

## **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]

Van De Mieroop, M. *A History of the Ancient Near East ca. 3000-323 BC*. 3rd edition (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2015) [key course book]

### **Websites on Mesopotamian artefacts and projects**

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

<https://cdli.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/>)

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

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>



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