



Fall 2011

# REL 607

## Ancient Religious Rhetoric

Thursdays 12:30-3:15 p.m. in HL 504

Instructor: [JIM WATTS](#) (Ph.D.)

Office: 505 HL

Phone: 443-5713

E-mail: [click here](#)

The purpose of this seminar is to introduce:

1. rhetoric as an analytical tool for studying religion,
2. religious discourse as a distinctive form of and problem for the study of rhetoric, and
3. ancient Near Eastern literature as a resource for the study of both comparative rhetoric and religion.

Ancient Near Eastern texts offer abundant material for studying comparative religious rhetoric. These works from Egypt, Mesopotamia, Syria and Israel often invoke religious ideas for overtly persuasive goals. Yet their various physical and literary forms illustrate the complicated roles played by texts in ancient (and later) cultures, while their distinctive rhetorical forms relativize and contextualize the history of Greco-Roman rhetorical theories. Their interaction provides a basis for creative scholarship in comparative rhetoric and religion.

This seminar will train students to:

1. interpret ancient Near Eastern texts in translation with sensitivity to their original cultural contexts, their religious roles, and the conditions of their preservation and publication in modernity;
2. analyze the rhetoric of ancient texts to understand their persuasive effects on ancient and contemporary audiences;
3. evaluate claims for the distinctiveness of religious rhetoric(s) in comparison with other forms of social discourse.

---

## Course Requirements:

Students are expected to be prepared to discuss in class all the required readings (listed below under **Sources** and **Analysis**). In addition, each student will (1) prepare and present a report on one additional book or set of essays (listed after **Report**), and (2) write a substantive and original research paper on a subject related to the course topic, presenting the class with a summary during the last class meeting. (The finished research papers are due on or before December 19th.) Late papers and reports will not be eligible for "A" grades.

---

## Required Texts:

- Carr, David M. *Writing on the Tablet of the Heart: Origins of Scripture and Literature*. New York: Oxford, 2005.
- Kennedy, George A. *Comparative Rhetoric: An Historical and Cross-Cultural Introduction*. New York: Oxford, 1998.
- Lipson, Carol and Roberta Binkley (eds.). *Rhetoric Before and Beyond the Greeks*. Albany: SUNY Press, 2004 (= *RBBG* below).
- Snell, Daniel C. *Life in the Ancient Near East*. New Haven: Yale, 1997.
- **Recommended:** *New Oxford Annotated Bible* = New Revised Standard Version (Oxford) or the *New Jewish Study Bible* = Tanakh - New Jewish Publication Society Version (Oxford).

All students are required to read Snell **before** the first class meeting. The ancient texts other than the Bible, as well as the articles in rhetorical theory and analysis, are available on-line through [Blackboard](#). \* marks readings not online. For a full list of resources relevant to the topic of this course, consult the [Bibliography](#) below.

---

**Topics and Readings** (for full citations, see [bibliography](#) below; all *source* readings except biblical texts are on Blackboard; *analysis* readings not found in the required texts are also on Blackboard):

Day	Topic	Texts:
Sep 1	<b>Introductions in Lemke Room, Special Collections, 6th floor Bird Library</b>	- * Snell, <i>Life in the Ancient Near East</i> (all) - "After 90 Years, a Dictionary of an Ancient World" ( <a href="#">NYT 6/6/11</a> ) - Hauser, "Philosophy and Rhetoric"
<b>Ancient Rhetorical Settings</b>		
Sep 8	<b>Instruction &amp; Persuasion</b>	<b>Sources:</b> Ptah-hotep, Satire on the Trades, Eloquent Peasant, Turin Judicial Papyrus (Egyptian) Debate between Sheep & Grain, Gilgamesh and Akka (Sumerian) * Genesis 18; Exodus 32; Judges 9; 1 Samuel 8; Proverbs 15-16 (Hebrew) Aristotle, <i>Rhetoric</i> 1.1-3, 2.1 (Greek) <b>Analysis:</b> - Fox, "Ancient Egyptian Rhetoric." - * Hallo, "The Birth of Rhetoric." <i>RBBG</i> 25-46 - Wills, "Speaking Arenas of Ancient Mesopotamia." - * Sweeney, "Law, Rhetoric, and Gender in Ramesside Egypt," <i>RBBG</i> 99-113 - Zulick, "The Active Force of Hearing: The Ancient Hebrew Language of

