



The Curious Historian - Ancient History

Yearlong Course 2021-2022

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

Incoming 4th and 5th graders.

COURSE BASICS AT A GLANCE:

Class Dates: Begins Tuesday, September 7, 2021 and runs through Thursday, May 26, 2022.

Class Times: Mondays, Tuesday, and Thursday 10:30-11:30am(EST)

Office Hours: By appointment-contact me

Instructor: Emily Brigham

Email: ebrigham.scholeacademy@gmail.com

**Please note the above dates and times are anticipated class sections for this course. However, all dates are subject to change as the instructor's circumstances might dictate (e.g. illness, family emergency). Any classes canceled by the instructor will be made up at an alternate time designate by the instructor.*

OBSERVED SCHOLÉ ACADEMY HOLIDAYS (NO CLASSES)

- Monday, September 6, 2021 (*Labor Day*)
- Monday, November 22 – Friday, November 26, 2021 (*Thanksgiving*)
- Monday, December 20, 2021 – Friday, January 7, 2022 (*Christmas and New Year's*)
- Monday, February 14 – Friday, February 18, 2022 (*winter break*)
- Monday, April 11 – Friday, April 15, 2022 (*Holy Week/Easter*)

No other holidays between September 8, 2020 and May 28, 2021 are observed

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

- The Curious Historian Level 1A: The Early and Middle Bronze Ages*
- *Tirzah* by Travis Lucille
- *The Hittite Warrior* by Joanne Williamson
- *The Cat of Bubastes* by G.A. Henty

**Resource is available through www.ClassicalAcademicPress.com*

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Spiral-bound blank sketchbook
- Ruled notebook
- Stockmar Beeswax block crayons*

**Students will frequently respond to what they've read through art. In order for there to be continuity in the materials used by the students, the instructor has chose these block crayons, which are conducive to guided drawings.*

CURIOUS HISTORIAN LEVEL 1A COURSE MAP

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Textbook	Chapter 1: The Ancient Sumerians Chapter 2: The Ancient Sumerian City-States Chapter 3: Monuments of the Age Ziggurats Chapter 4: Sargon the Great and the Akkadian Empire	Chapter 5: Cuneiform The Writing System of Ancient Mesopotamia Chapter 6: The Ur III Empire and the Old Babylonian Empire Chapter 7: Religion and Worldview The Mesopotamian Pantheon Chapter 8: The Literature and Laws of Ancient Mesopotamia Chapter 9: Unit I Review	Chapter 10: The Beginning Of Egypt and the Egyptian Archaic Period Chapter 11: The Gift of the Nile Chapter 12: The Egyptian Old Kingdom Chapter 13: Monuments of the Age Pyramids	Chapter 14: The Egyptian Middle Kingdom Chapter 15: Hieroglyphics The Writing System of Ancient Egypt Chapter 16: Religion and Worldview The Egyptian Pantheon Chapter 17: Unit II Review
Supplemental Reading	<i>Tirzah</i>	<i>The Hittite Warrior</i>	<i>The Cat of Bubastes</i>	<i>The Cat of Bubastes</i>
Memorization	Job 38: 1-7	Genesis 15:1-5	Genesis 50:18-21	Exodus 15:1-13

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Curiosity is natural to the young student, and wonder the natural habitat of early learners. This course seeks to direct that instinctual curiosity towards the learning of ancient history in a creative, whole-child approach.

As children and adults for that matter! grow, perhaps one of the most important skills is that of reflection and remembrance, remembering where we have come from so we know where we are going and in so doing create a cultural memory of our lineage. This course seeks to do that as it returns to the roots of civilization in the ancient world. Students will study the ancient civilizations of Sumeria, Mesopotamia, and Egypt in their history, culture, architecture, and worldview, acquiring skills in timelines, maps, and research.

IMPORTANT SKILLS & BEHAVIORS NEEDED FOR SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE

- Students should be able to read fluently at a late-elementary level (aloud and quietly) and answer lower-order comprehension questions.
- Students should be able to independently write complete sentences and compose short paragraphs.

