University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Inana/Ištar: goddess of heaven, earth, sex and sexuality – a portrait of Mesopotamian deity, PG_00133264		
Field of study	Criminology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	e-learning
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish Polish
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of Mediterranean Archaeology -> Institute of Archaeology -> Faculty of History -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Marcin Paszke	
	Teachers	dr Marcin Paszke	

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 30.0

Additional information:

a lecture, an online lecture, a clasroom lecture

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	0.0	20.0	50

Subject objectives

An objective of the lecture is to introduce the student into the issue of the goddess of war and sexuality Inana/Ištar. Its spatial scope includes mainly the area of Mesopotamian plain. The chronological framework of this lecture, which covers the IVth -Ist millennium B.C. presents a broad scope due to multiple hypostases of the analyzed goddess. The intriguing nature of the goddess and her patronage over the human sexuality makes her a controversial figure even for the modern spectators.

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
		(K_W01) He acquired expanded, broad and in-depth knowledge about Mesopotamian goddess Inana/Ištar, including selected cultural aspects of neighboring countries within the chronological framework covering the times of IVth-Ist millenium B.C. (K_W02) He mastered historical terminology connected with Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian and Assyrian culture with regard to the given objectives at an advanced level. (K_W03) He acquired expanded and in-depth knowledge with regard to the terminology, the theory, the methodology and the apparatus of description in the field of the Near Eastern archaeology, assyriology and religious studies. (K_W04) He acknowledges some detailed problematic topics in the field of Mesopotamian archaeology, history and art. He is also aware of some basic problematic topics if the prehistory of the Near East is concerned (cultural background) (K_W05) He acquired in-depth knowledge which allows him to recognize the ties between the Near Eastern archaeology ,humanities (history, archaeology), science as well as social science. (K_W07) He acquired in-depth knowledge regarding the archaeologist's, the historian's and the Near Eastern philologist's working background, particularly the methodology and the subject of its specificity. This knowledge leads him to know the profound nature of Inana/Ištar. (K_U02) He acquired some in-depth research skills, he know how to analyze scientific works of various authors, how to synthesise different ideas and opinions connected with some Near Eastern cultural phenomena. (K_U07) He acquired the ability of substantive arguing using various authors' arguments to formulate final conclusions. (K_K01) He is aware of his knowledge and professional abilities, he also understand the need of the ongoing development of his competences in the field of the Near Eastern archaeology. (K_K06) He analyzes and formulates moral problems and ethical dilemmas connected with archaeology in the context of the latest political affairs in Iraq and Syria.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents	The goddess of fertility a prehistoric legacy; Uruk the city of goddess Inana/Ištar; Inana/Ištar, the goddess of war; Military conflict in the Mesopotamian culture; Inana/Ištar, the goddess of love and sexuality; Love and sex in Mesopotamian culture; Inana/Ištar, the demonic goddess; The world of demons in Mesopotamian culture; Inana /Ištar, the would-be mistress of the Netherworld; The Netherworld in Mesopotamian culture; Inana /Ištar, the astral goddess; The astronomical knowledge and astrology in Mesopotamian culture; Inana / Ištar and the concept of hieros gamos between the myth and the reality. The Inana /Ištars topos and its impact on modern civilization
Prerequisites and co-requisites	None

Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	test - give the correct answer	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	B. Groneberg, Die sumerisch-akkadische Inanna/Ištar: Hermaphroditos?, Die Welt Des Orients 17 (1986), s. 25-46.Wolfgang Heimpel, A Catalog of Near Eastern Venus Deities, Syro-Mesopotamian Studies t. 4, z. 3, (1982), 9-23S. N. Kramer, The Sacred Marriage Rite. Aspects of Faith, Myth and Ritual in Ancient Sumer, Bloomington, IndianaUniversity Press, London 1969Pirjo Lapinkivi, The Sumerian Sacred Marriage in the Light of Comparative Evidence, State Archives of Assyria Studies15, Helsinki 2004G. J. Selz, Five Divine Ladies: Thoughts on Inanna(k), Ištar, In(n)in(a), Annunitum and Anat, and the Origin of the titleQueen of Heaven, NIN, Journal of Gender Studies in Antiquity 1, (2000), s. 29-62W. W. Hallo, J. J. Van Dijk, The Exaltation of Inanna, Yale Near Eastern Researches 3, Yale University Press, NewHaven, London 1968Gurdun Colbow, Die Kriegerische Ištar. Zu den Erdcheinungsfornamen Bewaffneter Gottheiten Zwischen der mitte des3 und der mitte des 2 Jahrtausends, Münchener Universitäts-Schriften Philosophische Fakultat 12, Proflil Verlag,München, Wien 1991Pirjo Lapinkivi, The Neo-Assyrian Myth of Ištars Descent and Resurrection, State Archives of Assyria CuneiformTexts, vol. VI, The Neo-Assyrian Texts Corpus Project 2010Raphael Kutscher, The Cult of Dumuzi/Tammuz (w:) Bar-Illan Studies in Assyriology dedicated to Pinaus Arzti, ed.Jacob Klein, Aaron Skaist, Bar-Illan University Press, Ramat Gan 1990, s. 29-44Gwendolyn Leick, Sex and Eroticism in Mesopotamian Literature, London, New York, Routledge 1994Saan Teppo, Sacred Marriage and the Devotees of Ištar, [w:] Red. Martti Nissinen, Risto Uro, The Divine-HumanSexual Metaphor from Sumer to Early Christianity, Winona Lake, Indiana, Eisenbrauns 2008, s. 75-92
	Supplementary literature	M. Stol, Birth in Babylonia and the Bible. Its Mediterranean Setting, Cuneiform Monographs 14, SYX Publications, Gronoingen 2000M. Stol, Epilepsy in Babylonia, Cuneiform Monographs 2, SYX Publications, Gronoingen 1996T. Abush, Mesopotamian Witchcraft. Toward the History and Understanding of Babylonian Witchcraft Beliefs andLiterature, Ancient Magic and Divination 5, Ed. T. Abush, A. K. Guinan, Leiden, Boston, Köln 2002.Leonard Woolley, Ur Excavations II. The Royal Cemetry (Text), The Trustees of the Two Museums 1934J. Blck, A. Green, Słownik mitologii Mezopotamii, Katowice 1998M. C. Cohen, The Cultic Calendars of the Ancient Near East, Bethesda, Maryland 1993K. Szarzyńska, Mity sumeryjskie , Warszawa 2000O. Drewnowska - Rymarz , et al. , Mity akadyjskie, Warszawa, Warszwa 2000O. Drewnowka-Rymarz, K. Gawlikowska, M. Kapełuś., Mity akadyjskie , Warszawa 2000.A.2. studiowana samodzielnie przez studenta :Sex and Gender in The Ancient Near East 2 , Proceedings of the 47th Rencontre, Assyriologique Internationale,Helsinki July 2-6, 2001, Ed. S. Parpola, R. M. Whiting, Helsinki 2002 (passim).E. Douglas van Buren, The Sacred Marriage in Early Times in Mesopotamia, Orientalia 13 nova series, (1944), s. 1-72.W. Sallaberger, Der kultische Kalendar der Ur III Zeit 1, UAVA 1, nr. 7, Berlin, New York 1993Douglas R. Frayne, Notes on the Sacred Marriage Rite, BiOr 42, vol. 1/2, (1985), s. 6-21J. Bottero, Religion in Ancient Mesopotamia, Chicago, London 2001Black J, Cunningham G, Robson L, Zólyomi G., The Literature of Ancient Sumer , Oxford 2004.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	In the Sumerian love poetry the Inanna's nuptial bed is made of a) carnelian b) lapis lazuli c) chlorite	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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