		Persuasion.”
Sep 15	<i>Persuasion &amp; Religion</i>	<p><b>Survey:</b> - Beaulieu, "Mesopotamia"</p> <p><b>Sources:</b> Debate between a Man and his Ba (Egyptian)          Babylonian Theodicy [scroll down] (Akkadian)          * Job 1-7, 38-42; Proverbs 7-8 (Hebrew)          Plato, <i>Republic</i> 2.364-366; <i>Laws</i> 10.884-888d [scroll to end] (Greek)</p> <p><b>Analysis:</b> - Burke, <i>Rhetoric of Motives</i> xiii-xv, 19-46          - Pernot, "Rhetoric of Religion"</p> <p><b>Report</b> on Burke, <i>Rhetoric of Religion</i></p>
Sep 22	<i>Comparative Rhetoric</i>	<p><b>Survey:</b> - Wright, "Syria and Canaan"</p> <p><b>Sources:</b> Hittite treaty          * Deuteronomy 5-6, 31; Nehemiah 8-9 (Hebrew)</p> <p><b>Analysis:</b> - * Kennedy, <i>Comparative Rhetoric</i>, prologue &amp; chs. 1, 2, 4, 6          - * Watts, "Story-List-Sanction," <i>RBBG</i> 197-2120</p> <p><b>Report</b> on Patrick, <i>Rhetoric of Revelation</i></p>

### Spoken & Written Rhetoric

Sep 29	<i>Literacy &amp; orality: Myths &amp; Epics</i>	<p><b>Survey:</b> - Beard, "Writing and Religion"</p> <p><b>Sources:</b> Enuma Elish, Tukulti-Ninurta [scroll to bottom] (Akkadian)          Kirta [scroll down] (Ugaritic)          Shipwrecked Sailor, Horus &amp; Seth (Egyptian)</p> <p><b>Analysis:</b> - Baines, "Interpreting the Story of the Shipwrecked Sailor"          - Mifsud, "Storytelling as Soul-Tuning .. Ramayana"</p> <p><b>Report</b> on Ong, <i>Orality and Literacy</i></p>
Oct 6	<i>Literacy &amp; orality: Stories, Autobiographies, &amp; Histories</i>	<p><b>Survey:</b> - Lichtheim, <i>Ancient Egyptian Literature</i> 1:1-12</p> <p><b>Sources:</b> Harkhuf, Paheri, Sinuhe (Egyptian)          Babylonian king lists and chronicles (Akkadian)          * 2 Kings 16-17, Nehemiah 1-2, 3-4, 13; Esther (Hebrew)</p> <p><b>Analysis:</b> - Lorton, "Reading the Story of Sinuhe"          - Lipson, "Rhetoric and Identity: Ancient Egyptian Autobiographies."          - Zaeske, "Unveiling Esther as Pragmatic Radical Rhetoric"</p> <p><b>Report</b> on Niditch, <i>Oral World and Written Word</i></p>

### Divine Rhetoric

Oct 13	<i>The Divine Audience: Spells &amp; Curses</i>	<p><b>Survey:</b> - Johnston, "Magic"</p> <p><b>Sources:</b> magic spells, omen lists (Akkadian)          Pyramid Texts, Book of the Dead [scroll down] (Egyptian)          * Deuteronomy 28 (Hebrew)</p> <p><b>Analysis:</b> - Moran, "Persuasion in the Plain Style"          - Thomas, <i>Literacy and Orality</i> 74-100.</p> <p><b>Report</b> on Thomas, <i>Literacy and Orality in Ancient Greece</i></p>
Oct 20	<i>The Divine Rhetor: Prophecy &amp; Law</i>	<p><b>Survey:</b> - Collins, "Israel"</p> <p><b>Sources:</b> Mari letters, Neo-Assyrian prophecies (Akkadian)          * Jeremiah 2, 7, 36; Exodus 19-24 (Hebrew)</p> <p><b>Analysis:</b> - Watts, "Oracular Rhetoric"          - Barton, "History and Rhetoric in the Prophets"</p> <p><b>Report</b> on Schüssler Fiorenza, <i>Rhetoric and Ethic</i></p>
		<p><b>Sources:</b> Osiris, Aten, Hymns to Sesostris III, Amun-Re (Egyptian)          Exaltation of Inanna, Lament over Ur (Sumerian), Neo-Assyrian prayers,</p>

