

BA Assyriology (Ancient Near Eastern Studies) Preparatory Reading for Students Learning Akkadian

The Faculty website includes course information and is essential reading:

<https://www.ames.ox.ac.uk/egyptology-and-ancient-near-eastern-studies-ba-hons>

Akkadian Language

Akkadian language and cuneiform texts are at the heart of your first-year course. The course is designed for complete beginners and there is no need to do any work in advance.

History and Culture

Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian history and culture are the other major component of your first-year studies. Some preparatory reading will stand you in good stead.

Preparatory reading: Mesopotamia

Bahrani, Z. *Mesopotamia: Ancient Art and Architecture* (London: Thames and Hudson, 2017)

George, A. *The Epic of Gilgamesh: The Babylonian Epic Poem and Other Texts in Akkadian and Sumerian*. 2nd edition (London: Penguin, 2020)

Lassen, A. W., Frahm, E., and Wagensonner, W. *Ancient Mesopotamia Speaks: Highlights of the Yale Babylonian Collection* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019): especially Chapter 3 [This may be hard to find: you can always read a library copy once you are in Oxford]

Van De Mieroop, M. *A History of the Ancient Near East ca. 3000-323 BC*. 4th edition (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2024) [key course book]

Mesopotamian artefacts and projects online

Ashmolean Museum, Antiquities Department: e.g. <https://www.ashmolean.org/ancient-middle-east-gallery>; <https://www.ashmolean.org/protective-spirit>

British Museum, Department of the Middle East: e.g.

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/galleries/mesopotamia>

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/galleries/mesopotamia-1500-539-bc>

Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative (CDLI), an Oxford – Paris – Berlin database of over 360,000 cuneiform texts with associated materials: <https://cdli.earth/>

electronic Babylonian Library (eBL), a platform for editions and translation of Akkadian literature and other texts: <https://www.ebl.lmu.de>

Open Richly Annotated Cuneiform Corpus (ORACC), a gateway to many Assyriological projects and texts: <https://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/projectlist.html>



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