

**RESEARCH SEMINAR: THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST**  
**History 470.001**

**List of Potential Topics and Issues for Research Papers**

*N.B.: Students may also develop other topics not included here in consultation with the professor.*

**I. Mesopotamia, Western Asia, and Asia Minor**

1.	Rise of Civilization in the Ubaid and Uruk Periods
2.	Agriculture and Economy in Ancient Sumer
3.	Hydraulics and Irrigation in Sumer (or Mesopotamia)
4.	Geographical-historical Issues in the Fall of Akkadian Empire
5.	Geographical-historical Issues in the Fall of Neo-Sumerian Empire
6.	International Relations
7.	The World of the Amarna Letters
8.	Military History and Policies
9.	The Assyrian War Machine
10.	Diet and Health
11.	Medicine and Medical Practice
12.	Mesopotamian Archetypes of Biblical Traditions
13.	Social Justice in Mesopotamia
14.	Social Mobility in Ancient Mesopotamia
15.	Family Life
16.	Inheritance Customs and Laws
17.	Slavery in Mesopotamia
18.	Crime and Punishment
19.	Mesopotamian Religion and Cult
20.	Funerary Beliefs and Practices
21.	Hittite Religion and Cult
22.	The Hittites, Trojans, and Mycenaeans (Historicity of the Trojan War)
23.	Hittite New Kingdom Imperial Policies

24.	Phoenician Commercial Hegemony
25.	The Iron Age Migrations and the Collapse of the Near East
26.	Kingdom of Mittani: Warfare, Political Policies and Foreign Relations
27.	Cyprus at the Crossroads of Europe and the Near East

## **II. *Egypt and Nubia (Kush)***

1.	Agriculture and Economy in Ancient Egypt
2.	Issues in Egyptian Hydraulics and Irrigation
3.	Environmental and Historical Issues in the Fall of the Old Kingdom
4.	Environmental and Historical Issues in the Hyksos Conquest
5.	International Relations in the Middle Kingdom
6.	International Relations in the New Kingdom
7.	The World of the Amarna Letters
8.	Military History and Policies
9.	The Egyptian War Machine
10.	Diet and Health
11.	Medicine and Medical Practice
12.	Egyptian Ships, Shipping and Naval Technology
13.	Social Justice in Egypt
14.	Social Mobility in Ancient Egypt
15.	Issues in Family Life and Custom
16.	Inheritance Customs and Laws
17.	Sexuality and Sexual Mores
18.	Crime and Punishment
19.	Egyptian Legal System
20.	Slavery in Egypt (inc. self-enslavement and self-dedication)
21.	Issues in Nubian-Egyptian Relations
22.	Issues in Hittite-Egyptian Relations
23.	Egyptian Religion and Cult

24.	Funerary Beliefs and Practices
25.	Akhenaten, Nefertiti, and the Amarna Period
26.	The Later Amarna Period: Who was Smenkhkare?
27.	Egyptian Archetypes in Biblical Literature
28.	Egyptian Archetypes in Greek Magical Papyri
29.	The Iron Age Migrations and the Sea Peoples' Invasions
31.	Issues in Mittani-Egyptian Relations

**III. *Historiography of Assyriology, Egyptology, and Ancient Near Eastern Studies and History***

1.	Issues in the Decipherment of Akkadian Cuneiform
2.	Issues in the Decipherment of Egyptian Hieroglyphs
3.	Post-colonial Interpretations of Egyptology and Assyriology As Academic Disciplines
4.	Nineteenth Century Notions of Eugenics and On-going Interpretations of Egyptian and/or Mesopotamian Ethnologies
5.	American Contributions to the Origins of Egyptology or Near Eastern Studies
6.	James H. Breasted at the Forefront of Near Eastern Studies and Modern Middle Eastern Politics
7.	E. Wallace Budge: Scholar or Charlatan?