Oct 27	<i>The Divine Audience: Hymns &amp; Prayers</i>	Neo-Babylonian lament, prayers to personal gods(Akkadian) * Psalms 6, 11, 18, 46-49; Isaiah 38 (Hebrew); Hodayot: Qumran Hymns (Hebrew) <b>Analysis:</b> - * Binkley, “The Rhetoric of Origins and the Other: Reading the Ancient Figure of Enheduanna,” <i>RBBG</i> 47-63 - * Swearingen, “Song to Speech: The Origins of Early Epitaphia in Ancient Near Eastern Women’s Lamentations,” <i>RBBG</i> 213-25 - Newsom “Kenneth Burke Meets the Teacher of Righteousness” [at end of Hodayot]
-----------	---	---

### Rhetorical Texts

Nov 3	<i>Problem of Persuasive Texts: Letters</i>	<b>Sources:</b> Personal correspondence (Sumerian, Egyptian), Royal correspondence (Sumerian, Egyptian), Letters to the dead (Egyptian), Letters to gods (Sumerian, Egyptian) <b>Analysis:</b> - Poster, "Economy of Letter Writing" [at end of Letters] - Baines, "Egyptian Letters of the New Kingdom" - * Carr, <i>Writing on the Tablet of the Heart</i> 1-14, 47-61 <b>Due: Paper topics and texts</b>
Nov 10	<i>Problem of Persuasive Texts: Royal Inscriptions</i>	<b>Sources:</b> Kadesh Inscription of Ramses, Merneptah Stela, Piye Stela (Egyptian), Sargon, Rim-Sin, Hammurapi, Iahdun-Lim, Shamshi-Ilu, Sennacherib (Akkadian), Mesha Inscription (Moabite), Azatiwada, Yehawmilk (Phoenician) <b>Analysis:</b> - Judge, “The Rhetoric of Inscriptions” - * Hoskisson & Boswell, “Neo-Assyrian Rhetoric: The Example of the Third Campaign of Sennacherib (704-681 BC),” <i>RBBG</i> 65-78 - * Carr, <i>Writing on the Tablet of the Heart</i> 63-65, 71-77, 106-109
Nov 17	<i>Problem of Persuasive Texts: Rituals</i>	<b>Sources:</b> Installation Ritual from Emar (Akkadian), Daily Ritual of Amun-Re (Egyptian), Rites of Vintage (Ugaritic), Marseilles Tariff (Punic) Instructions to Priests and Temple Officials (Hittite) * Leviticus 1, 6, 9-10, 16 (Hebrew) <b>Analysis:</b> - Watts, “Ritual Rhetoric in ANE Texts” <i>ANGR</i> - * Carr, <i>Writing on the Tablet of the Heart</i> 177-214 <b>Due: Paper thesis, bibliography and outline</b>
Dec 1	<i>Problem of Persuasive Texts: Scriptures</i>	<b>Sources:</b> * Genesis 1-3, Judges 4-5, Proverbs 31 (Hebrew) <b>Analysis:</b> - Kugel, <i>The Bible As It Was</i> , 17-24, 53-82 - Tribble, <i>God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality</i> , 72-143 - * Carr, <i>Writing on the Tablet of the Heart</i> 273-97
Dec 8 1-5 p	<b>Paper presentations</b>	
Dec 19	<b>Research Papers Due</b>	

**Course Bibliography:** [Comparative Rhetoric](#), [Theories of Rhetoric & Religion](#), [Ancient Rhetoric](#), [Primary Texts](#) (starred \* items are on reserve in Bird Library; for the abbreviations *RBBG* and *ANGR*, see the section on [Comparative Rhetoric](#))

