NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS

Department Website: http://nelc.uchicago.edu

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Majors in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC) at the University of Chicago pursue rigorous knowledge about a region of the world that is known as “the cradle of civilization” and the home of several important religious and cultural traditions, as well as one of the most important geopolitical areas of our contemporary world. NELC majors acquire languages; learn how archaeologists, economists, historians, linguists, literary scholars, and careful readers of legal, religious, economic, and other kinds of texts critically evaluate evidence; and acquire, largely in small class settings, analytical writing, thinking, and research skills that will help prepare them for a variety of careers.

Geographically centered on the Nile to Oxus and Danube to Indus region, NELC also embraces North Africa and Islamic Spain, as well as Central Asia and the Balkans in its ambit from prehistory to the present day. Students can gain expertise in a wide variety of languages, including the living spoken tongues of the modern Middle East and Central Asia (Arabic, Armenian, modern Hebrew, Kazakh, Persian, Turkish, and Uzbek) or languages that open gateways onto the ancient past and the scriptures of contemporary religious traditions (Aramaic, Babylonian, Biblical Hebrew, Coptic, Egyptian Hieroglyphics, Elamite, Ge’ez, Hittite, Middle and Old Persian, Ottoman, Syriac, Ugaritic, etc.).

In an interdisciplinary area studies department like NELC, majors learn about the region through primary sources (material, oral, or textual) and scholarly analysis, structuring their curriculum around various disciplines and methodologies, including archaeology, comparative literature, cultural and civilizational studies, economics and numismatics, gender studies, history (economic, political, religious, and social), human rights, public policy, and digital humanities approaches.

Areas of specialization within NELC include:

- Arabic Studies
- Armenian Studies
- Archaeology and Art of the Ancient Near East
- Classical Hebrew Language and Civilization
- Cuneiform Studies (including Assyriology, Hittitology, and Sumerology)
- Egyptology
- History (Ancient Near Eastern History, Islamic History, Modern Middle Eastern History)
- Islamic Thought (including Law, Sufism)
- Israeli and Jewish Studies (including Biblical and Modern Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac)
- Persian and Iranian Studies (Culture, Language, Literature, History, Religion)
- Semitic Languages and Literatures (Comparative Semitics, Northwest Semitics)
- Turkish and Ottoman Studies (Culture, History, Languages, Literatures)

Students who major in NELC who are interested in learning one or more of the languages we teach as a means of access to the cultures of the ancient Near East and/or the modern Middle East can do so in the Language and Culture Track of the NELC major and minor, while students who are more interested in developing their knowledge of the material cultures of the Near East and of the concepts and techniques of archaeology can do so in the Archaeology Track of the NELC major and minor. In consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies, each student chooses an area of specialization and devises a program of study that provides a sound basis for graduate work in that area or for a career in business, education, government, journalism, law, museology, public policy, public service, or a variety of other disciplines and professions.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for the NELC major vary quite substantially between the Language and Culture Track on the one hand, and the Archaeology Track on the other hand. Specific requirements for each track are described below. The Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Department Administrator are available to answer questions, discuss programs of study, and support students as they make their way through the major in NELC. In addition to using My Planner, students are encouraged to track their progress through requirements by using our major worksheet (available on the NELC website (http://nelc.uchicago.edu/undergraduate/)). NELC strongly encourages students to study abroad if they are able. Civilization sequences offered in the University of Chicago–sponsored Study Abroad programs at Istanbul, Marrakesh, Cairo, and Jerusalem (300 units in one quarter) fulfill the requirements of the NELC major in terms of civilization courses. Language courses taken at one of the aforementioned Study Abroad programs can also be counted towards the major, after evaluation
by the NELC coordinator for the language and approval by the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Students should consult the Study Abroad website (https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/) for further details. Courses, including FLAG summer language courses, that are taken at other institutions, foreign or domestic, fall under the category of transfer credits. Such courses must meet the requirements established by the College for current students (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/transfercredit/currentstudents/) of the University. While these courses may count as no-grade credits for a student's general coursework, transfer credits are not counted as quality grades toward the University of Chicago GPA. Therefore, they cannot be counted toward the NELC major or minor.

Thirteen courses and a Research Project are required for a NELC major.

**SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE TRACK**

Two or three quarters of one of the following civilization sequences:* 200-300

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEHC 20011 &amp; NEHC 20012 &amp; NEHC 20013 &amp; NEHC 20014 &amp; NEHC 20015 &amp; NEHC 20016 &amp; NEHC 20017</td>
<td>Ancient Empires I: The Hittite Empire and Ancient Empires II: The Ottoman Empire and Ancient Empires III: The Egyptian Empire of the New Kingdom and Ancient Empires IV: the Achaemenid Empire and Ancient Empires V: The Umayyad and Ancient Empires VI: The Assyrian Empire and Ancient Empires VII: Sumerians and Akkadians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEHC 20201-20202-20203</td>
<td>Islamicate Civilization I-II-III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEHC 20004-20005-20006</td>
<td>Ancient Near Eastern Thought and Literature I-II-III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEHC 20501-20502-20503</td>
<td>Islamic History and Society I-II-III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEHC 20601-20602-20603</td>
<td>Islamic Thought and Literature I-II-III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| JWSC 12000 & JWSC 12001 | Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to Medieval Period and Jewish Civilization II: Early Modern Period to 21st Century | +

Six courses in one Near Eastern language, or three courses each in two of the Near Eastern languages (e.g., Arabic, Armenian, Babylonian, Egyptian, Hebrew, Kazakh, Persian, Turkish, Uzbek) **

Three or four elective courses in the student's area of specialization ++ 300-400

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEHC 29999</td>
<td>Research Colloquium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Units</td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note that the course sequence on “Islamic Civilization” does not fulfill the general education requirement in civilization studies. All of the other NELC civilization sequences do fulfill the general education requirement. If a Near Eastern civilization sequence is used to meet the College general education requirement, a second Near Eastern civilization sequence is required for the NELC major. NEHC 20501-20502-20503 Islamic History and Society I-II-III will not be offered in 2024–25.

