

Two books are required reading:

Inanna Queen of Heaven and Earth: D. Wolkstein, S.N. Kramer.

ISBN 06-090854-8

The Epic of Gilgamesh: N.K. Sanders, ISBN 0-14-044.100 X

(This is an older book. Any version of Gilgamesh is acceptable.)

Class will start with an overview of Sumerian-Mesopotamian civilizations; references to additional material will be provided. The story of Gilgamesh is divided into 7 tales, the story of Inanna is divided into 4 tales, plus a short collection of hymns and poems. In each book significant text is about 100 pages; the rest is commentary and history.

We can read aloud all or parts of these stories, and discuss their content and what they may mean today. We can also note whether and if our thinking about some of these topics has changed over the last 5000 or 6000 years. A list of discussion sections/topics by week will be provided at the first class meeting.