## ***Comparative Rhetoric:***

- \* Kennedy, George A. *Comparative Rhetoric: An Historical and Cross-Cultural Introduction*. New York: Oxford, 1998.
- Hauser, Gerard A. "Philosophy and Rhetoric: An Abbreviated History of an Evolving Identity." *Philosophy and Religion* 40 (2007), 1-14.
- \* Lipson, Carol S. and Roberta A. Binkley (eds.). *Rhetoric Before and Beyond the Greeks*. Albany: SUNY Press, 2004. (= *RBBG*)
- \* Lipson, Carol S. and Roberta A. Binkley (eds.). *Ancient Non-Greek Rhetorics*. West Lafayette, IN: Parlor, 2009. (= *ANGR*)

## ***Theories of Rhetoric and Religion:***

- Aristotle. [\*Rhetoric\*](#). Translated by J. H. Freese. Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press; London, William Heinemann Ltd. 1926.
- Bakhtin, Mikhail M. *The Dialogic Imagination*. Ed. M. Holquist. Austin: U. of Texas, 1981.
- Burke, Kenneth. *A Rhetoric of Motives*. Berkeley: U. of California, 1969 [1950].
- Burke, Kenneth. *The Rhetoric of Religion: Studies in Logology*. Berkeley: U. of California, 1970 [1961].
- Combrink, H.J. Bernard. "The Rhetoric of Sacred Scripture." In S.E. Porter and T.H. Olbricht (eds.), *Rhetoric, Scripture and Theology* (JSNTS 131; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996), pp. 102-123.
- Jost, Walter and Wendy Olmstead (eds.). *Rhetorical Invention and Religious Inquiry*. New Haven: Yale, 2000.
- Kennedy, George A. *Classical Rhetoric and its Christian and Secular Tradition from Ancient to Modern Times*. Chapel Hill, NC: U. of North Carolina Press, 1999.
- O'Banion, John D. *Reorienting Rhetoric: the Dialectic of List and Story*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1992.
- Ong, Walter J. *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word*. London: Methuen, 1982.
- Pernot, Laurent. "The Rhetoric of Religion." *Rhetorica* 24/3 (2006): 235–254.
- de Romilly, Jacqueline. *Magic and Rhetoric in Ancient Greece*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1975.
- Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth. *Rhetoric and Ethic: The Politics of Biblical Studies*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999.

## ***Studies of Ancient Rhetoric:***

- Baines, John. "Egyptian Letters of the New Kingdom as Evidence for Religious Practice." *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 1 (2001), 1-31.
- Barton, John. "History and Rhetoric in the Prophets." In *The Bible as Rhetoric: Studies in Biblical Persuasion and Credibility*. Ed. M. Warner. London: Routledge, 1990. 51-64.
- Beard, Mary. "Writing and Religion." In *Religions of the Ancient World: a Guide*. Ed. S. I. Johnston. Cambridge, MA: Belknap, 2004. 127-38.
- Beaulieu, Paul-Alain. "Histories: Mesopotamia." In *Religions of the Ancient World: a Guide*. Ed. S. I. Johnston. Cambridge, MA: Belknap, 2004. 165-72.
- Binkley, Roberta A. "The Rhetoric of Origins and the Other: Reading the Ancient Figure of Enheduanna," *RBBG* 47-63.
- Binkley, Roberta A. "The Gendering of Prophetic Discourse: Women and Prophecy in the Ancient Near East." *ANGR* 67-93.
- Brown, Peter R. L. *Power and Persuasion in Late Antiquity: Towards a Christian Empire*. Madison, WI: U. of Wisconsin Press, 1992.
- \* Carr, David M. *Writing on the Tablet of the Heart: Origins of Scripture and Literature*. New