- Students should have skills needed in discussion – perseverance, patience, and the willingness to think deeply.
- Children should be able to log in to Schoology to review homework assignments and upload completed work. If a student is not able to navigate Schoology independently, a parent or guardian should be willing to assist that student with homework assignments and other course materials obtained through this platform.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SKILLS

Students enrolling in Scholé Academy's Curious Historian Level 1A will be expected to show development of Executive Function throughout the year. Executive Functioning is the brain's work of planning, prioritizing, controlling impulses, recollection, etc. These six areas of execution are important in this class, and ultimately, in the student's life.

1. Engagement: An engaged student is one who is willing to step into the arena of class discussion, to ask questions, to supply answers, and to generate the internal dialogue necessary to determine if a discussion is important and relevant to himself. Students should be viewing the class via Zoom and should not be browsing the internet instead. Scholars should be prepared to take notes on the text and on class discussion.

2. Attention to Detail & Preparedness: These students are ones who consistently adhere to deadlines, submission requirements, adhering to style guides and codes, confirm technology is working prior to the start of class, be responsible to determine how to proceed after an absence, be responsible for consulting his course syllabus and adjusting as the class proceeds, etc. Students should come to class prepared – having done any necessary reading or writing ahead of time. They should also come mentally prepared – ready to focus on the material being presented. Students should arrive to the Zoom meeting on time and if they are late should respectfully listen to try to understand where the class is in relation to the text and should wait patiently for the teacher and classmates to finish their current task, which is when the teacher will catch the student up. Homework should be uploaded to Schoology before class begins. Students should try to develop the virtue of constancy by remaining focused and diligent and pushing away even “good” distractions that would inhibit learning and mastery.

3. Self-Monitoring: Students in the 3rd – 5th grade range should continually develop self-monitoring skills. Students who successfully self-monitor can evaluate their own performance. They are able to see both their own strengths and their own weaknesses. Self-monitoring students are the ones who determine which problems they can work through on their own and where they need peer, teacher, or parent support.

4. Task Initiation: This student recognizes the time to begin working and is able to do so without procrastination. A student who can initiate tasks easily adjusts from a Zoom classroom to a breakout room while still maintaining a scholarly attitude.

5. Employing Critiques: These students are ones who receive feedback to one of their submissions, and then attempt to apply that feedback to future assignments rather than repeat mistakes. These students also glean information from the live class feedback from fellow students and note mistakes to avoid by learning from others. Students should have an attitude of humility when receiving feedback, as this affords an invaluable opportunity to grow and to develop their God-given talents. Likewise, students should celebrate the successes of their peers.

6. Problem Solving: A student with well-developed problem-solving skills is willing to persevere, even when he is unable to successfully overcome a challenge on the first try. Good writing involves the problem-solving skills of perseverance; looking at a story from a new perspective; finding an additional source or doing research; taking a rest to refresh the mind and body; or asking for help from a teacher, parent, or the Lord.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: CLASS PARTICIPATION

“The intelligence can only be led by desire. For there to be desire, there must be pleasure and joy in work. The intelligence only grows and bears fruit in joy. The joy of learning is as indispensable in study as breathing is in running. . . It is the part played by joy in our studies that makes them a preparation for spiritual life, for desire directed toward God is the only power capable of raising the soul.”
[Simone Weil]

Recognizing that the purpose of education is not merely a gaining of information nor a competition for achievement but rather the directing of the desire towards God in worship, thanksgiving, and prayer, these are the student expectations in class participation:

During class time. . .

- *Arrive prepared.* It is important to come with the materials needed and homework completed, but that is just the beginning. Arrive with a heart that is quiet and ready to receive, a mind that is active and ready to engage, and hands that are willing and ready to participate.
- *Arrive on time.* I will take note of patterns when it comes to tardiness, overlooking an occasional late entrance if it is out of character for the student. However, I will be in contact with parents if tardiness is habitual 4 or more late arrivals in one month.
- *Participate.* There will be lots of opportunities for participation in classroom liturgies, discussions, and exercises. I understand that not all students are equally comfortable in being extroverted and conversing, but I appreciate consistent effort in this area!

- *Be an active learner.* It is expected that students will take notes and participate in exercises during lesson time.
- *Exercise judgment and polite habits in the Zoom classroom.* Students should raise hands to speak, pause the video to use the restroom, or adjust the camera to limit the activity shown in the background of the student's setting.

