

Course Title: EFL-281 Hittite Language and Culture

Meetings: Tuesday, 14:40-17:30, SZ-16

Instructor: Dr. Mary Ann Walter, Ph.D.

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Office: SZ-48

Course Objectives:

Introduction to basic grammar and vocabulary of the Hittite language.

Exposure to and exploration of cuneiform and hieroglyphic writing systems.

Familiarization with major surviving Hittite monuments in Anatolia.

Understanding of literary genres of Hittite writing,

including letters, laws, royal documents, diplomatic texts and treaties, prayers, rituals, and myths.

Analysis of Hittite history, society, culture and mythology in the context of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Textbook:

Bryce, Trevor. 2002. *Life and Society in the Hittite World*. Oxford University Press.

Readings from this and other sources will be provided by the instructor on oduclass or in class.

Grading:

Midterms 15%x2=30%

Presentations and homeworks 5%x10=50%

Final Exam=20%

Outline Schedule:

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| 1 | February 12 | Discovery/historical background, cuneiform |
| 2 | February 19 | Hittites and Cyprus |
| 3 | February 26 | The capital city of Hattusas |
| 4 | March 5 | Other imperial sites (student presentations) |
| 5 | March 12 | Midterm 1 |
| 6 | March 19 | Hittite laws and Neo-Hittite |
| 7 | March 26 | Hittite hieroglyphics and Luwian |
| 8 | April 2 | Royalty and diplomacy |
| 9 | April 9 | Neo-Hittite sites (student presentations) |
| 10 | April 16 | Midterm 2 |
| 11 | April 23 | HOLIDAY |
| 12 | April 30 | Goddesses and gods |
| 13 | May 7 | Rituals and festivals |
| 14 | May 14 | Myths (student presentations) |

Detailed schedule (including homework and reading assignments)

1 February 12 Discovery/historical background, cuneiform

- Reading: Boyes 2017, How to Make a Cylinder Seal.
Bryce 2002, Ch 3 The Scribe
- Homework: You have been given a Hittite name. At the *next class*, you will submit a *handwritten* page about the person (or people) who had that name, and their significance in Hittite history and society. Consult the following resources, which are all available for you on odtuclass:
Burney, Charles. 2004. Historical Dictionary of the Hittites. Scarecrow Press.
Bryce, Trevor. 2002. Life and Society of the Hittite World (2nd edition). Oxford University Press.
Collins, Billie Jean. 2007. The Hittites and their World.
- In-class: Introduction. Cuneiform. Seals.

2 February 19 Hittites and Cyprus

- Reading: Guterbock 1967, The Hittite Conquest of Cyprus
- Homework: You will choose 3 texts from Hoffner 2009 Letters from the Hittite Kingdom (on odtuclass). On odtuclass, by midnight the night before our next class meeting, submit an audio recording of yourself reading the English translation of your chosen 3 letters. Also bring the *handwritten* text of your three letters to class.
- In-class: Names discussion. Cyprus text. Kadesh exercise.

3 February 26 The capital city of Hattusas

- Reading: Bryce 2002, Ch 13 The Capital
- Homework: You will choose an *imperial*-period site from <http://www.hittitemonuments.com> (not Hattusa). Prepare a presentation of approximately 5 powerpoint slides about your chosen site. You will give this presentation at the next class meeting. Be ready to speak for 5 minutes. Include pictures and basic information about:
the site's dates of occupation, significance, major finds from there, and so on.
Use the Burney, Bryce 2002, and Collins books as additional sources of information.
- In-class: Anitta text. My presentation on Hattusa.

4 March 5 Other imperial sites (student presentations)

- Reading: None.
- Homework: You will choose a *treaty* from Beckman 1996 Hittite Diplomatic Texts (on odtuclass) (NOT from the sections on correspondence or edicts). On odtuclass, by midnight the night before our next class meeting *after* the midterm, submit an audio recording of yourself reading the text of your chosen treaty. Also bring the *photocopy* of your treaty to class.
- In-class: Student presentations. Proclamation text.

5 March 12 Midterm 1

6 March 19 Hittite laws

- Reading: Bryce 2002, Ch 2 The People and the Law
- Homework: You will choose five laws from Hoffner 1997 Hittite Laws (on odtuclass). On odtuclass, by midnight the night before our next class meeting, submit an audio recording of yourself reading the English translation of your chosen five laws. Also bring the *handwritten* text of your five laws to class.
- In-class: Midterm. Stamp seals (printed circles) Luwian exercise 1.
Laws text. Last/second 1 without translation (but still glossary), they try it.

7 March 26 Hittite hieroglyphics and Luwian

- Reading: To be announced.

Homework: You will choose one text from Miller 2013 1996 Royal Hittite Instructions (on odtuclass)
On odtuclass, by midnight the night before our next class meeting,
submit an audio recording of yourself reading the text of your chosen treaty.
Also bring the *photocopy* of your text to class.

In-class: Luwian exercise 2. Anatolian IE branch, survival. More laws again.

8 April 2 *Neo-Hittite*

Reading: Bryce's World of Neo-Hittite Kingdoms, intro p 1-6, and Ch 3 p 47-63.
The entire book is on odtuclass because you must *also* use it as a resource for your presentations.
Also use the Burney, Bryce 2002 and Collins books as additional sources of information.

Homework: You will choose a Neo-Hittite site from <http://www.hittitemonuments.com>
Prepare a presentation of approximately 5 powerpoint slides about your chosen site.
You will give this presentation at the next class meeting. Be ready to speak for 5 minutes.
Include pictures and basic information about:
the site's dates of occupation, significance, major finds from there, and so on.

In-class: Neo-Hittites. Apology.

9 April 9 *Neo-Hittite sites (student presentations)*

Reading: None.

Homework: You will choose a text from Singer 2002 Hittite Prayers (on odtuclass).
On odtuclass, by midnight the night before our next class meeting *after* the midterm,
submit an audio recording of yourself reading the text of your chosen prayer.
Also bring the *handwritten* text of your prayer to class.

In-class: Student presentations. Prayer text. Dung song and Kantuzili prayer clips, if time.

10 April 16 **Midterm 2**
Hittites 2003 film from 51:00 (Suppiluliuma)

11 April 23 HOLIDAY

12 April 30 *Goddesses and gods*

Reading: Bryce 2002, Ch 8 The Gods

Homework: You will choose a text from Hoffner 1998 Hittite Myths (on odtuclass)
On odtuclass, by midnight the night before our next class meeting,
submit an audio recording of yourself reading the text of your chosen myth.
Also bring the *handwritten* text of your myth to class.

In-class: Midterm. Gods/mythology. telipinu text. Kantuzili, dung prayer clips.

13 May 7 *Rituals and festivals*

Reading: Bryce 2002, Ch 12 Myths

Homework: With your assigned group, you will choose one of the myths from Hoffner and/or Bryce.
Write a sketch of the myth and perform it at our next class meeting (at least 5 minutes).
Also bring a *photocopy* of your script for me.

In-class: Ritual text.

14 May 14 *Myths (student presentations)*

Reading: Bryce 2002, Ch 11 Festivals and Rituals

Homework: None.

In-class: Student presentations. Festival text, act-out. Post-hoc survey. Nationalism. Evils.