A., 1988.
- Roth, Martha, et al., eds. *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*. 21 vols. Chicago: Oriental Institute: 1956–2010. [Abbr. *CAD*]
- von Soden, Wolfram. *Akkadisches Handwörterbuch*. 3 vols. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1965–1981. [Abbr. *AHW*]
- . *Grundriss der akkadischen Grammatik*. Analecta Orientalia 47. Rome: Pontificium Institutum Biblicum, 1952. [Abbr. *GAG*]

Grading System

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|-----------------------|-----|---------------------|
| • Class participation | 40% | |
| • Cuneiform Sign Quiz | 10% | Wednesday, Sept. 28 |
| • Mid-term Exam | 20% | Wednesday, Oct. 12 |
| • Final Exam | 30% | TBD |

Grading Scale

This course will follow the grading policies set forth by the University of Pennsylvania at <https://www.college.upenn.edu/grade-policy>.

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| • 96.67–100 | A+ | • 76.67–79.99 | C+ |
| • 93.34–96.66 | A | • 73.34–76.66 | C |
| • 90–93.33 | A- | • 70–73.33 | C- |
| • 86.67–89.99 | B+ | • 66.67–69.99 | D+ |
| • 83.34–86.66 | B | • 60–66.66 | D |
| • 80–83.33 | B- | • Below 60 | F |