- York: Oxford, 2005.
- Charney, Davida H. "Performativity and Persuasion in the Hebrew Book of Psalms: A Rhetorical Analysis of Psalms 116 and 22." *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 40/3 (2010), 247-68.
  - Collins, John J. "Israel." In *Religions of the Ancient World: a Guide*. Ed. S. I. Johnston. Cambridge, MA: Belknap, 2004. 181-88.
  - Dozeman, Thomas B. "OT Rhetorical Criticism." *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. Ed. D. N. Freedman. New York: Doubleday, 1992. 5:712-15.
  - Duke, Rodney K. *The Persuasive Appeal of the Chronicler. A Rhetorical Analysis*. Journal for the study of the Old Testament. Supplement series 88. Sheffield: Almond, 1990.
  - Duke, Rodney K. "The Strategic Use of the Enthymeme and Example in the Argumentation of the Book of Chronicles." In *Rhetorical Argumentation in Biblical Texts*, ed. A. Eriksson, T. H. Olbricht, and W. Ubelacker. Harrisburg: Trinity, 2002. 127-140.
  - Enos, Richard Leo. "The Art of Rhetoric at Rhodes: An Eastern Rival to the Athenian Representation of Classical Rhetoric," *RBBG* 183-96.
  - Foster, Robert L. and David M. Howard (eds.), *My Words Are Lovely: Studies in the Rhetoric of the Psalms*. Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies 467; New York, London: T & T Clark, 2008.
  - Fox, Michael V. "Ancient Egyptian Rhetoric." *Rhetorica* 1 (1983) 9-22.
  - Gitay, Y. *Prophecy and Persuasion: A Study of Isaiah 40-48*. Bonn: Linguistica Biblica, 1981.
  - Hallo, William H. "The Birth of Rhetoric." *RBBG* 24-46.
  - Hess, Richard S. "Smitten Ants Bite Back: Rhetorical Forms in the Amarna Correspondence from Shechem." *Verse in Ancient Near Eastern Prose*. Ed. J. C. de Moor and W. G. E. Watson. Neukirchen-Vluyn: Neukirchener Verlag, 1993. 95-111
  - Hoskisson, Paul Y. and Grant M. Boswell, "Neo-Assyrian Rhetoric: The Example of the Third Campaign of Sennacherib (704-681 BC)," *RBBG* 65-78.
  - Howard, D. M. "Rhetorical Criticism in Biblical Studies." *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 4 (1994) 87-104.
  - Hutto, David. "Ancient Egyptian Rhetoric in the Old and Middle Kingdoms." *Rhetorica* 20/3 (2002) 213-33.
  - Johnston, Sarah Iles. "Magic." In *Religions of the Ancient World: a Guide*. Ed. S. I. Johnston. Cambridge, MA: Belknap, 2004. 139-52.
  - Judge, Edwin A. "The Rhetoric of Inscriptions." *Handbook of Classical Rhetoric in the Hellenistic Period, 330 B.C. – A.D. 400*. Ed. S. E. Porter. Leiden: Brill, 1997. 808.
  - Katz, Stephen B. "The Hebrew Bible as Another, Jewish Sophistic: A Genesis of Absence and Desire in Ancient Rhetoric." *ANGR* 125-50.
  - Lenchak, Timothy A. "*Choose Life!*": A Rhetorical-Critical Investigation of Deuteronomy 28,69-30,20. *Analecta Biblica* 129. Rome: Pontificio Instituto Biblico, 1993.
  - Lipson, Carol S. "Ancient Egyptian Rhetoric: It All Comes Down to *Maat*," *RBBG* 79-97.
  - Lipson, Carol S. "Rhetoric and Identity: A Study of Ancient Egyptian Non-Royal Tombs and Tomb Autobiographies." *ANGR* 94-124.
  - McComiskey, Bruce. "Laws, Works, and the End of Days: Rhetorics of Identification, Distinction, and Persuasion in Miqṣat Ma'ašeh ha-Torah (Dead Sea Scroll 4QMMT)." *Rhetoric Review* 29/3 (2010), 221-38.
  - Metzger, David. "Pentateuchal Rhetoric and the Voice of the Aaronides," *RBBG* 165-81.
  - Metzger, David and Stephen B. Katz. "The "Place" of Rhetoric in Aggadic Midrash." *College English* 72 (2010), 638-53.
  - Mifsud, Mari Lee. "Storytelling as Soul-Tuning: The Ancient Rhetoric of Valmiki's *Ramayana*." *ANGR* 223-39.
  - Moran, William L. "UET 6, 402: Persuasion in the Plain Style." *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Studies* 22 (1993) 113-120.