+ Students who wish to count the Spring Quarter course of the Jewish Civilization sequence (JWSC 1200x) toward the NELC major or minor must have completed both JWSC 12000 and JWSC 12001. See the Jewish Studies (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/jewishstudies/#jewishcivilizationsequence) page for details.

** Credit for language courses may not be granted by examination or petition.

++ These may consist of any NELC courses, including additional language courses, an additional civilization sequence, or NELC courses in areas such as archaeology, art, literature in translation, history, and religion. NEHC 29995 Research Project may be counted towards the elective requirement. Contact the NELC Director of Undergraduate Studies for questions about course requirements.

**SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS: ARCHAEOLOGY TRACK**

One introductory course to archaeology 100

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEAA 20100</td>
<td>Introduction to Archaeology</td>
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One course in geographic information science 100

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEAA 20061</td>
<td>Ancient Landscapes I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GISC 28100</td>
<td>Introduction to Geocomputation</td>
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</table>

Three methodologically oriented courses, chosen from among the following: * 300

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIGS 20021</td>
<td>Digital Archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAA 10020</td>
<td>Ceramic Analysis in Archaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEAA 20035</td>
<td>Introduction to Zooarchaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEAA 20062</td>
<td>Ancient Landscapes II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 26900</td>
<td>Archaeological Data Sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 28400</td>
<td>Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology: Approaches to the Past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 22265</td>
<td>Human Origins: Milestones in Human Evolution and the Fossil Record</td>
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</table>

Three courses in the archaeology, history, or culture of the region(s) of interest offered by NELC or another department, for example: 300

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEAA 20001-20002-20003-20006</td>
<td>Archaeology of the Ancient Near East I-II-III-VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAA 20501</td>
<td>Introduction to Islamic Archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EALC 28010</td>
<td>Archaeology of Anyang: Bronzes, Inscriptions, and World Heritage</td>
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<tr>
<td>EALC 28015</td>
<td>Archaeology of Bronze Age China</td>
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</table>

Two courses in a relevant foreign language, ancient or modern, chosen in consultation with the NELC Director of Undergraduate Studies. 200

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAT 22000</td>
<td>Statistical Methods and Applications **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or DlGS 20002</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics Using Python</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAA 20091</td>
<td>Field Archaeology **</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEHC 29899</td>
<td>Research Colloquium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Units 1300

* After consulting with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and having received approval, students may choose other undergraduate courses in archaeological methods or in the application of social theory in archaeological interpretation that may be offered in NELC or another department (e.g., archaeobotany, archaeometallurgy, archaeological conservation, ancient DNA, epigraphic methods, etc.).

+ This list is purely indicative. Students should discuss with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to establish a coherent list of electives in their areas and periods of interest.

** Students who have taken statistics to fulfill other requirements may substitute an approved elective.

++ This course entails participation in archaeological fieldwork with a University of Chicago faculty member or in an approved field school sponsored by another university. The fieldwork requirement for the major will often be fulfilled during the Summer Session for course credit from the University of Chicago or for transfer credit from another school. If the fieldwork is done without earning course credit, the student will substitute an additional elective chosen among the methodologically oriented courses or the courses in the archaeology, history, or culture of the region(s) of interest quoted above, or an additional language course. In any case, the student must engage in approved archaeological fieldwork as a requirement of the major.

**GRADING**

All courses used to meet requirements in the major must be taken for quality grades with the exception of the NEHC 29899 Research Colloquium, which is taken for P/F grading.

**ADVISING**

As soon as they declare their major in NELC, students must consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies to plan their programs of study. In Autumn Quarter of their fourth year, all NELC students must see the Director of Undergraduate Studies with an updated degree program and transcript.

**BA RESEARCH PROJECT**

NELC majors are required to elaborate a substantial Research Project during their fourth year. In most cases, students choose to write a BA thesis, in the form of an original academic essay of approximately 30 to 50 pages. Upon agreement with instructors and the Director of Undergraduate Studies, the NELC major Research Project also allows for less traditional forms of knowledge production, such as (but not exclusively limited to) artistic expressions supported by a research question, various forms of research-oriented endeavors using computational methods (including geographic information systems), etc.

The timeline below assumes a Spring Quarter graduation. Students who expect to graduate in other quarters should consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

**Year 3: Spring Quarter**

NELC majors in their third year should discuss possible topics for their Research Project with NELC faculty members with whom they have worked or who have expertise in their topic. This may grow out of a paper written from a course or may be an entirely new project.
After choosing a topic and narrowing down its focus, students are responsible to request a member of the NELC faculty to serve as their research adviser, who will help them further conceive the scope and aims of the project and provide guidance about methods and sources for carrying out their research.

Students must formally file the Research Topic Registration Form with their faculty adviser’s signature with the NELC department office before the end of their third year (by Monday of ninth week of Spring Quarter).

Year 4: Autumn Quarter

Students are required to register for NEHC 29899 (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/search/?P=NEHC%2029899) Research Colloquium in Autumn Quarter of their fourth year. NEHC 29899 is a workshop course designed to assist students in elaborating their Research Projects. The instructor works closely with students and their faculty advisers to assist in all aspects of conceiving, researching, and writing. A passing grade (P) for NEHC 29899 depends on full attendance and participation throughout the quarter and is required to graduate with a NELC major. Students who pursue a double major and take an equivalent seminar in their other major may petition the Director of Undergraduate Studies in NELC to have this seminar be counted in lieu of NEHC 29899.

Year 4: Winter Quarter

NELC majors are encouraged to enroll with the Director of Undergraduate Studies for an optional one-quarter independent study course NEHC 29995 Research Project. This will allow time in their schedules over Winter Quarter to work on and revise their projects under the guidance of their faculty adviser and the instructor in charge of the Autumn Research Colloquium. Students will receive a quality grade for this course, equivalent to the final Research Project grade, reported in the Spring Quarter.

