**Weapons and warfare in the ancient near east (16-349-01)**

Prof. Aren M. Maeir

Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology

This course is a one semester course (2 hours a week) in which the topic of ancient weapons, warfare and military practice and technology is introduced. The course aims to give basic knowledge about ancient military weapons, battles, technology and other related issues, with a focus on examples from the ancient near east during the Bronze and Iron Ages - but with other periods and cultures discussed as well.

A focus is placed on types of weapons, their technology, archaeological and historical sources relating to the topic, and discussions on the general importance of the study of weapons and warfare for understanding ancient societies. The first few lessons are a general introduction to the study of warfare, military technology and related issues, followed by a survey of specific issues relating to the Bronze and Iron Age of the ancient Near East.

The course is meant for all students, from 1st year undergraduate and onward. No background in archaeology or ancient Near Eastern Studies is required.

Marks are given based on a test given at the end of the semester. This test is a multiple choice test and the questions on the test will be taken from a list of questions that will be given out before the end of the course.

The course requirements include suggested reading.

The course is given with extensive use of PowerPoint presentations.

Bibliography:

Yadin, Y. 1963. *The Art of Warfare in Biblical Lands in the Light of Archaeological Study*. Jerusalem: International.

Trimm, C. 2017. *Fighting for the King and the Gods: A Survey of Warfare in the Ancient Near East*. Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature.