DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS

http://nelc.uchicago.edu/

Chair
• Franklin D. Lewis

Professors
• Orit Bashkin
• Fred M. Donner
• Cornell Fleischer
• McGuire Gibson, Oriental Institute
• Janet H. Johnson, Oriental Institute
• Hakan Karateke
• Dennis G. Pardee
• Robert K. Ritner, Oriental Institute
• Martha T. Roth, Oriental Institute
• Gil Stein, Oriental Institute
• Theo P. van den Hout, Oriental Institute
• John E. Woods, History

Associate Professors
• Petra Goedegebuure, Oriental Institute
• Rebecca Hasselbach, Oriental Institute
• Nadine Moeller, Oriental Institute
• Brian Muhs, Oriental Institute
• Tahera Qutbuddin
• Na’ama Rokem
• David Schloen, Oriental Institute
• A. Holly Shissler
• Christopher Woods, Oriental Institute

Assistant Professors
• Ahmed El Shamsy

Senior Lecturers
• Ariela Finkelstein
• Saeed Ghahremani

Lecturers
• Hala Abdel Mobdy
• Osama Abu-Eledam
The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

The work of the department encompasses the ancient civilizations of the Near East, Near Eastern Judaica, and the Islamic civilizations of the Middle East, including Egypt and North Africa, and the history, languages, and literatures of the modern Middle East.

The fields of study in which M.A. and Ph.D. programs are currently offered are, in the Ancient Section: Ancient Near Eastern History, Comparative Semitics, Cuneiform Studies (Assyriology, Hittitology, Sumerology), Egyptology, Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East, Near Eastern Art and Archaeology (Anatolian,
Egyptian, Iranian, Islamic, Mesopotamian, Syro-Palestinian), Near Eastern Judaica, and Northwest Semitic Philology; and in the Medieval and Modern Section: Arabic Language and Literature, Islamic History and Civilization, Islamic Thought, Medieval Judaica and Judeo-Arabic, Modern Hebrew Language and Literature, Persian Language and Literature, and Ottoman and Turkish Studies. The department also has a joint program with Linguistics and offers courses in Armenian and Central Asian studies in collaboration with other departments at the University.

The department has two main objectives. First, it strives to provide the specific course work and training needed for its students to develop into outstanding scholars in their chosen fields. Second, it offers more general courses that provide its students a broader background in areas outside their specific fields while presenting students in other departments the opportunity to incorporate relevant Middle Eastern material into their own studies. The department also publishes the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, one of the leading academic journals in ancient Near Eastern and Islamic studies.

**THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE**

The department is associated with the Oriental Institute (https://oi.uchicago.edu), a research institute dedicated to the study of the origin and development of civilization in the ancient Near East. The Institute maintains several expeditions in the field, and research projects are carried on in its headquarters at the University. Its research archives, manuscript collection, documents from Oriental Institute excavations, and similar materials are resources for the students in the department. The department’s office is housed in the Oriental Institute building, and many of its members belong to the faculty of the Oriental Institute.

**THE CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES**

The department is also associated with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (https://cmes.uchicago.edu), which offers a master’s degree in Middle Eastern studies and coordinates activities at the University dealing with the Middle East in the Islamic and modern periods. Many members of the department faculty are also members of the Center’s executive committee; and the workshops, lectures, language circles, and similar activities of the Center are, like those of the Oriental Institute, a resource for the students in the department.

**THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

Students with an undergraduate degree may apply directly to the department’s Ph.D. program; a master’s degree in a related field is not prerequisite. The department does not admit students for a terminal M.A. degree, although work done in the first two years of the Ph.D. program qualifies students to receive an M.A. degree. This interim M.A. normally requires the completion of 18 courses, of which 15 must be taken for a quality grade while three may be taken on a pass/fail basis. All students must high pass one of the two required modern research
language reading exams (typically French and German) before the beginning of their second year and complete an M.A. thesis in the second year.

At the end of the second year, all students are reviewed and a determination made as to whether they will be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program. Students who do continue build upon the work used for the M.A. degree; normally the completion of additional 9-18 courses is required, depending on the field, before embarking upon research for the doctoral dissertation. Exact requirements vary by field, but all students must high pass their second modern research language reading exam before the beginning of their third year and pass a battery of comprehensive exams, usually at the end of their fourth year. A dissertation proposal of original research to be undertaken is presented to the faculty at a public hearing, usually in the fifth year; acceptance allows the student to be admitted to candidacy and to continue the research that will lead to the completed dissertation. A formal dissertation defense is required before the Ph.D. degree is awarded. For more information, please consult the NELC Rules & Requirements (http://nelc.uchicago.edu/graduate/rules-and-requirements).

Because the department believes that firsthand knowledge and experience of the Middle East are an essential part of a student's training, advanced students are encouraged to apply for grants to support study in a Middle Eastern country, whether for language acquisition, archaeological field work, or dissertation research.

**INQUIRIES**

Specific information about the department and its programs may be obtained from our website (http://nelc.uchicago.edu/) or by e-mail (ne-lc@uchicago.edu). Within the framework outlined above, individual requirements are established for each student in consultation with the faculty adviser and the section counselor.

**APPLICATION**

The application process for admission and financial aid for all graduate programs in the Division of the Humanities is administered through the divisional Office of the Dean of Students. The Application for Admission and Financial Aid, with instructions, deadlines and department-specific information is available online at http://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/admissions.

Questions pertaining to admissions and aid should be directed to humanitiesadmissions@uchicago.edu or (773) 702-1552.

Foreign students must provide evidence of English proficiency by submitting scores from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

We encourage you to check our website at http://nelc.uchicago.edu/ particularly with regard to determining your field of study for your application. The application form has a place to indicate the department/program; from the pull down menu choose Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. For field of specialization, please be sure to enter one of the fields of study exactly as listed on NELC's web page. We
need these fields to sort information in our database. You may wish to specify your area of interest further in your statement of purpose.

COURSES

Modern Languages: Language acquisition is taught at the elementary and intermediate levels in modern Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, Kazakh, Persian, Turkish, and Uzbek with advanced level courses in Arabic, Hebrew, and Turkish. A wide variety of literature courses are taught in the various languages.

Ancient Languages: Courses are offered in the fundamentals of Akkadian, Ancient Anatolian Languages, Egyptian, Ge’ez, Classical Hebrew, Sumerian, and Ugaritic, while more advanced courses cover specific genres of ancient texts dealing with religion, medicine, law, government, history, etc.

Near Eastern Art and Archaeology: Courses in Anatolian, Egyptian, Islamic, Mesopotamian, and Syro-Palestinian art and archaeology offer grounding in site archaeology and the material culture of the ancient Near East and include instruction on archaeological method and theory, landscape archaeology, computer applications, etc.

Near Eastern History and Civilization: A wide variety of courses cover the history, religion, law, literature (in translation), culture, and thought of the many ancient and modern civilizations of this region.

Please see the University’s (http://timeschedules.uchicago.edu) Time Schedules for the most up-to-date and specific course offerings in a given quarter.

NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS - AKKADIAN COURSES

AKKD 40341. Cuneiform Epigraphy-1. 100 Units.
The course offers advanced students in Cuneiform studies the opportunity to study actual documents from the Oriental Institute’s Tablet Collection. Through direct examination of cuneiform tablets of different genres, periods and regions, students will be made aware of evolutions and variations in paleography (ductus and sign values), document formatting, formularies and dialects. They will be guided through the process of establishing a formal edition of cuneiform documents and inscribed seal impressions, including transliteration, translation, and hand-copy. Terms Offered: Spring

AKKD 49900. Reading and Research: Akkadian,Reading and Research. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Note(s): Select section from faculty list

AKKD 49900. Reading and Research: Akkadian,Reading and Research. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Note(s): Select section from faculty list
NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS - ANCIENT ANATOLIAN LANGUAGES COURSES

AANL 30126. Literary Analysis of Hittite Texts. 100 Units.
cross listed AANL 20126
Instructor(s): P. Goedegebuure Terms Offered: Winter

AANL 30501. Lycian. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): P. Goedegebuure Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ANCM 30800, AANL 20501

AANL 49900. Reading and Research. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Prerequisite(s): Select section from faculty list

NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS - ARABIC COURSES

ARAB 30201-30202-30203. High Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I-II-III.
This is a three course sequence in High Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic.

ARAB 30201. High Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I. 100 Units.
This is a three course sequence in High Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic.
Instructor(s): N. Forster Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 20103 or equivalent
Note(s): Open to qualified undergraduates with consent of the instructor

ARAB 30202. High Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic II. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): N. Forster Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 30201 or equivalent

ARAB 30203. High Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic III. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): N. Forster Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 30202 or equivalent
ARAB 30301-30302-30303. High Intermediate Classical Arabic I-II-III.
This is a three-segment course offered in three quarters; Autumn, Winter and Spring. The main objective of the complete three segment is to develop strong pedagogical strategies in the four Arabic language skills to acquire proficiency in handling Arabic classical texts. By the end of the three quarters students should know the distinctive features of classical Arabic texts and the various genres and sources of such texts. They will build strong command on expanded grammatical features and structural rules governing classical texts of different variations. Students will be able to produce written documents reflecting reading comprehension, personal opinions and text critique. Students should be able to make oral presentation and conduct research using electronic resources as well as traditional classical sources. The class is conducted entirely in Arabic with occasional use of English in translation and explanation of complex cultural and linguistic issues.

ARAB 30301. High Intermediate Classical Arabic I. 100 Units.
This is a three-segment course offered in three quarters; Autumn, Winter and Spring. The main objective of the complete three segment is to develop strong pedagogical strategies in the four Arabic language skills to acquire proficiency in handling Arabic classical texts. By the end of the three quarters students should know the distinctive features of classical Arabic texts and the various genres and sources of such texts. They will build strong command on expanded grammatical features and structural rules governing classical texts of different variations. Students will be able to produce written documents reflecting reading comprehension, personal opinions and text critique. Students should be able to make oral presentation and conduct research using electronic resources as well as traditional classical sources. The class is conducted entirely in Arabic with occasional use of English in translation and explanation of complex cultural and linguistic issues.
Instructor(s): K. Heikkinen Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 20103 or equivalent
ARAB 30302. High Intermediate Classical Arabic II. 100 Units.
This is a three-segment course offered in three quarters; Autumn, Winter and Spring. The main objective of the complete three segment is to develop strong pedagogical strategies in the four Arabic language skills to acquire proficiency in handling Arabic classical texts. By the end of the three quarters students should know the distinctive features of classical Arabic texts and the various genres and sources of such texts. They will build strong command on expanded grammatical features and structural rules governing classical texts of different variations. Students will be able to produce written documents reflecting reading comprehension, personal opinions and text critique. Students should be able to make oral presentation and conduct research using electronic resources as well as traditional classical sources. The class is conducted entirely in Arabic with occasional use of English in translation and explanation of complex cultural and linguistic issues.
Instructor(s): K. Heikkinen Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 30201 or equivalent

ARAB 30303. High Intermediate Classical Arabic III. 100 Units.
This is the third of a three-segment course offered in three quarters; Autumn, Winter and Spring. The main objective of the complete three segment is to develop strong pedagogical strategies in the four Arabic language skills to acquire proficiency in handling Arabic classical texts. By the end of the three quarters students should know the distinctive features of classical Arabic texts and the various genres and sources of such texts. They will build strong command on expanded grammatical features and structural rules governing classical texts of different variations. Students will be able to produce written documents reflecting reading comprehension, personal opinions and text critique. Students should be able to make oral presentation and conduct research using electronic resources as well as traditional classical sources. The class is conducted entirely in Arabic with occasional use of English in translation and explanation of complex cultural and linguistic issues.
Instructor(s): K. Heikkinen Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 30302 or equivalent
ARAB 30302-30303. High Intermediate Classical Arabic II-III.  
This is a three-segment course offered in three quarters; Autumn, Winter and Spring. The main objective of the complete three segment is to develop strong pedagogical strategies in the four Arabic language skills to acquire proficiency in handling Arabic classical texts. By the end of the three quarters students should know the distinctive features of classical Arabic texts and the various genres and sources of such texts. They will build strong command on expanded grammatical features and structural rules governing classical texts of different variations. Students will be able to produce written documents reflecting reading comprehension, personal opinions and text critique. Students should be able to make oral presentation and conduct research using electronic resources as well as traditional classical sources. The class is conducted entirely in Arabic with occasional use of English in translation and explanation of complex cultural and linguistic issues.

ARAB 30302. High Intermediate Classical Arabic II. 100 Units.  
This is a three-segment course offered in three quarters; Autumn, Winter and Spring. The main objective of the complete three segment is to develop strong pedagogical strategies in the four Arabic language skills to acquire proficiency in handling Arabic classical texts. By the end of the three quarters students should know the distinctive features of classical Arabic texts and the various genres and sources of such texts. They will build strong command on expanded grammatical features and structural rules governing classical texts of different variations. Students will be able to produce written documents reflecting reading comprehension, personal opinions and text critique. Students should be able to make oral presentation and conduct research using electronic resources as well as traditional classical sources. The class is conducted entirely in Arabic with occasional use of English in translation and explanation of complex cultural and linguistic issues.  
Instructor(s): K. Heikkinen  
Terms Offered: Winter  
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 30201 or equivalent
ARAB 30303. High Intermediate Classical Arabic III. 100 Units.
This is the third of a three-segment course offered in three quarters; Autumn, Winter and Spring. The main objective of the complete three segment is to develop strong pedagogical strategies in the four Arabic language skills to acquire proficiency in handling Arabic classical texts. By the end of the three quarters students should know the distinctive features of classical Arabic texts and the various genres and sources of such texts. They will build strong command on expanded grammatical features and structural rules governing classical texts of different variations. Students will be able to produce written documents reflecting reading comprehension, personal opinions and text critique. Students should be able to make oral presentation and conduct research using electronic resources as well as traditional classical sources. The class is conducted entirely in Arabic with occasional use of English in translation and explanation of complex cultural and linguistic issues.
Instructor(s): K. Heikkinen Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 30302 or equivalent

ARAB 30303. High Intermediate Classical Arabic III. 100 Units.
This is the third of a three-segment course offered in three quarters; Autumn, Winter and Spring. The main objective of the complete three segment is to develop strong pedagogical strategies in the four Arabic language skills to acquire proficiency in handling Arabic classical texts. By the end of the three quarters students should know the distinctive features of classical Arabic texts and the various genres and sources of such texts. They will build strong command on expanded grammatical features and structural rules governing classical texts of different variations. Students will be able to produce written documents reflecting reading comprehension, personal opinions and text critique. Students should be able to make oral presentation and conduct research using electronic resources as well as traditional classical sources. The class is conducted entirely in Arabic with occasional use of English in translation and explanation of complex cultural and linguistic issues.
Instructor(s): K. Heikkinen Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 30302 or equivalent

ARAB 30351. Maghribi Colloquial & Culture. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): C. Lakhdar Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): One year of Modern Standard Arabic
ARAB 30352. Arabic Through Maghribi Literature. 100 Units.
Through a variety of texts (selected fragments from novels, short stories, book chapters), this course explores how Maghrebian writers express their ideas and reflect on their societies and other sentimental issues that occupy their minds (some of the writers may meet with students on Skype and answer their questions). The work of writers from various Arab countries in Maghreb will be discussed after being read thoroughly. Main themes will be examined to achieve full understanding of the text along with a discussion of media issues. Also this course exercises certain language aspects: reading, writing, grammatical, and speaking skills.
Instructor(s): L. Choudar Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): At least two year of Arabic study

ARAB 30390. Arabic in Social Context. 100 Units.
Designed for the advanced student of MSA, this course aims to improve listening comprehension and instill an awareness of the social associations accompanying different speech-writing styles. Students will intensively listen to audio/video materials clustered around the themes of diglossia and code-switching; gendered discourse; urban-rural; class. A heavily aural course, class activities will involve student presentations (group and solo), discussion groups, and to a lesser degree, textual analysis.
Instructor(s): N. Forster Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): 3 years of Arabic or consent of instructor
Note(s): This course is open to qualified undergraduate students

ARAB 30588. Media Arabic. 100 Units.
Media Arabic is a course designed for the advanced student of Modern Standard Arabic. The course objective is to improve students’ listening comprehension skills. Students will advance toward this goal through listening to a variety of authentic materials from Arabic TV (on politics, literature, economics, education, women, youth, etc.).
Instructor(s): H. Abdel Mobdy Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): At least two years of Modern Standard Arabic
Equivalent Course(s): ARAB 20588

ARAB 40101-40102. Advanced Arabic Syntax I-II.
This two-quarter sequence is an introduction to the classical Arabic language. It is useful for students whose research includes the reading of classical Arabic texts in varied fields such as literature, history, political science, theology and philosophy. In the class 1) rules of Arabic grammar are studied intensively, topic by topic; 2) parsing (i’rab) is an important component, with a view to understanding the structure of the language; 3) brief texts from different fields of classical Arabic are read focusing on their grammatical structure, and 4) some theory about the development of the grammatical genre is introduced, as are the basic features of prosody (’arud) and rhetoric (balagha).

ARAB 40101. Advanced Arabic Syntax I. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): T. Qutbuddin Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Third-year Arabic or equivalent
ARAB 40102. Advanced Arabic Syntax II. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): T. Qutbuddin Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Third-year Arabic or equivalent

ARAB 40102. Advanced Arabic Syntax II. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): T. Qutbuddin Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Third-year Arabic or equivalent

ARAB 40392. Readings in the Sira Literature. 100 Units.
Will cross list with Divinity School
Instructor(s): F Donner Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): 3 years of Arabic

ARAB 40450. Qur’an, Hadith and Khutba. 100 Units.
Will be cross listed with ISLM, Comp Lit, Fundamentals
Instructor(s): T. Qutbuddin Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): 3 years of Arabic

ARAB 49900. Reading and Research. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Note(s): Select section from faculty list

NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS - ARAMAIC COURSES

ARAM 49900. Reading and Research. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Note(s): Select section from faculty list

NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS - ARMENIAN COURSES

ARME 30102. Advanced Modern Armenian 2. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): H. Haroutunian Terms Offered: Winter

ARME 30103. Advanced Modern Armenian 3. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): H. Haroutunian Terms Offered: Spring

ARME 49900. Reading and Research. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Note(s): Select section from faculty list
NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS - EGYPTIAN COURSES

EGPT 30120. Introduction to Demotic. 100 Units.
This course provides a basic introduction to the grammar, vocabulary, and orthographic styles of the administrative and literary stage of the Egyptian language and script used in the Late Period (into the Roman Empire).
Instructor(s): J. Johnson Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): EGPT 10201 and/or EGPT 20210
Equivalent Course(s): ANCM 32100

EGPT 30121. Demotic Texts. 100 Units.
Building on the basic grammar, vocabulary, and orthographic styles learned in EGPT 30120, this course focuses on the reading and analysis of various Demotic texts.
Instructor(s): B. Muhs Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): EGPT 30120 or Consent of the Instructor

EGPT 49000. Thesis Research: Egyptology. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn 2013
Note(s): Select section from faculty list

EGPT 49900. Reading and Research: Egyptology. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Selection section from faculty list

NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS - GE'EZ COURSES

GEEZ 49900. Reading and Research. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Note(s): Select section from faculty list

NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS - HEBREW COURSES

HEBR 30501-30502-30503. Advanced Modern Hebrew I-II-III.
This course assumes that students have full mastery of the grammatical and lexical content at the intermediate level. However, there is a shift from a reliance on the cognitive approach to an emphasis on the expansion of various grammatical and vocabulary-related subjects. Students are introduced to sophisticated and more complex syntactic constructions, and instructed how to transform simple sentences into more complicated ones. The exercises address the creative effort on the part of the student, and the reading segments are longer and more challenging in both style and content. The language of the texts reflects the literary written medium rather than the more informal spoken style, which often dominates the introductory and intermediate texts.
HEBR 30501. Advanced Modern Hebrew I. 100 Units.
This course assumes that students have full mastery of the grammatical and lexical content at the intermediate level. However, there is a shift from a reliance on the cognitive approach to an emphasis on the expansion of various grammatical and vocabulary-related subjects. Students are introduced to sophisticated and more complex syntactic constructions, and instructed how to transform simple sentences into more complicated ones. The exercises address the creative effort on the part of the student, and the reading segments are longer and more challenging in both style and content. The language of the texts reflects the literary written medium rather than the more informal spoken style, which often dominates the introductory and intermediate texts.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 20503 or equivalent

HEBR 30502. Advanced Modern Hebrew II. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 30501 or consent of instructor

HEBR 30503. Advanced Modern Hebrew III. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 30502 or consent of instructor

HEBR 49900. Reading Course: Hebrew. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Select section from faculty list

NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS - KAZAKH COURSES

KAZK 49900. Reading and Research. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Note(s): Select section from faculty list
NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS - NEAR EASTERN ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY COURSES

NEAA 30006. Archaeology of the Ancient Near East-6; Egypt. 100 Units.
This sequence provides a thorough survey in lecture format of the art and archaeology of ancient Egypt from the late Pre-dynastic era through the Roman period.
Instructor(s): N. Moeller Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This sequence does not meet the general education requirements in civilization studies.

NEAA 30035. Zooarchaeology. 100 Units.
This course introduces the use of animal bones in archaeological research. Students gain hands-on experience analyzing faunal remains from an archaeological site in the Near East. Topics include: (1) identifying, aging, and sexing animal bones; (2) zooarchaeological sampling, measurement, quantification, and problems of taphonomy; (3) computer analysis of animal bone data; and (4) reconstructing prehistoric hunting and pastoral economies (e.g., animal domestication, hunting strategies, herding systems, seasonality, pastoral production in complex societies).
Instructor(s): G. Stein Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Introductory course in archaeology
Equivalent Course(s): NEAA 20035

NEAA 30045. Economic Organization of Ancient Complex Societies. 100 Units.
This course provides undergraduate and graduate students with an overview of some of the basic theoretical and methodological issues involved in the study of ancient complex societies, primarily through archaeological evidence supplemented by textual data.
Instructor(s): G. Stein Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 26740, ANTH 36740, NEAA 20045

NEAA 30070. Intro to the Archaeology of Afghanistan. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): G. Stein Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): At least one course in archaeology
Equivalent Course(s): NEAA 20070

NEAA 30071. Texts in Context: Documents and Archaeology. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): M. Gibson Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Requires at least a year of Akkadian and NEAA 20001: Archaeology of the Ancient Near East-1: Mesopotamia, and consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): NEAA 20071
NEAA 30080. Migrations and Population Movements of the Ancient Near East. 100 Units.
The movement of people as an explanatory model of social change has risen and fallen in academic popularity several times in the history of Near Eastern scholarship and ancient studies more broadly. From earlier conceptions that sought to explain culture change and the transitions between time periods as resulting from invading hordes of outsiders, to more recent explanations that see culture change as a purely internal phenomenon, the past several years have seen a return to large-scale population movements as a legitimate subject of analysis. This class looks at archaeological approaches to migration – whether voluntary or not – to evaluate the different strategies scholars have brought to bear on the topic. The bulk of the class is then spent analyzing in detail a number of case studies from across the ancient Near East. Ultimately, the goal is for students both to gain an appreciation of migration as a sociohistorical phenomenon as well as to understand the role of migration in leading to major cultural and demographic transformations in the ancient Near East specifically.
Instructor(s): Osborne, James Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Graduate-level coursework in NE archaeology (first-year graduates also permitted)

NEAA 30091. Field Archaeology. 300 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): N. Moeller Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course is for students that will be overseas participating in an Archaeological Field Project. Consent of instructor required.

NEAA 30131. Problems in Mesopotamian Archaeology. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): M. Gibson Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): At least Intro to Mesopotamian Archeology AND Consent of Instructor.
Note(s): Open to qualified undergraduate students.

NEAA 30521. Archaeology of Coptic and Islamic Egypt. 100 Units.
This course is an exploration of the continuities of Egyptian culture after the Ptolemaic period down to modern times, a span of over 2000 years. The emphasis will be on the archaeology of Coptic and Islamic Egypt. The focus will be on the role of medieval archaeology in amplifying the history of economic and social systems. It is this connective quality of archaeology which contributes to an understanding of Pharaonic culture and fills the gap between ancient and modern Egypt.
Instructor(s): D. Whitcomb Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Introductory course in archaeology
Equivalent Course(s): NEAA 20521

NEAA 30523. Islamic Archaeology of Iraq and Iran. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): D. Whitcomb Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): NEAA 20523
NEAA 36712. Archaeological Approaches to Settlement and Landscape Survey. 100 Units.
Archaeological field survey has been instrumental in the recovery of ancient settlements and the exploration of forgotten political geographies and historical landscapes. This course covers methodology for survey archaeology through discussion of case studies and hands-on exercises. We will discuss the relationship between research questions, field conditions, and methodology as well as the various goals of survey—such as settlement pattern analysis, site catchment analysis, demographic reconstruction, and landscape archaeology—in the context of both “classical” and recent case studies drawn from the archaeology of China, the Near East, the Mediterranean, and Mesoamerica. Hands-on exercises will include training in the use of a total station, training in the use of a hand-held GPS receiver in combination with freeware mapping tools, and practice designing hypothetical archaeology surveys and data recording systems.
Instructor(s): A. Yao, E. Hammer Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): A course in archaeology in any department.
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 36712, NEAA 26712, ANTH 26712

NEAA 49900. Reading and Research. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Note(s): Select section from faculty list

NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS - NEAR EASTERN HISTORY AND CIVILIZATION COURSES

NEHC 30001. Ancient Near Eastern History and Society I: Egypt. 100 Units.
This course surveys the political, social, and economic history of ancient Egypt from pre-dynastic times (ca. 3400 B.C.) until the advent of Islam in the seventh century of our era.
Instructor(s): J. Johnson, B. Muhs Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20001

NEHC 30002. Ancient Near Eastern History and Society II: Mesopotamia. 100 Units.
This course introduces the history of Mesopotamia. We begin with the origins of writing and cities in Sumer (ca. 3200 BC); then cover the great empires of Assyria, Babylon, and Persia; and end with the arrival of Alexander the Great in the late fourth century BC.
Instructor(s): R. Payne Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20002
NEHC 30004. Ancient Near Eastern Thought and Literature I: Mesopotamian Literature. 100 Units.
This course takes as its topic the literary tradition surrounding Gilgamesh, the legendary king of the Mesopotamian city-state of Uruk. The course will focus on the Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh and its Sumerian forerunners, and their cultural and historical contexts. We will also read a number of Sumerian and Akkadian compositions that are thematically related to the Gilgamesh tradition, including Atrahasis, the Sumerian Flood story, and the Epics of Enmerkar and Lugalbanda, also of first dynasty of Uruk.
Instructor(s): C. Woods Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Taking these courses in sequence is not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20004

NEHC 30005. Ancient Near Eastern Thought and Literature II: Anatolian Literature. 100 Units.
This course will provide an overview of Anatolian/Hittite literature, as “defined” by the Hittites themselves, in the wider historical-cultural context of the Ancient Near East. In the course of discussions, we will try to answer some important questions about Hittite inscriptions, such as: why were they written down, why were they kept, for whom were they intended, and what do the answers to these questions (apart from the primary content of the texts themselves) tell us about Hittite society?
Instructor(s): H. Haroutunian Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Taking these courses in sequence is not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20005

NEHC 30006. Ancient Near Eastern Thought and Literature III: Egypt. 100 Units.
This course employs English translations of ancient Egyptian literary texts to explore the genres, conventions and techniques of ancient Egyptian literature. Discussions of texts examine how the ancient Egyptians conceptualized and constructed their equivalent of literature, as well as the fuzzy boundaries and subtle interplay between autobiography, history, myth and fiction.
Instructor(s): B. Muhs Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Taking these courses in sequence is not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20006

NEHC 30011. Ancient Empires I. 100 Units.
The first course of this three-course sequence focuses on the Hittite Empire.
Instructor(s): H. Haroutunian Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Taking these courses in sequence is not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20011, CLCV 25700, HIST 15602
NEHC 30012. Ancient Empires II: The Ottoman Empire. 100 Units.
The second course of this three-course sequence focuses on the Ottoman Empire.
Instructor(s): H. Karateke Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Taking these courses in sequence is not required. This sequence meets the
general education requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20012,CLCV 25800,HIST 15603

NEHC 30013. Ancient Empires III: The Egyptian Empire of the New Kingdom. 100 Units.
For most of the duration of the New Kingdom (1550–1069 BC), the ancient
Egyptians were able to establish a vast empire and becoming one of the key powers
within the Near East. This course will investigate in detail the development of
Egyptian foreign policies and military expansion which affected parts of the Near
East and Nubia. We will examine and discuss topics such as ideology, imperial
identity, political struggle and motivation for conquest and control of wider regions
surrounding the Egyptian state as well as the relationship with other powers and
their perspective on Egyptian rulers as for example described in the Amarna letters.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Taking these courses in sequence is not required. This sequence meets the
general education requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20013,CLCV 25900,HIST 15604

NEHC 30121. The Bible and Archaeology. 100 Units.
In this course we will look at how interpretation of evidence unearthed by
archaeologists contributes to a historical-critical reading of the Bible, and vice versa.
We will focus on the cultural background of the biblical narratives, from the stories
of Creation and Flood to the destruction of the Jerusalem temple by the Romans
in the year 70. No prior coursework in archaeology or biblical studies is required,
although it will be helpful for students to have taken JWSC 20120 (Introduction to
the Hebrew Bible).
Instructor(s): David Schloen
Note(s): This course may be used to fulfill the College’s general education
requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20121,RLST 20408,JWSC 20121
NEHC 30223. Narratives of Assimilation. 100 Units.

Engaging the concept of liminality—of a community at the threshold of radical transformation—the course analyzes how East Central European Jewry, facing economic uncertainties and dangers of modern anti-Semitism, seeks another diasporic space in America. Projected against the historical backdrop of the end of the nineteenth century and the twentieth century, the immigration narratives are viewed through the lens of assimilation, its trials and failures; in particular, we investigate how the creative self reacts to the challenges of radical otherness, such as the new environment, its cultural codes and language barriers. During this course, we inquire how the condition called assimilation and its attendants—secularization, acculturation, cosmopolitanism, etc.—is adapted or critically resisted according to the generational differences, a given historical moment or inherited strategies of survival and adaptation. Students are acquainted with problems of cultural identity formation and cultural transmission through a wide array of artistic genres—a novel, short story, memoir, photograph, and illustration. The course draws on the autobiographical writings of Russian-Jewish, Polish-Jewish and American-Jewish authors such as Aleichem, Yezierska, Antin, Singer, Hoffman and others; all texts are read in English.

Instructor(s): Bozena Shallcross
Note(s): This course may be used to fulfill the general education requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): REES 27003, REES 37003, RLST 26623, NEHC 20223, JWSC 20223

NEHC 30404-30406. Jewish Thought and Literature I-III.

Taking these courses in sequence is not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. Students in this sequence explore Jewish thought and literature from ancient times until the modern era through a close reading of original sources. A wide variety of works is discussed, including the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and texts representative of rabbinic Judaism, medieval Jewish philosophy, and modern Jewish culture in its diverse manifestations. Texts in English.

NEHC 30404. Jewish Thought and Literature I: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. 100 Units.

Taking these courses in sequence is not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. Students in this sequence explore Jewish thought and literature from ancient times until the modern era through a close reading of original sources. A wide variety of works is discussed, including the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and texts representative of rabbinic Judaism, medieval Jewish philosophy, and modern Jewish culture in its diverse manifestations. Texts in English.

Instructor(s): J. Stackert
Terms Offered: Autumn
NEHC 30406. Jewish Thought and Literature III: Biblical Voices in Modern Hebrew Literature. 100 Units.
The Hebrew Bible is the most important intertextual point of reference in Modern Hebrew literature, a literary tradition that begins with the (sometimes contested) claim to revive the ancient language of the Bible. In this course, we will consider the Bible as a source of vocabulary, figurative language, voice and narrative models in modern Hebrew and Jewish literature, considering the stakes and the implications of such intertextual engagement. Among the topics we will focus on: the concept of language-revival, the figure of the prophet-poet, revisions and counter-versions of key Biblical stories (including the story of creation, the binding of Isaac and the stories of King David), the Song of Songs in Modern Jewish poetry.
Instructor(s): N. Rokem Terms Offered: Spring

NEHC 30417. Semitic Languages, Cultures, and Civilizations II. 100 Units.
This course explores the historical evidence for several Semitic peoples who dwelled in Syria and Northern Iraq in the third to first millennia BCE (Eblaites, Amorites, Ugaritians, Assyrians). These peoples' languages belong either to the larger group of Northwest Semitic, that comprises languages such as Aramaic and Canaanite (including Biblical Hebrew), or to the northern dialects of East Semitic. The shared characteristic of these people is to have recorded their cultural legacy on clay tablets, using Mesopotamian cuneiform or an alphabetic script adapted from it, noting either their own language or several aspects of their history, culture and religion through a borrowed language (Akkadian). The class will focus on major cultural traditions that have echoes in younger records that came to be influential for the modern Middle East and for the Western world – especially the Hebrew Bible, but also some traditions of Pre-Islamic Arabia. This includes a close examination and discussion of representative ancient sources, as well as readings in modern scholarship. Ancient sources include literary, historical, and legal documents. Texts in English.
Instructor(s): H. Reculeau Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 15703, NEHC 20417
NEHC 30418. Semitic Languages, Cultures, and Civilizations III. 100 Units.
This course explores the histories and literatures of Aramaic- and Arabic-writing Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities in the first millennium CE. Beginning with the reception of Ancient Mesopotamian culture in late antiquity, the class will focus on the development of Syriac Christian, Rabbinic, and early Muslim sacred literatures in relation to the social, political, and economic contexts of the Roman and Iranian empires and inter-imperial Arabia. It will then turn to the literary and intellectual revival of the early Islamic caliphates, in which representatives of all three religions participated. Among the works to be read in translation are the Acts of Thomas, the Babylonian Talmud, the Qur’ān, and early Arabic poetry.
Instructor(s): R. Payne Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): PQ: This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 15704, NEHC 20418

NEHC 30485. Jews in Graeco Roman Egypt. 100 Units.
This course will revise the sources, literary and documentary, for the history of the Jews in Egypt from the 5th cent. BCE (the Elephantine papyri) to the 4th cent CE (Jews and Christians in Egypt). We will revise both the papyrological evidence and the literary evidence that we have for each period, and will focus on historical and social questions. The sources will be read in translation.
Instructor(s): S. Torallas-Tovar Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 20485, HIJD 30485, JWSC 20485, CLCV 25315, CLAS 35315, NEHC 20485

NEHC 30501. Islamic History and Society I: The Rise of Islam and the Caliphate. 100 Units.
This course covers the period from ca. 600 to 1100, including the rise and spread of Islam, the Islamic empire under the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphs, and the emergence of regional Islamic states from Afghanistan and eastern Iran to North Africa and Spain.
Instructor(s): F. Donner Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Taking these courses in sequence is recommended but not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 25704, HIST 35704, ISLM 30500, RLST 20501, NEHC 20501

NEHC 30502. Islamic History and Society II: The Middle Period. 100 Units.
This course covers the period from ca. 1100 to 1750, including the arrival of the Steppe Peoples (Turks and Mongols), the Mongol successor states, and the Mamluks of Egypt and Syria. We also study the foundation of the great Islamic regional empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Moghuls.
Instructor(s): J. Woods Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Not open to first-year students
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 25804, HIST 35804, ISLM 30600, NEHC 20502
NEHC 30503. Islamic History and Society III: The Modern Middle East. 100 Units.
This course covers the period from ca. 1750 to the present, focusing on Western military, economic, and ideological encroachment; the impact of such ideas as nationalism and liberalism; efforts at reform in the Islamic states; the emergence of the "modern" Middle East after World War I; the struggle for liberation from Western colonial and imperial control; the Middle Eastern states in the cold war era; and local and regional conflicts.
Instructor(s): A. Shissler Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Not open to first-year students
Note(s): This course does not apply to the medieval studies major or minor.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 25904, HIST 35904, ISLM 30700, NEHC 20503

NEHC 30504. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. 100 Units.
The course will survey the contents of all twenty-four books of the Hebrew Bible, and introduce critical questions regarding its central and marginal figures, events, and ideas, its literary qualities and anomalies, the history of its composition and transmission, its relation to other artifacts from the biblical period, its place in the history and society of ancient Israel, and its relation to the larger culture of the ancient Near East.
Instructor(s): S. Chavel Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This course may be used to fulfill the College's general education requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): BIBL 31000, JWSC 20120, NEHC 20504, RLST 11004

NEHC 30507. Byzantine Empire, 1025 to 1453. 100 Units.
Internal and external problems and developments. Internal tensions on the eve of the arrival of the Seljuks. Eleventh-century economic growth. The Crusades. Achievements and deficiencies of Komnenian Byzantium. The Fourth Crusade and Byzantine successor states. Palaeologan political and cultural revival. Religious topics such as relations with the Papacy, Bogomilism, and Hesychasm. Readings will include M. Angold, The Byzantine Empire 1025–1204, D. M. Nicol, Last Centuries of Byzantium, and the histories of Michael Psellus and Anna Comnena. Course grade will include a final examination and a ten-page paper.
Instructor(s): W. Kaegi Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 21703, HIST 31703, ANCM 36700, NEHC 20507
NEHC 30550. Global Encounters: Travelers & Perceptions in pre-Modern World. 100 Units.
This course is designed around the close-reading of travelogues as primary sources, and the weekly primary sources are supported with secondary material. After a two-week introduction to the issues of travel-writing, encounters with the others and Orientalism, each class will be based on one or two travelogues and different questions they raise. The selected primary sources are examples of travelers going to the “East” — not as a geographical destination but as an indication of unknown and foreign lands. The primary sources cover a wide geographical scope, from India to the new world, with special emphasis on the Middle East. Chronologically, the course covers a time-span from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century, thus, it focuses on the early modern period before the age of “colonialism” and “orientalism.” By discovering the encounters in the pre-nineteenth-century world on a global scale, the course aims both to contribute to and to challenge the discussions around the question of Orientalism and the East-West divide.
Instructor(s): H. Karateke Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20550

NEHC 30567. Hebrew Poetry, Jewish Poetry, Israeli Poetry. 100 Units.
Will cross list with Comp Lit
Instructor(s): N. Rokem Terms Offered: Winter

NEHC 30568. Balkan Folklore. 100 Units.
Vampires, fire-breathing dragons, vengeful mountain nymphs. 7/8 and other uneven dance beats, heart-rending laments, and a living epic tradition. This course is an overview of Balkan folklore from historical, political, and anthropological perspectives. We seek to understand folk tradition as a dynamic process and consider the function of different folklore genres in the imagining and maintenance of community and the socialization of the individual. We also experience this living tradition firsthand through visits of a Chicago-based folk dance ensemble, “Balkan Dance.”
Instructor(s): A. Ilieva
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 25908, ANTH 35908, CMLT 23301, CMLT 33301, NEHC 20568, REES 36800, REES 26800
NEHC 30600. Saints and Sinners: Christianity in the Ancient Near East. 100 Units.
Between the third and seventh centuries, Christian communities came to flourish throughout the Near East and neighboring regions, in the Roman and Iranian empires as well as the kingdoms of the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Ethiopia. This course will examine development of Christian institutions and ideologies in relation to the distinctive social structures, political cultures, economies, and environments of the Near East, with a focus on the Fertile Crescent. The makers of Near Eastern Christianities were both saints and sinners. Holy men and women, monks, and sometimes bishops withdrew from what they often called “the world” with the intention of reshaping its societies through prayer, asceticism, writing, and more direct forms of intervention in social, political, and economic relations. But the work of these saints depended on the cooperation of the worldly men and women, including aristocrats, merchants, and rulers, that formed the ranks of their communities to establish enduring institutions. To explore the dialectical relationship between saints and sinners, we will read inscriptions, histories, and lives of saints in various Near Eastern languages in translation and consider the insights of recent archaeology.
Instructor(s): R. Payne Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20600

NEHC 30601. Islamic Thought and Literature I. 100 Units.
This course covers the period from ca. 600 to 950, concentrating on the career of the Prophet Muhammad; Qur’an and Hadith; the Caliphate; the development of Islamic legal, theological, philosophical, and mystical discourses; sectarian movements; and Arabic literature.
Instructor(s): T. Qutbuddin Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 20401, SOSC 22000, NEHC 20601
NEHC 30602. Islamic Thought and Literature II. 100 Units.
Survey of Islamic thought and literature during the “middle periods,” from about 950 to 1750 C.E., stretching across a broad geographic area, from Morocco and Iberia to the Maldives and India, and even into the New World. The course engages with a broad selection of primary texts in English translation, and various visual, aural and material artifacts, contextualizing them through lectures, secondary readings and discussion. We explore the notion of Islamicate culture(s) and civilization in its many facets – the intellectual milieu; literary, artistic and musical production; political, social, scientific, philosophical and theological thought; concepts of the heroic, the beautiful, the good, the poetic; piety, devotion and spirituality; religious, educational, governmental, commercial and social institutions; geographic, ethnic, confessional, gender, social and spatial constructs. In brief, how did noteworthy Muslims at various points and places think through questions of life death, man God, faith belief, the sacred the profane, law ethics, tradition vs. innovation, power politics, class gender, self other? How did they think about and wage war, make love, eat drink, tell stories, educate their youth, preserve the past, imagine the future, etc.?
Instructor(s): F. Lewis Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Taking these courses in sequence is recommended but not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 20402, SOSC 22100, NEHC 20602

NEHC 30603. Islamic Thought and Literature III. 100 Units.
This course covers the period from ca. 1700 to the present, exploring works of Arab intellectuals who interpreted various aspects of Islamic philosophy, political theory, and law in the modern age. We look at diverse interpretations concerning the role of religion in a modern society, at secularized and historicized approaches to religion, and at the critique of both religious establishments and nation-states as articulated by Arab intellectuals. Generally, we discuss secondary literature first and the primary sources later.
Instructor(s): A. El Shamsy Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This course does not apply to the medieval studies major or minor.
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 20403, SOSC 22200, NEHC 20603

NEHC 30625. Approaches to the Study of the Ancient Near East. 100 Units.
This is a required introductory course for all CMES ancient-track students
Instructor(s): B. Muhs Terms Offered: Autumn

NEHC 30631. Approaches to the Study of the Middle East. 100 Units.
The course introduces beginning graduate students to the range of basic resources, methods, and analytical tools that must be mastered by those engaging in the study of the Islamic Middle East. As such, it covers the period from the seventh century to the present and is focused on developing professional skills necessary for successful completion of a master’s or doctoral program.
Instructor(s): P. Walker Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMES 30001
NEHC 30658. Narrating Conflict in Arabic Literature. 100 Units.
This course is an exploration of conflict in the Arab world through literature, film and new media. In this course, we will discuss the influence of independence movements, wars, and revolts on Arabic literature: how do writers write about, or film, conflict? How does conflict affect language itself? How do these texts engage with issues of trauma and bearing witness? To answer these questions, we will look at a number of key conflicts in the Arab world, from the 1919 revolution in Egypt, to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the independence movement in Algeria, and the Lebanese and Iraq wars, as well as blogs and texts from more recent conflicts in Egypt, Tunisia, Syria and Yemen. Texts will include novels and autobiographical works, such as Tawfiq Hakim’s Return of the Spirit, Halim Barakat’s Days of Dust, Elias Khoury’s Little Mountain, Jean Makdisi’s Beirut Fragments, Suad Amiry’s Sharon and my Mother-in-Law, as well as Mahmoud Darwish’s Memory for Forgetfulness, and Hoda Barakat’s The Stone of Laughter and writing by Syrian author Samar Yazbek. We will also read Joe Sacco’s graphic novel Palestine and Mazen Kerbaj’s graphic weblog about the 2006 war in Lebanon. In addition, we will ready poetry by Sinan Antoon (Baghdad Blues), Mahmoud Darwish and Khalil Hawi, and watch films such as The Battle of Algiers, Hurub Saghira, Paradise Now and Je Veux Voir. Terms Offered: Spring Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20658

NEHC 30687. Colloquium: Persian Historical Texts. Units.
This course will focus on the study and utilization of narrative, normative and archival sources in Persian. Texts of the major Iranian historians and biographers will be subjected to close readings and analysis. The scripts, protocols, and formula used by Irano-Islamic chancelleries will also be introduced and the form and content of published an unpublished archival documents will be transcribed and examined in their institutional context. Knowledge of Persian required. Instructor(s): J. Woods Terms Offered: Spring Prerequisite(s): Knowledge of Persian required Equivalent Course(s): HIST 59000, CMES 30687

NEHC 30721. Iranian Political Culture 1. 100 Units.
Will cross list with history and classics Instructor(s): R. Payne Terms Offered: Winter

NEHC 30722. Iranian Political Culture 2. 100 Units.
Will cross list with history and classics Instructor(s): R. Payne Terms Offered: Spring
NEHC 30827. The “Woman Question” & Reformist Thought in the Ottoman Empire. 100 Units.
The course is a one-quarter colloquium open both to graduate students and to advanced undergraduates. The course will focus on reading and discussing literature concerned with the perception among nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Ottoman reformers and intellectuals, that the “proper” place of women in society was an urgent question. We will examine why this question was regarded as urgent and fundamental, and in what ways it was seen as related to an overall framework of reform.
Instructor(s): H. Shissler Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Open to advanced undergraduates and graduates
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20827

NEHC 30832. Late Ottoman History 1. 100 Units.
First quarter can be taken independently or as part of a two-quarter research seminar.
Instructor(s): A. Shissler Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Reading knowledge of a Middle Eastern Language, a lang of the Ottoman Empire, or French. First quarter open to undergrads by permission. Second quarter open to grad students only.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20832

NEHC 30833. Late Ottoman History 2. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): A. Shissler Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Reading knowledge of a Middle Eastern Language, a lang of the Ottoman Empire, or French. First quarter open to ugrads by permission. Second quarter open to grad students only.
NEHC 30852. Seminar: Ottoman World/Suleyman I. 100 Units.
This two-quarter seminar focuses on the transformation of the Muslim Ottoman principality into an imperial entity—after the conquest of Constantinople in 1453—that laid claim to inheritance of Alexandrine, Roman/Byzantine, Mongol/Chinggisid, and Islamic models of Old World Empire at the dawn of the early modern era. Special attention is paid to the transformation of Ottoman imperialism in the reign of Sultan Süleyman the Lawgiver (1520-1566), who appeared to give the Empire its “classical” form. Topics include: the Mongol legacy; the reformulation of the relationship between political and religious institutions; mysticism and the creation of divine kingship; Muslim-Christian competition (with special reference to Spain and Italy) and the formation of early modernity; the articulation of bureaucratized hierarchy; and comparison of Muslim Ottoman, Iranian Safavid, and Christian European imperialisms. The first quarter comprises a chronological overview of major themes in Ottoman history, 1300-1600; the second quarter is divided between the examination of particular themes in comparative perspective (for example, the dissolution and recreation of religious institutions in Islamdom and Christendom) and student presentations of research for the seminar paper. In addition to seminar papers, students will be required to give an oral presentation on a designated primary or secondary source in the course of the seminar.
Instructor(s): C. Fleischer Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Upper level undergrads with consent only; reading knowledge of at least 1 European Language recommended
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 78201

NEHC 30884. The Brighter Side of the Balkans: Humor & Satire in Lit & Film. 100 Units.
In this course, we examine the poetics of laughter in the Balkans. In order to do so, we introduce humor as both cultural and transnational. We unpack the multiple layers of cultural meaning in the logic of “Balkan humor.” We also examine the functions and mechanisms of laughter, both in terms of cultural specificity and general practice and theories of humor. Thus, the study of Balkan humor will help us elucidate the “Balkan” and the “World,” and will provide insight not only into cultural mores and social relations, but into the very notion of “funny.” Our own laughter in class will be the best measure of our success – both cultural and intellectual.
Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Readings in English. Background in the Balkans will make the course easier, but is not required.
Equivalent Course(s): REES 29006,CMLT 26610,NEHC 20884,REES 39006
NEHC 30937. Nationalism, Colonialism & Postcolonialism in the M.E. 100 Units.
The seminar covers the history of the region during the 19th and 20th centuries. It looks at how the modern historiography of modern Middle Eastern studies shaped, and was shaped by, post-colonial studies, subaltern studies, and historical perceptions of urbanity, modernity, Orientlaism, and class. The class will pay heed to the fluid and constructed nature of Arab national culture, and the terminology used by Arab nationalists concerning "nahda," "revival," and "rebirth." We will explore various "golden ages" Arab nationalists envisioned, like pre-Islamic Semitic empires, the first Islamic state under the leadership of the Prophet Muhammad, the Ummayds, the Abbasids and Muslim Spain, as a way of analyzing the the constructed and temporal nature of national discourses. We will finally examine the distinction between Pan-Arab nationalism (qawmiyya), which considered Arab culture, history, and language as markers of one’s national identity, and often strove for political unity with other Arab states; and territorial-patriotic nationalism (wataniyya), which hailed the national cultures of particular Arab states (Egyptian, Iraqi, Lebanese), focusing on their geography, archaeology, and history the key features of national identity.
Instructor(s): O. Bashkin Terms Offered: Autumn

NEHC 38002. Islamic Art and Architecture of the Medieval Perso-Turkic Courts (11th–15th Centuries) 100 Units.
This course considers art and architecture patronized by the Seljuk, Mongol, and Timurid courts from Anatolia to Central Asia from the eleventh to the fifteenth centuries. While the princes of these courts were of Turkic and/or Mongol origin, they adopted many of the cultural and artistic expectations of Perso-Islamicate court life. Further, many objects and monuments patronized by these courts belong to artistic histories variously shared with non-Islamic powers from the Byzantine Empire to China. Questions of how modern scholars have approached and categorized the arts and architecture of these courts will receive particular attention. Each student will write a historiographic review essay with a research component.
Instructor(s): P. Berlekamp Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 38002, NEHC 28002, ARTH 28002