Year 4: Spring Quarter

The completed Research Project must be submitted to the NELC office by Monday of third week in Spring Quarter. For theses, students should email a PDF copy of their research to the Department Administrator (students should discuss with their faculty adviser whether they prefer a paper copy); for digital projects and other non-traditional projects, students are responsible for discussing in advance with their faculty adviser and the Department Administrator the format under which their work should be submitted. The Department Administrator will distribute the Research Projects to the faculty adviser. Students who wish to request an extension for submission must discuss it ahead of time with their faculty adviser and the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Extensions are at the discretion of the faculty adviser and are not automatic. Students who submit their thesis later than Monday of Week 5 of Spring Quarter will not be eligible for special honors and are at risk of not being able to graduate in that quarter.

The faculty adviser will grade the Research Project and submit grades and honors recommendations to the Director of Undergraduate Studies by Monday of fifth week in Spring Quarter.

Double Majors

Students intending to double major may, with the permission of the NELC Director of Undergraduate Studies, write a single Research Project that is designed to meet the requirements of both majors. Approval from both Directors of Undergraduate Studies is required. A consent form, to be signed by the Directors of Undergraduate Studies, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation.

Research Funding

Students are encouraged to begin the reading and research for their Research Project in the summer before their fourth year. Students seeking research grants are encouraged to reach out early to the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the College Center for Research and Fellowships (https://ccrf.uchicago.edu).

Special Honors

Special Honors are granted to students who have achieved extraordinary distinction in their course work and Research Project. To be eligible for special honors, students must have an overall GPA of 3.25 or higher, they must have a NELC GPA of 3.5 or higher, and they must have submitted their Research Project to the department no later than the Monday of Week 5 of their graduation quarter. To be considered for special honors, students must receive a grade of A on their Research Project and be proposed by their faculty adviser and the Director of Undergraduate Studies to the Humanities Collegiate Division, where the final decision is made.

Prizes

The department awards the Justin Palmer Prize annually to the Research Project judged to be the most outstanding. The Director of Undergraduate Studies makes this determination in consultation with the department chair and faculty members. This monetary prize is made possible by a generous gift from the family of Justin Palmer, AB ’04, who completed a minor in NELC.

Minor Program in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Students in the College with an interest in the languages, cultures, and archaeology of the Middle East or of the ancient Near East may pursue a minor in NELC. Completion of this minor certifies that students'
undergraduate course work at the University of Chicago has prepared them with language skills, field-specific knowledge and methods, and cultural competency that can give them an advantage on the job market for a wide variety of careers—in business, in medicine or law, in the public sector, or in museums and cultural heritage.

Students who wish to take a minor in NELC must meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor. Students must submit the Consent to Complete a Minor Program (https://college.uchicago.edu/advising/tools-forms/) form to their College adviser by the deadline above. The Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Department Administrator are available to answer questions, discuss programs of study, and support students as they make their way through the minor in NELC. In addition to using My Planner, students are encouraged to track their progress through requirements by using our minor worksheet, which can be found on the NELC (https://nelc.uchicago.edu/undergraduate/why-study-near-east/) website (https://nelc.uchicago.edu/undergraduate/why-study-near-east/).

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR

Students may choose one of three tracks: Language, Culture, or Archaeology. The first two tracks require a two- or three-quarter NELC civilization sequence which can be taken on campus or in one of the Study Abroad programs focusing on the Middle East (see Major Requirements for more detail on civilization sequences). In addition, the Language Track requires three courses of one NELC language at any level. Students using a NELC sequence to satisfy the general education requirement in civilization studies may seek approval from the department to substitute additional language course work in place of the civilization requirement in the minor. The Culture Track allows students to focus on such topics as history, religion, or literature in translation and does not have a language requirement. NELC minors in the Language and Culture Tracks are encouraged to participate in the University of Chicago-sponsored Study Abroad programs at Istanbul, Marrakesh, Cairo, and Jerusalem (see Major Requirements for more detail on Study Abroad). The Archaeology Track requires NEAA 20100 Introduction to Archaeology, one introductory course in geographical systems analysis (either NEAA 20061 Ancient Landscapes I or GISC 28100 Introduction to Geocomputation), two methodologically oriented courses (see Major Requirements for more detail on these courses), and two elective courses in the archaeology, history, or culture of the region(s) of interest offered by NELC or another department.

The six courses in the minor may not be double counted with a student’s major(s) or with other minors, and they may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades.

Language Track Sample Minor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEHC 20004-20005-20006</td>
<td>Ancient Near Eastern Thought and Literature I-II-III</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEBR 10101-10102-10103</td>
<td>Elementary Classical Hebrew I-II-III</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Language Track Sample Minor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARAB 20101-20102-20103</td>
<td>Intermediate Arabic I-II-III</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEHC 20601-20602-20603</td>
<td>Islamic Thought and Literature I-II-III</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
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<td><strong>600</strong></td>
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Culture Track Sample Minor

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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEHC 20011 &amp; NEHC 20012 &amp; NEHC 20013</td>
<td>Ancient Empires I: The Hittite Empire and Ancient Empires II: The Ottoman Empire and Ancient Empires III: The Egyptian Empire of the New Kingdom</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEHC 20004-20005-20006</td>
<td>Ancient Near Eastern Thought and Literature I-II-III</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
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Archaeology Track Sample Minor

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEAA 20100</td>
<td>Introduction to Archaeology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAA 20020</td>
<td>Ceramic Analysis in Archaeology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAA 20035</td>
<td>Introduction to Zooarchaeology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAA 20003</td>
<td>Archaeology of the Ancient Near East III: Levant</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAA 20006</td>
<td>Archaeology of the Ancient Near East VI: Egypt</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GISC 28100</td>
<td>Introduction to Geocomputation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
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ANCIENT ANATOLIAN LANGUAGES COURSES

AANL 10102. Elementary Hittite II. 100 Units.
As part of a three-quarter sequence, this second quarter we finish the grammar and start reading Hittite texts, introducing the student to the various genres that Hittite literature has to offer. We will continue the introduction of important tools of the field and students will acquire further routine in reading cuneiform.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): AANL 10101 or equivalent

AANL 10103. Elementary Hittite III. 100 Units.
This is the third in a three-quarter sequence that covers the basic grammar and cuneiform writing system of the Hittite language. It also familiarizes the student with the field’s tools (i.e., dictionaries, lexica, sign list). Readings come from all periods of Hittite history (1650 to 1180 B.C.).
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): AANL 10102 or equivalent

AANL 20302. Luwian-2: Second Millennium Texts. 100 Units.
This course focuses on the Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions of the second millennium BC. Since Hieroglyphic Luwian I (AANL 20301) is required this course will not offer a grammatical overview but start with the texts immediately.
Instructor(s): Goedegebuure, Petra Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): AANL 20301/1 Hieroglyphic Luwian I

AANL 20501. Lycian. 100 Units.
This course introduces the Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions of the first millennium BC (ca. 500 to 300). After reading a series of tomb inscriptions, we venture into the larger historical inscriptions that include the Lycian-Greek-Aramaic trilingual of Xanthos.
Instructor(s): P. Goedegebuure Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Elementary Hittite or consent from instructor
Equivalent Course(s): AANL 30501, ANCM 30800

ARABIC COURSES

ARAB 10101-10102-10103. Elementary Arabic I-II-III.
This sequence concentrates on the acquisition of speaking, reading, and aural skills in modern formal Arabic. The class meets for five days a week, 50 minutes each day.

ARAB 10101. Elementary Arabic I. 100 Units.
Elementary Arabic is a 3-course, year-long sequence intended for complete beginners. It targets both literacy in the formal, standard, written form of Arabic (fuSHa), and also integrates the spoken dialect ('ammiyyah) when needed. Through in-class practice and intensive homework projects, students will gain a solid foundation in the four skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening). At the end of the sequence, students will gain basic functional fluency on a variety of personal topics (self, family, studies, location, daily activities, etc.). These courses adopt a project-based approach to learning, and therefore meet three times a week for 80 minutes.
Instructor(s): Aidan Kaplan, Osama Abu Eledam, Hala Abdel Mobdy Terms Offered: Autumn

ARAB 10102. Elementary Arabic II. 100 Units.
This sequence concentrates on the acquisition of speaking, reading, and aural skills in modern formal Arabic.
Instructor(s): Aidan Kaplan, Zainab Hermes, Hala Abdel Mobdy Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 10101 or equivalent

ARAB 10103. Elementary Arabic III. 100 Units.
This sequence concentrates on the acquisition of speaking, reading, and aural skills in modern formal Arabic.
Instructor(s): Zainab Hermes, Aidan Kaplan, Osama Abu Eledam Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 10102 or equivalent

ARAB 10123. Summer Intensive Arabic Level 1. 300 Units.
Summer Intensive Arabic Level I is an eight-week course designed to introduce complete novices to the fundamentals of Arabic in the four language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). Classes are small and use the Alif Baa’ and al-Kitaab textbook (2nd edition), supplemented by authentic materials, both to learn the language and to experience the culture. Cultural proficiency is an integral part of the language instruction (forms of address, youth phrases, phrases used among intimate friends, etc.). Students will spend 4-5 hours per day practicing using Arabic in classroom activities and should plan on studying an additional 3-4 hours most afternoons and evenings. In addition to class time, a full day trip to an Arab neighborhood in Chicago provides an opportunity to use Arabic in an authentic cultural context. Cultural exposure will also be supplemented through guest speakers, songs, and films. At the conclusion of the course, students can expect to have mastered the sounds and shapes of the Arabic alphabet and to be able to speak about themselves and their world in Modern Standard Arabic, as well as to engage in conversations about familiar topics with native speakers, to comprehend basic texts, and to use some common phrases in colloquial Egyptian and Shaami.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Summer

ARAB 10250. Colloquial Levantine Arabic. 100 Units.
Spoken Levantine Arabic is a proficiency-based course designed to develop the linguistic skills necessary for personal day-to-day life. The course focuses on spoken rather than Standard written Arabic, and will therefore target primarily the oral/aural skills. Through the knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic and the introduction of colloquial vocabulary, expressions and grammar, the course will build the students’ competence in spoken Arabic. Students will also be introduced to the Levantine culture of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine.
Instructor(s): O. abu-Eledam Terms Offered: Autumn

ARAB 10257. Colloquial Levantine Arabic II. 100 Units.
Colloquial Levantine Arabic is a proficiency-based course designed to develop the linguistic skills necessary for personal day-to-day life. The course focuses on spoken rather than Standard written Arabic, and will therefore target primarily the oral/aural skills. Through the knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic and the introduction of colloquial vocabulary, expressions and grammar, the course will build the students’ competence in spoken Arabic. Students will also be introduced to the Levantine culture.
Instructor(s): Osama Abu-Eledam Terms Offered: Winter

ARAB 15002. Elementary Arabic in Jerusalem. 100 Units.
ARAB 15003. Intermediate Arabic in Jerusalem. 100 Units.
ARAB 15004. Intermediate Arabic in Jerusalem. 100 Units.
ARAB 15005. Advanced Arabic in Jerusalem. 100 Units.
ARAB 15006. Advanced Arabic in Jerusalem. 100 Units.
ARAB 15007. Elementary Arabic in Cairo. 100 Units.
Elementary Arabic in Cairo
ARAB 15008. Elementary Arabic in Cairo. 100 Units.
Elementary Arabic in Cairo
ARAB 15009. Intermediate Arabic in Cairo. 100 Units.
Intermediate Arabic in Cairo
ARAB 15010. Intermediate Arabic in Cairo. 100 Units.
Intermediate Arabic in Cairo
ARAB 15011. Advanced Arabic in Cairo. 100 Units.
Advanced Arabic in Cairo
ARAB 15012. Advanced Arabic in Cairo. 100 Units.
Advanced Arabic in Cairo
ARAB 15013. Elementary Arabic in Morocco. 100 Units.
ARAB 15014. Elementary Arabic in Morocco. 100 Units.
ARAB 15015. Intermediate Arabic in Morocco. 100 Units.
ARAB 15016. Intermediate Arabic in Morocco. 100 Units.
ARAB 15017. Advanced Arabic in Morocco. 100 Units.
ARAB 15018. Advanced Arabic in Morocco. 100 Units.
ARAB 15019. Elementary Arabic in Granada. 100 Units.
ARAB 15020. Elementary Arabic in Granada. 100 Units.
ARAB 15021. Intermediate Arabic in Granada. 100 Units.
ARAB 15022. Intermediate Arabic in Granada. 100 Units.
ARAB 15023. Advanced Arabic in Granada. 100 Units.
ARAB 15024. Advanced Arabic in Granada. 100 Units.
ARAB 20100. Intermediate Modern Arabic for CPS Students. 100 Units.
StarTalk Arabic-Year 2
ARAB 20101-20102-20103. Intermediate Arabic I-II-III.
This sequence concentrates on speaking, reading, and aural skills at the intermediate level of modern formal Arabic.
ARAB 20101. Intermediate Arabic I. 100 Units.
The first quarter of Intermediate Arabic
Instructor(s): Aidan Kaplan, Zainab Hermes Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 10103 or equivalent

**ARAB 20102. Intermediate Arabic II. 100 Units.**
The second quarter of Intermediate Arabic
Instructor(s): Aidan Kaplan, Zainab Hermes Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 20101 or equivalent

**ARAB 20103. Intermediate Arabic III. 100 Units.**
ARAB 20103 is the spring quarter continuation of the Intermediate Arabic sequence that began with ARAB 20101 last fall, and continued with ARAB 20102 in the winter. We will continue to work through the second half of Al-Kitaab Part 2. As in any language course, we address all four of the fundamental skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. A particular focus of this sequence, however, is ensuring that students have a solid, comprehensive understanding of the rules of Arabic syntax. In addition to readings and exercises from the textbook, we will increasingly make use of articles from Arabic-language news media.
Instructor(s): Abdallah Soufan Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 20102 or equivalent

**ARAB 20110. Arabic for STEM. 100 Units.**
Arabic for STEM is an advanced Arabic course that aims to develop students’ ability to communicate about science, technology, engineering, and math in Arabic. Over the course of the term, students build towards two parallel goals: (1) to be able to provide science and math tutoring in Arabic at the elementary or high school level, and (2) for STEM majors, to be able to discuss their studies in Arabic, or, for non-STEM majors, to be able to discuss current technical topics of interest in Arabic. Students work towards these goals by studying a series of modules, for example: mathematics & statistics, chemistry & climate change, physics & space exploration, and data & artificial intelligence.
Instructor(s): Aidan Kaplan Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): 3 years of Arabic

**ARAB 20111. Arabic for Business. 100 Units.**
For both graduates and undergraduates. Arabic for business is designed to improve your everyday spoken and written Arabic and specially to promote fluency in business communication. This course explores the language of Arabic business as used in readings, correspondence, and documents. It prepares students for successful communication in the Arabic-speaking business world. The course builds upon students’ existing knowledge with an emphasis on practical, real-life business applications of Arabic language vocabulary, structure and functionality. Additionally, its aim is to provide students with the basic cross-cultural understanding, and the accuracy in spoken and written communication necessary to effectively participate in the Arabic speaking business world.
Instructor(s): Osama Abu Eledam Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Students are required to have an equivalent of Intermediate Arabic or permission from the instructor.

**ARAB 20114. Introduction to Arabic Linguistics. 100 Units.**
This course is an introduction to Arabic linguistics, the scientific study of language and its structure.
Instructor(s): Zainab Hermes Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): three years of Arabic or the consent of the instructor.

**ARAB 20115. Colloquial Egyptian Arabic Language and Culture I. 100 Units.**
Colloquial Egyptian Arabic Language and Culture I
Instructor(s): Zainab Hermes Terms Offered: Autumn

**ARAB 20116. Colloquial Egyptian Arabic Language and Culture II. 100 Units.**
Colloquial Egyptian Arabic Language and Culture
Instructor(s): Hala Abdel Mobdy Terms Offered: Winter

**ARAB 20117. Colloquial Egyptian Arabic Language and Culture III. 100 Units.**
This is the third course in the sequence of "Colloquial Egyptian Arabic Language & Culture". In this course, students will engage in the activation and development of the language taught in the previous 2 courses through engaging with content domains of relevance in 2025. Students will activate their proficiency in colloquial Egyptian across all 4 skills. The materials students will read and listen to will be selected based on their authenticity and relevance. This input will help students achieve a practical proficiency in the productive skills (speaking and writing). The course will have a number of quizzes and mini-presentations, and one final creative project that involves all 4 skills (research, writing, listening, and oral presentation) as well as culture.
Instructor(s): Noha Forster Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Colloquial Egyptian Arabic Language and Culture I & II or instructor’s permission

**ARAB 20123. Summer Intensive Arabic Level II. 300 Units.**
Summer Intensive Arabic Level 2 is designed for students who have completed the equivalent of Alif Baa’ and al-Kitaab Part One. In this 8-week summer course in Arabic, instructors will make full use of the abundant online resources and real-time interactions with native speakers to achieve the course objective of intermediate high proficiency in the four skills. Students will improve and refine their language skills using al-Kitaab part 2 (3rd edition), along with authentic film and video clips, social media posts, songs, stories, poems, and articles.
Cultural proficiency is an integral part of the language instruction, as students immerse themselves in readings (literary and journalistic) and engage in conversations with their classmates and with guest lecturers/presenters. Students will also extend their language and cultural skills by working on songs and film extracts. The class will help students develop their ability to initiate and sustain discussion on topics of general interest and to present information and simple narratives in Modern Standard Arabic; to understand a wide range of written genres in Arabic, including formal writing, journalistic texts, and less formal styles; to write and speak with increasing accuracy and fluency; and to carry out basic research with non-technical texts.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Summer

ARAB 20410. Introduction to Arabic and Islamic Studies. 100 Units.

This course is designed for graduate students who wish to learn about the tools, primary and secondary sources, references, journals, distinct subfields, and electronic resources available to researchers in Arabic and Islamic Studies. We will acquire first-hand knowledge and practice of basic skills that will help professionalize students in the field, and will discuss methodological and historiographical issues related to the study of Islamicate civilization in various historical, cultural, political, and religious frameworks.

Instructor(s): Mehmetcan Akpinar Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Basic ability to work with Classical Arabic is required.

