PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM
Dr Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer
Email: l.s.tiemeyer@abdn.ac.uk
Tel. 01224-272629
Office Hours: By appointment

Discipline Administration:
Mrs Claire Hargaden
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 272366
divrs@abdn.ac.uk
TIMETABLE
Mondays 15.00-16.00 in CB203 (50-52 College Bounds)
Fridays 09.00-10.00 in KCT2
Tutorial: Mondays 09.00-10.00 in KCT4, weeks, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10.

Students can view their university timetable at
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course discusses the issues involved in reconstructing the history and
religions of ancient Israel and Judah.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
This course aims to provide an overview of the history and religions of the
ancient Near East (Mesopotamia, the Levant) with focus on the ancient
Israelites. Who were they and where did they come from? What did they do
and how did they interact with the nations around them? The course will
explore the available archaeological and textual evidence and discuss ways in
which these artefacts enable us to reconstruct the history of ancient Israel. In
doing so, it will question the extent to which the biblical material can convey
or indeed intend to convey historical data.

Throughout the course of the semester, the student should learn:

1. to read biblical and extra-biblical texts in an informed and critical
   manner.
2. to reflect independently and critically on the problems related to
   historical reconstructions of the history of Ancient Israel.
3. to interpret the religious texts of Ancient Israel and its social and cultic
   phenomena in their historical and cultural contexts.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
See MyAberdeen for further details.
READING LIST

UNIVERSITY WEEK 7

1. Introduction to the Ancient Near East

2. Mesopotamian History and Religion

UNIVERSITY WEEK 8

Tutorial 1: Gilgamesh Epic

- Genesis 6-9


UNIVERSITY WEEK 9

1. The Minimalists and the Maximalists – Ideology and Biblical research
2. What can we learn from archaeology?
   - W. Dever, *What did the Biblical Writers Know and When did they Know it? What Archaeology can tell us about the Reality of Ancient Israel* (Grand Rapids, Mich. William B. Eerdmans, 2001), pp. 53-95. 221.93 Dev

UNIVERSITY WEEK 10

Tutorial 2:

1. What can we know historically about the Patriarchs?

2. Were the ancient Israelites ever in Egypt?

UNIVERSITY WEEK 11

1. The book of Joshua and archaeology: was Canaan ever conquered?

2. Early Israel according to archeology

**UNIVERSITY WEEK 12**

**Tutorial 3:**
- Finkelstein, A. Mazor, B.B. Schmidt, *The Quest for the Historical Israel* (Atlanta, SBL, 2007), pp. 35-66. [933 Fin]

1. Were there ever kings such as David and Solomon?

2. Israel and the Neo-Assyrian Empire, I

**UNIVERSITY WEEK 13**

1. Israel and the Neo-Assyrian Empire, II

2. Judah and the Neo-Assyrian Empire III

**UNIVERSITY WEEK 14**

**Tutorial 4:**

1. Judah and the Neo-Babylonian Empire

2. Judah’s experience in exile and at home

UNIVERSITY WEEK 15
1. Restoration I

2. Restoration II

UNIVERSITY WEEK 16
Tutorial 5:

1. The Religion of Ancient Israel I: West-Semitic origins of the Israelite Religions


UNIVERSITY WEEK 17

1. The Religion of Ancient Israel III: The archaeological evidence


2. The Religion of Ancient Israel IV: Women’s religion


UNIVERSITY WEEK 18

I am happy to meet for revision on the scheduled times in week 18. If you are interested in structured revision, please contact me by email no later than
25th Nov, 2015. Please specify which particular topics you would wish to have addressed. Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer

SECONDARY READING, IF APPLICABLE
Many of the primary texts that are mentioned and discussed during the lectures appear in:
This book can be found in the Divinity Library.

ASSESSMENT
1 two hour written examination (50%); continuous assessment (50%) consisting of 1 essay (25%); and 1 web-based quiz on MyAberdeen (25%).
The examination and the quiz are based on both the lectures and the accompanied reading.

*Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).*
*Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).*

ESSAYS
The essay should be between 2000 and 3000 words long, including footnotes.
The essay should be carried out in critical and informed dialogue with relevant and up-to-date scholarly secondary literature. All interaction with secondary literature must be annotated with footnotes. Failure to do so will be penalized.
• Try being concise and to the point!
• Do not include material that is irrelevant to the topic at hand.
If you have any questions or concerns about submitting work, *ask the course co-coordinator before the essay is due.*
LIST OF ESSAY TOPICS

The essay topic and essay instructions can be downloaded from MyAberdeen.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

ESSAY: Due University Week 15, Thursday 12th November, 2015.

If the essay is handed in late without written permission by the course-coordinator, 1 point will be deducted per 2 days or part thereof (Saturday, Sunday and other days when the University is closed are counted together as a single day).

All course work must be submitted to the course co-ordinator no later than Friday 27th Nov, 2015. Failure to do so will disqualify the student from taking the final exam AND the resit.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Submit one paper copy to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one electronic copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Please note: Failure to submit both to Turnitin, and also one identical hard copy with the Turnitin receipt attached will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to Turnitin will result in a zero mark.

EXAMINATION

Web-based mid-term examination: University Week 12/13, Thurs 22nd Oct, 2015, 17.00 - Mon 26th Oct, 2015, 09.00.

The mid-term exam will cover the lectures and the readings of university weeks 7-11. The students will be given a list of 8 essay questions prior to the exam. Two of these questions will appear on the exam.

Failure to take the mid-term examination will disqualify the student from taking the final exam AND the resit.
The final exam will fall into three sections. Sections 1-2 will cover the lectures and the accompanying reading of weeks 12-27 and section 3 will cover all the five tutorials and the accompanying reading. Each part will contain a choice between two questions. Students must answer three questions in total.

General exam guidance will be given in the Student Handbook.

RESIT INFORMATION
Access to the resit which is provisional on:

- All submitted coursework having been submitted and graded at CAS 6 or higher.
- Student having a valid Class Certificate. Students with C7’s are not eligible for resits.

The resit is a two-hours written examination (100%).

Past exam papers can be viewed at [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/).