Outside of class time. .

- Complete all course assignments and homework to the best of his ability. (A student who has not submitted his homework to the appropriate Schoology assignment prior to the start of class will not be well-prepared to complete the in-class practice and homework that follows. This will often result in a snowballing amount of homework that serves only to discourage an elementary student.) If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent a student from completing homework prior to class, a parent must contact the instructor prior to class time to ask for an extension.
- Upload homework to the appropriate Schoology Assignment folder prior to the start of class each day. Students must submit their work by scanning their homework pages and uploading it into the Schoology assignment window.

STUDENT EVALUATION: GRADING

While striking a “restful” posture of learning in the Curious Historian Level 1A through Scholé Academy, I also recognize the need to provide grades for students. It's a delicate balance to achieve both restful learning and excellent academic performance. Earning a specific grade should not overshadow true love and virtue of execution in this discipline. It is my hope that students grow to love the material and learning in this course for its own sake, relishing the chance to discover, enjoy, and interact. However, I will assign the following grades to your student's level of achievement:

- *magna cum laude* (with great praise) or MCL
- *cum laude* (with praise) or CL
- *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) or S
- *non satis* (not sufficient) or NS

Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will be the *magna cum laude* students. Students who do adequate but not praiseworthy work will be designated *satis*. *Non satis* means lacking sufficiency or adequacy.

Student's grades will be comprised of the following:

Class Participation (25%)

1. Active listening
2. Group work
3. Participation in class discussions
4. Preparedness
5. Staying on task and following along with the text
6. Timely attendance
7. Putting forth one's best effort
8. Presentations
9. Attitude and approach towards the class and its members

Homework (45%)

1. Textbook exercises
2. Reading comprehension questions
3. Reflection paragraphs
4. Guided Drawings

Written Assignments (30%)

1. Chapter quizzes
2. Quarterly memorization
3. Quarterly projects
4. Book Reports (*three total*)

Students must understand that late homework will be given a 5% penalty for each weekday that the assignment is late. If an assignment is seven or more days late, then it must be still be completed in a satisfactory manner, but will be assigned the minimum satis grade of 70%.

STUDENT EVALUATION: MASTERY PORTRAIT

By the end of the class, cum laude students will be able to . . .

- Understand the concept of a timeline and memorize an ancient history timeline.
- Be able to identify significant locations on a map of the ancient world.
- Recognize and narrate significant historical events of ancient times.
- Describe prominent figures of antiquity.
- Write short paragraphs about the culture, architecture, and worldview of Sumerian, Mesopotamian, and Egyptian cultures.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students are on their honor to abide by Scholé Academy's Learning Philosophy which assumes the personal cultivation of Student-Virtues described in the Student-Parent Handbook.

Plagiarism is a serious and punishable offense. Proper citation of all sources is essential to the academic endeavor. Remember to cite any source if the information is not common knowledge or is an opinion obtained through any source. A plagiarized assignment will result in a failing grade. Students should consult the MLA Style Guide for specific direction on obtaining, quoting and paraphrasing sources.

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

We will be using the free online "virtual classroom" software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio and whiteboard capabilities, in addition to shared screen texts, diagrams, video and other media for display and analysis. We will not utilize the chat function of this technology.

We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom. Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the Technology in the Classroom section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then attaching those files as .pdfs to the Curious Historian Level 1A Schoology assignment page. The Schoology access code to Curious Historian Level 1A will be provided in your Orientation Packet.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Emily Brigham holds a BA in Primary Education from the University of North Florida. She was homeschooled through high school in the classical tradition, and previously taught the elementary grades in a Waldorf-inspired public charter school. Her classical upbringing instilled in her what Plato called an "affinity for the good" in academics, art, and virtue, while her Waldorf training inspired an appreciation of the unique nature of the child. She now seeks to cultivate those whole-child pedagogical approaches in the classical, liturgical tradition, to awaken in her own students that "affinity for the good." Emily lives in Jacksonville, Florida. Her avocations include bringing classical, sacred, and old-time music to churches, front porches, and street corners, and coaxing as many flowers as possible into her garden. These, and a trip to the mountains, are where she loves to find the glimpses of God's goodness in these sacred ordinary days.