Note(s): This course meets the HS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): ARAB 40010, ISLM 40010, NEHC 40010, RLST 20410, NEHC 20410

ARAB 20601. High Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I. 100 Units.

High Intermediate Arabic, the modern track, provides students with a full academic year to activate the language and grammar studied in the first two years, while expanding their cultural and literary knowledge of the Arab world. This three-quarter sequence is taught in Arabic and focuses on all four language skills. The purpose of this sequence is conceived of functionally (what can students do) rather than with an eye to finishing a given textbook. It will have reached its objective if each student leaves with a clearly improved ability to produce oral and written Arabic in a variety of contexts (personal and professional correspondence, description, prescription, comparison narration, argumentation, etc.), to listen and understand spoken MSA, and to read a variety of texts (short stories, a novel, media writing, poetry, social media, opinion pieces, etc.) and a deepened understanding of the diversity of the Arab experience. An important component of the course is taking the learning outside the classroom: through visits to an Arab neighborhood, interviews of Arabs in Chicago, producing a play.

Instructor(s): Noha Forster Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): ARAB 20103 or equivalent

Note(s): Open to qualified undergraduates with consent of the instructor

ARAB 20602. High Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic II. 100 Units.

Arabic Through Debate: Taking debate as its central fulcrum, the course will develop all four language skills: debaters must read on the proposition topic, prepare their arguments in writing, speak clearly to an audience, and listen carefully to their team mates and to the arguments of the opposing team. In the process, they will be immersed in Arab culture (targeted expressions and historical references, of-the-moment issues, etc.). Course Objectives a) Expanding student vocabulary and structures into the abstract, analytic realm, i.e., placing them solidly in the advanced ACTFL levels (see descriptions of ACTFL standards/levels: https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/public/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines2012_FINAL.pdf b) Improving student speech techniques: pronunciation, intonation/voice modulation, pausing, emphasis, gesturing, visual communication c) Improving listening and writing skills and expanding them to include topics of general and academic interest d) Through a thoughtful selection of debate propositions, exposing students to some salient social, cultural, and political themes of importance to the Arab public e) Sharpening the logical argumentative skills of students

Instructor(s): Noha Forster Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): ARAB 20601 or equivalent

ARAB 20603. High Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic III. 100 Units.

Arabic Through Extensive Reading In this course, students will read a whole work, most often, but not exclusively, a novel or play. Nevertheless, the course advances student proficiency in all 4 skills. Naturally, reading is a central activity of this course. Students in the Intermediate High range* can expect to feel more solidly comfortable in that level, or to go beyond it to the Advanced level. Students will improve their reading through a number of essays/reflections on the novel. The course is taught in Arabic, so, students will be negotiating meaning amongst themselves by discussing the novel. In addition, the presentational mode will be exercised in a series of prepared class presentations. To improve their listening skills, students will work on video materials connected to the novel, testing their abilities through worksheets. While no new grammar will be introduced in a formal manner, as students read the novel and use the writing book, they will be reviewing grammar studied earlier. In addition to the novel, students will benefit from guest speakers in our classroom.

Instructor(s): Hala Abdel Mobdy Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): ARAB 20602 or equivalent

ARAB 20701. High Intermediate Classical Arabic I. 100 Units.

The high intermediate (third year) classical Arabic class is intended for students who have learned the essentials of modern fu##ā and who are beginning to read with some fluency. The goal is that by the end of the year, they will have mastered the essential features of classical grammar, as it differs from modern standard practice; that they will have significantly expanded their vocabulary, particularly as related to classical texts; that they will
have read excerpts from a range of classical genres and will be able to tackle new texts on their own. Students with an interest in exploring the textual world of classical and medieval Islam will develop the necessary skills to engage with primary Arabic texts with increased confidence.

Instructor(s): Mehmetcan Akpinar
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 20103 or equivalent

ARAB 20702. High Intermediate Classical Arabic II. 100 Units.
Second quarter of Classical High Intermediate Arabic
Instructor(s): Mehmetcan Akpinar
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 20701 or equivalent

ARAB 20703. High Intermediate Classical Arabic III. 100 Units.
Third quarter of Classical High Intermediate Arabic
Instructor(s): Mehmetcan Akpinar
Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARAB 20702 or equivalent

ARAB 29001. Arabic Through Film. 100 Units.
This course immerses the student in Arabic through the genre of film, specifically, Egyptian film, a potent and pervasive medium since Arabs started making films in the 1920s, but more pervasive with the advent of television in the early 1960s. Proceeding chronologically, we examine the Egyptian film through distinct stages, from the early musicals and romantic comedies of the forties and fifties, to the slew of post-1952 films offering new notions of the nation, of citizens, of womanhood, to the films of the 1970s with their commentary on the new capitalist society Sadat espoused, to the nuanced realism and focus on individual angst of the 1980s and 90s, to the gritty realism of the pre and post Arab Spring period.
Instructor(s): Hala Abdelmonem
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): 2 years of MSA or equivalent

NEAR EASTERN ART AND ARCHEOLOGY COURSES

NEAA 20002. Archaeology of the Ancient Near East II: Anatolia. 100 Units.
This course will survey the archaeological record of ancient Anatolia (modern Turkey) from the start of the Pre-Pottery Neolithic period (ca. 9500 BCE) to the end of the Iron Age (ca. 550 BCE). The material will cover a selection of significant archaeological sites designed to illustrate the diversity of cultures in Anatolia and to demonstrate broader regional patterns and themes. The presentation of sites will be accompanied by readings and discussions on the interpretation of archaeological data.

Instructor(s): James Osborne
Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Taking these courses in sequence is not required. This sequence does not meet the general education requirement in civilization studies. This course fulfills the requirements of a survey course in Anatolian civilization as defined by the Ancient PhD programs in NELC and the MA program in the CMES.

Equivalent Course(s): NEAA 30002

NEAA 20030. The Rise of the State in the Ancient Near East. 100 Units.
This course introduces the background and development of the first urbanized civilizations in the Near East in the period from 9000 to 2200 BC. In the first half of this course, we examine the archaeological evidence for the first domestication of plants and animals and the earliest village communities in the "fertile crescent" (i.e., the Levant, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia). The second half of this course focuses on the economic and social transformations that took place during the development from simple, village-based communities to the emergence of the urbanized civilizations of the Sumerians and their neighbors in the fourth and third millennia BC.

Instructor(s): G. Stein
Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This course fulfills the requirements of a survey course in Ancient Near Eastern civilizations as defined by the Ancient PhD programs in NELC and the MA program in the CMES.

Equivalent Course(s): NEAA 30030, ANTH 26715, ANTH 36715

NEAA 20061-20062. Ancient Landscapes I-II.
The landscape of the Near East contains a detailed and subtle record of environmental, social, and economic processes that have obtained over thousands of years. Landscape analysis is therefore proving to be fundamental to an understanding of the processes that underpinned the development of ancient Near Eastern society. This sequence provides an overview of the ancient cultural landscapes of this heartland of early civilization from the early stages of complex societies in the fifth and sixth millennia B.C. to the close of the Early Islamic period around the tenth century A.D.

NEAA 20061. Ancient Landscapes I. 100 Units.
This is a two-course sequence that introduces students to theory and method in landscape studies and the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to analyze archaeological, anthropological, historical, and environmental data. Course one covers the theoretical and methodological background necessary to understand spatial approaches to landscape and the fundamentals of using ESRI's ArcGIS software, and further guides students in developing a research proposal. Course two covers more advanced GIS-based analysis (using vector, raster, and satellite remote sensing data) and guides students in carrying out their own spatial research project. In both courses, techniques are introduced through the discussion of case studies (focused on the archaeology of the Middle East) and through demonstration of software skills.
During supervised laboratory times, the various techniques and analyses covered will be applied to sample archaeological data and also to data from a region/topic chosen by the student.

Instructor(s): Mehrnoush Soroush
Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 26710, CEGU 30061, GISC 30061, ANTH 36710, CEGU 20061, GISC 20061, NEAA 30061

NEAA 20062. Ancient Landscapes II. 100 Units.
This is a two-course sequence that introduces students to theory and method in landscape studies and the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to analyze archaeological, anthropological, historical, and environmental data. Course one covers the theoretical and methodological background necessary to understand spatial approaches to landscape and the fundamentals of using ESRI’s ArcGIS software, and further guides students in developing a research proposal. Course two covers more advanced GIS-based analysis (using vector, raster, and satellite remote sensing data) and guides students in carrying out their own spatial research project. In both courses, techniques are introduced through the discussion of case studies (focused on the archaeology of the Middle East) and through demonstration of software skills. During supervised laboratory times, the various techniques and analyses covered will be applied to sample archaeological data and also to data from a region/topic chosen by the student.

Instructor(s): Mehrnoush Soroush
Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): NEAA 20061

Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 26711, NEAA 30062, CEGU 20062, GISC 30062, GISC 20062, CEGU 30062, ANTH 36711

NEAA 20091. Field Archaeology. 100 Units.
This course entails four weeks of full-time, hands-on training in field archaeology in an excavation directed by a University of Chicago faculty member. At the Tell Keisan site in Israel, students will learn techniques of excavation and digital recording of the finds; attend evening lectures; and participate in weekend field trips. Academic requirements include the completion of assigned readings and a final written examination. For more information about this archaeological field opportunity in Summer 2020, see http://keisan.uchicago.edu. Students who are enrolled in this course will pay a Summer Session tuition fee in addition to the cost of participation in the dig. UChicago College students are eligible to apply for College Research Scholar grants to fund their participation.

Instructor(s): David Schloen

Equivalent Course(s): HIST 20091, CLAS 30091, CLCV 20091, ANTH 26612

NEAA 20100. Introduction to Archaeology. 100 Units.
Archaeology is the study of the material evidence of past human activity. This course, which is offered every year in the Autumn Quarter, explores the history of archaeology as a discipline and the methods used by archaeologists to obtain evidence about past human activity via excavations, surface surveys, and remote-sensing technologies such as satellite imagery and ground-penetrating radar, with emphasis on archaeological fieldwork in the Middle East. This course also surveys the latest methods used to date, classify, and analyze various kinds of evidence after it has been obtained. And since archaeological data is always collected and interpreted within an intellectual framework of theoretical conceptions concerning human society, culture, and history, this course provides a brief overview of "archaeological theory," i.e., the uses made by archaeologists of a wide range of different social theories that may lead to quite different interpretations of the same data. This topic is explored in more depth in a companion course on "Social Theory and Ancient Studies" (NEHC 20010/30010), which is offered in alternate years in the Winter Quarter.

Instructor(s): David Schloen
Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): NEAA 30100

NEAA 20122. Mesopotamian Archaeology II: States to Empires. 100 Units.
Intro to Mesopotamian Archaeology.

Instructor(s): McMahon, Augusta
Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): NEAA 20001

Equivalent Course(s): NEAA 30122

NEAA 20162. Topics: Mesopotamian History II: Uruk Mesopotamia and Neighbor. 100 Units.
The Uruk period (4th millennium BC) saw the emergence of the earliest known state societies, urbanism, kingship, writing, and colonial network extending from Mesopotamia across the Jazira and into neighboring resource zones in the Taurus and Zagros mountains. This seminar examines Uruk Mesopotamia and neighboring regions from several perspectives â€” an examination of key sites in Mesopotamia and contemporaneous local late chalcolithic polities in Syria, southeast Anatolia and Iran. The seminar also considers the main theoretical issues involved in understanding inter-regional interaction in the social, economic, and political organization of this period.

Instructor(s): G. Stein
Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Any introductory course in Near Eastern archaeology.