- Newsom, Carol A. "Kenneth Burke Meets the Teacher of Righteousness: Rhetorical Strategies in the Hodayot and the Serek Ha-Yahad." In H. W. Attridge, J. J. Collins, and T. H. Tobin, S.J. (eds.), *Of Scribes and Scrolls: Studies on the Hebrew Bible, Intertestamental Judaism, and Christian Origins presented to John Strugnell*. College Theology Society Resources in Religion 5. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1990. Pp. 121-131.
- Niditch, Susan. *Oral World and Written Word: Ancient Israelite Literature*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1996.
- O'Connor, M. "The Rhetoric of the Kilamuwa Inscription." *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 226 (April 1977) 15-29.
- Patrick, Dale and Allan Scult. *Rhetoric and Biblical Interpretation*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement 82. Sheffield: Almond, 1990.
- Patrick, Dale. *The Rhetoric of Revelation in the Hebrew Bible*. Overtures to Biblical Theology. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999.
- Poster, Carol. "The Economy of Letter Writing in Graeco-Roman Antiquity." In *Rhetorical Argumentation in Biblical Texts*, ed. A. Eriksson, T. H. Olbricht, and W. Ubelacker. Harrisburg: Trinity, 2002. 112-124.
- Redford, Donald. "Scribe and Speaker." In Ehud ben Zvi and Michael H. Floyd [eds.], *Writings and Speech in Israelite and Ancient Near Eastern Prophecy*. SBL Symposium. Atlanta: SBL, 2000. 145-218.
- Renz, Thomas. *The Rhetorical Function of the Book of Ezekiel*. Leiden: Brill, 1999.
- Romilly, J. de. *Magic and Rhetoric in Ancient Greece*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1975.
- Sanders, Seth. *The Invention of Hebrew*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois, 2009.
- Schniedewind, William H. "Orality and Literacy in Ancient Israel." *Religious Studies Review* 26/4 (2000) 327-32.
- Swearingen, C. Jan. "Song to Speech: The Origins of Early Epitaphia in Ancient Near Eastern Women's Lamentations," *RBBG* 213-25.
- Sweeney, Deborah. "Law, Rhetoric, and Gender in Ramesside Egypt," *RBBG* 99-113.
- Thomas, Rosalind. *Literacy and Orality in Ancient Greece*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.
- Tribble, Phyllis. *God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality*. Overtures to Biblical Theology Series. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978.
- Tribble, Phyllis. *Rhetorical Criticism: Context, Method and the Book of Jonah*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994.
- Watts, James W. *Reading Law: The Rhetorical Shaping of the Pentateuch*. Biblical Seminar 59. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.
- Watts, James W. *Ritual and Rhetoric in Leviticus: From Sacrifice to Scripture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Watts, James W. "Story-List-Sanction: A Cross-Cultural Strategy of Ancient Persuasion," *RBBG* 197-212.
- Watts, James W. "The Three Dimensions of Scriptures," *Postscripts* 2/2 (2006), 135-59.
- Watts, James W. "Oracular Rhetoric," *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 35 (2008): 185-95.
- Watts, James W. "Ritual Rhetoric in Ancient Near Eastern Texts," *ANGR* 39-66.
- Watts, James W. "Ancient Iconic Texts and the Scholarly Expertise," *Postscripts* 6 (2010): forthcoming in 2011.
- Wills, John. "Speaking Arenas of Ancient Mesopotamia." *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 56 (1970) 398-405.
- Wright, David P. "Syria and Canaan." In *Religions of the Ancient World: a Guide*. Ed. S. I. Johnston. Cambridge, MA: Belknap, 2004. 173-80.
- Zaeske, Susan. "Unveiling Esther as a Pragmatic Radical Rhetoric." *Philosophy and Rhetoric* 33

(2000), 193-220.

- Zulick, Margaret D. "The Active Force of Hearing: The Ancient Hebrew Language of Persuasion." *Rhetorica* 10 (1992) 367-80.

### ***Ancient Near Eastern Texts in Translation*** (grouped by original language) :

#### Multi-cultural anthologies:

- \* Hallo, W. W. and K. L. Younger, Jr., eds. *The Context of Scripture: Canonical Compositions, Monumental Inscriptions, and Archival Documents from the Biblical World*. 3 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1997, 2000, 2002.
- Chevalas, Mark W., ed. *The Ancient Near East: Historical Sources in Translation*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2006.

