### Contents

The Sumerian language, which is not related to any other known language, is the oldest written language of the ancient Near East. This module expands upon the introduction to the grammar and the vocabulary of Sumerian and the cuneiform in which it was written; the knowledge to be developed by the student is reinforced through the reading of simple Sumerian texts from various genres. Emphasis is placed upon the Neo-Sumerian grammar, which is employed in the inscriptions of Gudea of Lagas and elsewhere. In addition to the linguistic analysis of the texts, the inscriptions will also be considered from the perspective of political history, the history of religion and historical topography.

### Intended learning outcomes

The student will acquire an overview of the structure of the Sumerian language and especially of the criteria necessary for the analysis of forms as well as the ability to use the most important resources (grammars, dictionaries, bibliographies, text editions).

He/she will be able

1. to create reasonable genitive constructions in different cases from given nouns and to translate these,
2. to combine given substantives with pronominal suffixes and case endings and to translate these, to analyse verbal forms and to translate these,
3. to read and translate simple royal inscriptions and other simple non-literary texts from the original cuneiform writing and
4. to analyse verbal forms given in transliteration from more difficult texts.

### Courses

(No information on SWS (weekly contact hours) and course language available)

### Method of assessment

(No information on examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)

- **written examination (90 minutes)**
- **Language of assessment:** German, English

### Module appears in

- Bachelor’s degree (1 major, 1 minor) Ancient Near Eastern Studies (Minor, 2014)
- Bachelor’s degree (1 major, 1 minor) Ancient Near Eastern Languages (AW) (Minor, 2014)
- Bachelor’s degree (2 majors) Ancient Near Eastern Studies (2014)