NEHC 39500. Introduction to the History and Culture of Armenia. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): H. Haroutunian Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 29500
NEHC 39860. Reason and Revelation in Islamic Thought. 100 Units.
This course engages with medieval Muslim discussions regarding the relationship between the universal human faculty of reason and the revealed information provided by prophets. What is the precise nature of each of these potential sources of knowledge? How do they relate to one another? What if they disagree? Primary texts read in class include works of theology, legal theory, and philosophy by authors such as al-Khattabi (d. 998), Ibn Sina (d. 1037), al-Ghazali (d. 1111), Ibn Rushd (d. 1198), Ibn al-Nafis (d. 1288), and Ibn Taymiyya (d. 1328).
Instructor(s): A. El-Shamsy Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): 3 years of Arabic or the equivalent

NEHC 40701. Sem: Iran and Central Asia 1. 100 Units.
The first quarter will take the form of a colloquium on the sources for and the literature on the political, social, economic, technological, and cultural history of Western and Central Asia from 900 to 1750. Specific topics will vary and focus on the Turks and the Islamic world, the Mongol universal empire, the age of Timur and the Turkmens, and the development of the "Gunpowder Empires." The second quarter will be devoted to the preparation of a major research paper.
Instructor(s): J. Woods Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Meets with HIST 58601
Equivalent Course(s): CMES 40701, HIST 78601

NEHC 40702. Sem: Iran and Central Asia 2. 100 Units.
A colloquium on the sources for and the literature on the political, social, economic, technological, and cultural history of Western and Central Asia from 900-1750. Specific topics will vary and focus on the Turks and the Islamic world, the Mongol universal empire, the age of Timur and the Turkmens, and the development of the "Gunpowder Empires." The second quarter of this two-course sequence will be devoted to the preparation of a major research paper.
Instructor(s): J. Woods Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): HIST 78601 or NEHC 40701

NEHC 41006. Colloquium: Late Antique Mediterranean 2. 100 Units.
Research problems in eastern, central, and western Mediterranean from the fourth to seventh century CE. Detailed investigation of relevant primary sources in Greek, Latin, and Arabic. In the winter quarter, we focus on research topics for the colloquium paper.
Instructor(s): W. Kaegi Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Upper-level undergraduates with consent of instructor; meets with HIST 71006.
Equivalent Course(s): ANCM 31516, CLAS 31516, HIST 41006

NEHC 49900. Reading and Research. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Note(s): Select section from faculty list
Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations - Near Eastern Languages Courses

**NELG 30301. Introduction to Comparative Semitics. 100 Units.**  
This course examines the lexical, phonological, and morphological traits shared by the members of the Semitic language family. We also explore the historical relationships among these languages and the possibility of reconstructing features of the parent speech community.  
Instructor(s): R. Hasselbach-Andee  
Terms Offered: Winter  
Prerequisite(s): Knowledge of two Semitic languages or one Semitic language and Historical Linguistics.  
Equivalent Course(s): NELG 20301  

**NELG 49900. Reading and Research. 100 Units.**  
No description available.  
Instructor(s): STAFF  
Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring  
Note(s): Select section from faculty list

Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations - Persian Courses

**PERS 30006. Survey of Persian Poetry, 10th to 15th Century. 100 Units.**  
Will cross list with SALC, Div, Comp Lit  
Instructor(s): F. Lewis  
Terms Offered: Winter  
Prerequisite(s): 2 Years of Persian  
Equivalent Course(s): PERS 20006  

**PERS 30220. Poetics/Politics of Modern Iran. 100 Units.**  
This course is intended for those students who have learned Persian well enough to start enjoying Persian poetry in the original language. Starting from the Constitutional Revolution of 1906, each session a new poem (if not more) by a new poet will be discussed against the socio-political background of the time. The poets will include some women poets also, and the poems range in form, style and subject matter from traditional to modern, from satirical to prison poems and issues of human/women's rights. The students are expected to prepare for each session, participate actively in discussions, be ready for short presentations based on the assigned secondary literature, and write an essay. Primary texts are read and recited in Persian; secondary readings, discussions, and papers are in English.  
Instructor(s): S. Ghahremani  
Terms Offered: Spring  
Prerequisite(s): Knowledge of Persian and consent of instructor  
Equivalent Course(s): PERS 20220
PERS 30338. Persian Lyric Poetry-2. 100 Units.
The ghazal developed from a lyrical poem in Arabic on the topic of heterosexual love, to a fixed form in Persian on love (often homoerotic) and loss, wine, praise of the patron/ruler, or meditation on the divine Beloved, to a melancholy meditation on the human condition and personal defeat. It took European romanticism by storm and has recently become a canonical form in English poetry. This class traces the development of the Persian ghazal from Rudaki (d. 941) up through Jami (d. 1492), with emphasis on some major practitioners of the form (Sana‘i, Attar, Sa`di, Rumi, Hafez, Jahan Malek Khatun, etc.).
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Topic: Ghazal poetry 1: Rudaki to Jami. PQ: 2 years of Persian or the equivalent

PERS 30339. Modern Persian Poetry-1. 100 Units.
The ghazal developed from a lyrical poem in Arabic on the topic of heterosexual love, to a fixed form in Persian on love (often homoerotic) and loss, wine, praise of the patron/ruler, or meditation on the divine Beloved, to a melancholy meditation on the human condition and personal defeat. It took European romanticism by storm and has recently become a canonical form in English poetry. This class traces the development of the Persian ghazal from Jami (d. 1492) through the 20th century, examining the Realist School poets (Maktab-e voqu`), the Fresh Style (Tazeh-gu), neo-Classical style, and modernist ghazal poets, examining questions of lyric form, traditional conventions and their adaptation, complexity, the ethics of defeatism, gendering of the form and the breakdown of traditional lyrical form into "ghazal-like" poems (ghazalvaareh), with a special focus on Vahshi, Sa`eb, Bidel, Hazin, Zib al-Nesa, Qorrat al-`Ayn, Iqbal, Simin-e Behbehani.
Instructor(s): F. Lewis
Prerequisite(s): Topic: Ghazal poetry 2 - Safavids to the Present. PQ: 2 year of Persian or the equivalent

PERS 49900. Reading and Research. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Note(s): Select section from faculty list

NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS - SUMERIAN COURSES
SUMR 49900. Reading and Research. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Note(s): Select section from faculty list
TURK 30501. Ottoman Turkish I. 100 Units.
A selection of Turkish texts in Arabic script, both printed and handwritten, introduced in order of difficulty, and ranging from the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Texts are drawn from chronicles, official documents, memoirs, poetry, and other genres.
Instructor(s): STAFF Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): TURK 20103 or consent of instructor

TURK 30502. Ottoman Turkish II. 100 Units.
A selection of Turkish texts in Arabic script, both printed and handwritten, introduced in order of difficulty, and ranging from the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Texts are drawn from chronicles, official documents, memoirs, poetry, and other genres.
Instructor(s): H. Karateke Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): TURK 30501

TURK 30503. Ottoman Turkish III. 100 Units.
A selection of Turkish texts in Arabic script, both printed and handwritten, introduced in order of difficulty, and ranging from the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Texts are drawn from chronicles, official documents, memoirs, poetry, and other genres.
Instructor(s): H. Karateke Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): TURK 30502

TURK 40586. Advanced Ottoman Readings I. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): H. Karateke Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): TURK 30503 or equivalent
Note(s): Open to qualified undergraduate students

TURK 40587. Advanced Ottoman Reading 2. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): H. Karateke Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Knowledge of basic Ottoman

TURK 40589. Advanced Ottoman Historical Texts. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): C. Fleischer Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Consent required
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 58301

TURK 40590. Advanced Ottoman Reading III. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): H. Karateke Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Knowledge of basic Ottoman