#### Sumerian:

- Black, Jeremy, Graham Cunningham, Eleanor Robson, and Gábor Zólyomi, *The Literature of Ancient Sumer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Jacobsen, Thorkild. *The Harps that once ...: Sumerian poetry in translation*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987.
- Vanstiphout, Herman. *Epics of Sumerian Kings: The Matter of Aratta*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 20. Atlanta: SBL, 2003.
- ONLINE: [The Electronic Text Corpus of Sumerian Literature](#)

#### Akkadian:

- \* Foster, Benjamin R. *Before the Muses: An Anthology of Akkadian Literature*. 2 vols. Bethesda, MD: CDL Press, 1993.
- Foster, Benjamin R. *From Distant Days: Myths, Tales and Poetry of Ancient Mesopotamia*. Bethesda, MD: CDL Press, 1995.
- Bryce, Trevor. *Letters of the Great Kings of the Ancient Near East: the Royal Correspondence of the Late Bronze Age*. London/New York: Routledge, 2003.
- Glassner, Jean-Jacques. *Mesopotamian Chronicles*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 19. Atlanta: SBL, 2004.
- Luukko, Mikko and Greta van Buylaere. *The Political Correspondence of Esarhaddon*. State Archives of Assyria XVI. Helsinki: Helsinki University Press, 2002.
- Michalowski, Piotr. *Letters from Early Mesopotamia*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 3. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1993.
- Nissinen, Martti. *Prophets and Prophecy in the Ancient Near East*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 12. Atlanta: SBL, 2003.
- Roth, Martha T. *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 6. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1995.

#### Hittite:

- Beckman, Gary. *Hittite Diplomatic Texts*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 7. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1996.
- Hoffner, Harry A., Jr. *Hittite Myths*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 2. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1990.
- Singer, Ithamar. *Hittite Prayers*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 11. Atlanta: SBL, 2002.

#### Ugaritic:



- Parker, Simon B. *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 9. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997.
- Pardee, Simon. *Ritual and Cult at Ugarit*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 10. Atlanta: SBL, 2002.
- Wyatt, N. *Religious Texts from Ugarit*. Biblical Seminar 53. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998.

#### Egyptian:

- \* Lichtheim, Miriam. *Ancient Egyptian Literature*. 3 vols. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1973, 1976, 1980.
- Foster, John L. *Ancient Egyptian Literature: An Anthology*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2001.
- Foster, John L. *Hymns, Prayers and Songs: An Anthology of Ancient Egyptian Lyric Poetry*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 8. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1995.
- Simpson, William Kelly. *The Literature of Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Stories, Instructions, Stelae, Autobiographies, and Poetry*. New Haven: Yale, 2003.
- Froom, Elizabeth. *Biographical Texts from Ramessid Egypt*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 26. Atlanta: SBL, 2007.
- Moran, William L. *The Amarna Letters*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992.
- Murnane, William J. *Texts from the Amarna Period in Egypt*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 5. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1995.
- Ritner, Robert K. *The Libyan Anarchy: Inscriptions from Egypt's Third Intermediate Period*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 21. Atlanta: SBL, 2009.
- Wente, Edward. *Letters from Ancient Egypt*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 1. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1990.
- ONLINE: [Ancient Egyptian texts and papyri](#)

#### Hebrew, Aramaic & Greek:

- Lindenberger, James M. *Ancient Aramaic and Hebrew Letters*. 2nd. ed. SBL Writings from the Ancient World 14. Atlanta: SBL, 2003.
- Smelik, Klaas A. D. *Writings from Ancient Israel: A Handbook of Historical and Religious Documents*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1991.
- ONLINE: [Common English Bible](#) (Bible)
- ONLINE: [Perseus Digital Library](#) (Greco-Roman)
- Charlesworth, James H., ed. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*. 2 vols. Garden City: Doubleday, 1983.
- García Martínez, Florentino and Wilfred G.E. Watson. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated: the Qumran Texts in English*. Leiden: Brill, 1994.
- Vermès, Géza, ed. & tr. *The Complete Dead Sea scrolls in English*. New York: Penguin, 1997.
- Kugel, James L. *The Bible As It Was*. Cambridge: Belknap, 1997.

