COURSE SYLLABUS, William J. Hamblin
History 238-I: Ancient Near East to 330 BC
Fall 2012, T/Th, 3:00-4:15 PM (253 MARB)

• “Verily I say unto you, that it is my will that you should . . . obtain a knowledge of history.”
  D&C 93:53
• Note: You are responsible for the information on this syllabus. Ignore it at your peril.
  Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

1. OBJECTIVES:
This class will examine the history of the Near East from the origins of civilization to the
conquests of Alexander the Great {to c 330 BC}.

2. INSTRUCTOR:
Dr. William Hamblin   Telephone: 422-6469   Office: 2146 JFSB
(It is easiest to reach me by email, which I check several times daily.)
Email: hamblinwj@gmail.com
Office hours: T/Th, 10:30-11:00 AM, 2:00-2:45 PM or by appointment.
Note: I will send out regular announcements by email. You need to have a working email
account that is accurate current on the BYU student information.

3. REQUIRED TEXTS (From the Bookstore and on reserve in the library):
  ISBN 0140513310
Shaw, Ian (editor), The Oxford Illustrated History of Ancient Egypt, 2nd ed. (Oxford, 2002)
  ISBN 0192802933
  ISBN 0631225528
The reading assignment load will average about 100 pages per week.

Web Materials
  Notes and supplemental materials can be found on the web at:
  Announcements and Updates on blog: http://hamblinhistory238.wordpress.com
    You must “follow” this web site to receive notices of new materials.
  Notes and slides: http://www.hamblinwj.com/history-238/

3B. OPTIONAL TEXTS (on Reserve in HBLL)
The required texts and some additional optional readings will be on reserve at the HBLL Reserve Library.

4. PROBLEMS. If you have serious medical problems or other types of difficulties, contact me as
soon as possible. Do not wait to try to resolve problems until the end of the semester when it is
too late to do anything about them. Problems identified early and dealt with swiftly can be
solved.
5. Grading:
Tests will be given at the Testing Center and may include any type of question. Grades will be based on five factors which total 350 points:

- 10 Quizzes (out of 13), drop lowest three  50 pts (of 65 points)
- Paper  100 pts
- Mid-Term Exam  100 pts
- Final Exam  100 pts
- Grand total  350 pts

The percentage of the curve is as follows: A 93-100; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 63-66; D- 60-62; E 59 or lower

Note on “Make-up” Quizzes and Tests:
- There will be regular pop quizzes on the reading assignments for that day. They will often be given at the very first of class. If you don’t come to class, or are late for the quiz, there are no make-up quizzes! Instead, your lowest three grades (15 points) on the quizzes will be dropped. Thereafter, you take the losses.
- If you know in advance you will miss the day of a test, you must take the test before the scheduled test day. Make-up tests after the exam date will be essay exams because we discuss the tests in class. You may not take the final early except for medical or similar emergency. (The claim that your mom scheduled your airline ticket on the wrong day, or that you are getting married on the day of the final are not medical excuses.) Tests may include all types of questions: T/F, multiple choice, matching, fill in blank, short answer, essays, etc. There is no extra credit. (An extra credit option simply encourages students to procrastinate and do minimal work. If you want to do well, work as hard as you can from the beginning.)
- Tests may include all types of questions: T/F, multiple choice, matching, fill in blank, short answer and essays, and will be administered at the Testing Center (http://testing.byu.edu).
- There are no exceptions to these rules, so don’t ask.

6. Classroom Courtesy: I strongly encourage class participation on the topic under discussion. On the other hand, whispering, flirting, snoring, or other forms of disturbance will not be tolerated. Students causing any disturbance (as judged by the professor or teaching assistants) will receive a warning and be docked 5 points. If problems persist, they may be expelled from class. In a class this size it is very important to be considerate of your neighbors who are actually trying to listen.

7. Cheating: Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing on their tests, papers, or quizzes will fail the course and be sent to the Honor Code office! No exceptions! If you repent and confess before you are caught, mercy may be obtainable. For more information, see: http://saas.byu.edu/catalog/2011-2012ucat/GeneralInfo/HonorCode.php

8. Problems. If you have serious medical problems or other types of difficulties with the class, please contact me as soon as possible. Do not wait to try to resolve problems until the end of the semester when it is too late to do anything.
9. **TERM PAPER:** 100 points (28%) of your grade will be based on a term paper with the following requirements.

1. The term paper can be on any topic of relating to Near Eastern history from before 330 BC. It can focus on art, religion, literature, biography, economics, science, etc.

2. All parts of this assignment must be typed, double spaced, 12 point font, one inch margins. Hand written submissions will be returned ungraded.

3. **Paper Topics (5 points)** and one paragraph summary due.

4. **Bibliography (10 points).** Must be divided into primary and secondary sources. If a book is in your bibliography, it means you know you have access to it, not that it theoretically exists somewhere. The use of primary sources will be required for this paper. If you don’t have access to primary sources, pick a different topic.

5. **Rough Outline (20 points).** Double spaced, one to two pages. Let me know the direction you plan to take on your paper. This is not to be a poorly conceived and undeveloped idea. It should represent significant progress on your paper.

6. **Final Draft (65 points),** 8-10 pages.

7. Any part of the paper handed in late will be docked 10% for the first week, 20% for the second. The paper will not be accepted if it is more than two weeks late.

8. *Do not plagiarize!* If you do so you will fail this course. Plagiarism is copying, quoting, or paraphrasing sources without quotation marks and/or attribution. If you have a question about what plagiarism is, ask me.