Equivalent Course(s): NEAA 30162

NEAA 20322. Ancient Levant-II: The Iron Age and Persian Period. 100 Units.
This course surveys the archaeology and history of the Levant from the end of the Bronze Age around 1100 BCE to the Roman conquest of the region in 64-63 BCE.
Instructor(s): Timothy Harrison  Terms Offered: Spring Winter
Note(s): This course fulfills the requirements of a survey course in Levant civilization as defined by the Ancient PhD programs in NELC and the MA program in the CMES.
Equivalent Course(s): NEAA 30322

NEAA 20511. The Archaeology of Egypt I. 100 Units.
This course provides an overview of the archaeology of Egypt, focusing on data from the Paleolithic Period to the Second Intermediate Period, around 1,600 BCE. It introduces fundamental methods and approaches to the archaeological record, surveying significant sites, objects, art, and architecture to understand various aspects of culture, society, and history. While Egypt is well-known for its pyramids, temples and tombs, we will not only examine such constructions, but also explore how material culture can offer us insights on such themes as power and inequality, human-environment relations, urbanism, identity, cross-cultural interactions, collapse, and transformation. We will also consider the origins and legacies of Egyptology while engaging with diverse perspectives on the past, and how Egypt’s rich cultural heritage continues to be valued, used, and contested.
Instructor(s): Anna-Latifa Mourad-Cizcek  Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): NEAA 30511

NEAR EASTERN HISTORY AND CIVILIZATIONS COURSES

NEHC 10101. Introduction to the Middle East. 100 Units.
Prior knowledge of the Middle East not required. This course aims to facilitate a general understanding of some key factors that have shaped life in this region, with primary emphasis on modern conditions and their background, and to provide exposure to some of the region’s rich cultural diversity. This course can serve as a basis for the further study of the history, politics, and civilizations of the Middle East.
Instructor(s): Owen Green  Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 15801

NEHC 11040. Introduction to the Qur’an. 100 Units.
The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the text and context of the Qur’an. Emphasis is placed upon both the historical setting as well as the thematic and literary features, major biblical figures, and foundational narratives of the Qur’an. Explorations of medieval exegetical literature on the Qur’an and its reception in the early (8th - 10th century CE) and medieval periods (11th - 15th century CE) will feature in this course.
Instructor(s): Mehmetcan Akpinar  Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This course meets the HS or SCSR Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students. This course counts as a Gateway course for RLST majors/minors.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 30040, ISLM 30040, FNDL 11040, MDVL 11040, RLST 11040

NEHC 12006. Jewish Spaces and Places, Imagined and Real. 100 Units.
What makes a ghetto, a ghetto? What determines the architectural form of synagogues? Taught in Special Collections in Regenstein Library and making extensive use of the textual and visual sources there, this course will analyze how Jews (in all their diversity) and non-Jews defined Jewish spaces and places. Sources will include: Jewish law and customary practice, cookbooks, etiquette guides, prints, films, novels, maps, memoirs, architectural drawings and photographs, and tourist guides. We may also take a field trip to the Oak Woods Cemetery. The focus will be on Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, but we will also venture back into the early modern period and across the Mediterranean to Palestine/Israel and North Africa and the Atlantic to the Caribbean and the Americas. We will study both actually existing structures and texts and visual culture in which Jewish places and spaces are imagined or vilified. Parallel to our work with primary sources we will read in the recent, very rich, scholarly literature on this topic. This is not a survey course; we will undertake a series of intensive case-studies through which we will address the larger issues. Assignments include: presentations (individual or collaborative), short papers, Canvas postings, and there will also be the option of making a digital map or an on-line exhibition. This is a limited-enrollment, discussion-based course. No previous knowledge of Jewish history is expected.
Instructor(s): Leora Auslander  Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 11703, JWSC 12006, RLST 22015

NEHC 20004-20005-20006. Ancient Near Eastern Thought and Literature I-II-III.
This sequence surveys the thought and literature of the Near East. Each course in the sequence focuses on a particular culture or civilization. Texts in English. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. Taking these courses in sequence is not required.

NEHC 20004. Ancient Near Eastern Thought and Literature I: Mesopotamian Literature. 100 Units.
This course gives an overview of the richness of Mesopotamian Literature (modern Iraq) written in the 3rd-1st millennium BC. We will read myths and epics written on clay tablets in the Sumerian and Akkadian language in English translation and discuss content and style, but also the religious, cultural and historic implications. Particular focus will be on the development of stories over time, the historical context of the literature and mythological figures. The texts treated cover not only the famous Epic of Gilgamesh, but also
various legends of Sumerian and Akkadian kings, stories about Creation and World Order, and destruction. The topics covered range from the quest for immortality, epic heroes and monsters, sexuality and love.

Instructor(s): Susanne Paulus 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): SOSC 20004

**NEHC 20005. Ancient Near Eastern Thought & Literature II: Anatolian Lit. 100 Units.**

The goal of this class is to get an overview of Hittite literature, as "defined" by the Hittites themselves, in the wider historical-cultural context of the Ancient Near East. Some of the most important questions we can ask ourselves in reading ancient texts are: 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 - in our case - Hittite society?

Instructor(s): Petra Goegebeure 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): SOSC 20005

**NEHC 20006. Ancient Near Eastern Thought & Literature III: Ancient Egyptian Literature. 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): Margret Geoga Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): SOSC 20006

**NEHC 20011. Ancient Empires I: The Hittite Empire. 100 Units.**

This course introduces students to the Hittite Empire of ancient Anatolia. In existence from roughly 1750-1200 BCE, and spanning across modern Turkey and beyond, the Hittite Empire is one of the oldest and largest empires of the ancient world. We will be examining their history and their political and cultural accomplishments through analysis of their written records - composed in Hittite, the world’s first recorded Indo-European language - and their archaeological remains. In the process, we will also be examining the concept of "empire" itself: What is an empire, and how do anthropologists, archaeologists, and historians study this unique kind of political formation?

Instructor(s): James Osborne 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): CLCV 25700, HIST 15602, SOSC 20011

**NEHC 20012. Ancient Empires II: The Ottoman Empire. 100 Units.**

The Ottomans ruled in Anatolia, the Middle East, South East Europe and North Africa for over six hundred years. The objective of this course is to understand the society and culture of this bygone Empire whose legacy continues, in one way or another, in some twenty-five contemporary successor states from the Balkans to the Arabian Peninsula. The course is designed as an introduction to the Ottoman World with a focus on the cultural history of the Ottoman society. It explores identities and mentalities, customs and rituals, status of minorities, mystical orders and religious establishments, literacy and the use of the public sphere.

Instructor(s): Hakan Karateke 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): MDVL 20012, SOSC 20012, CLCV 25800, HIST 15603

**NEHC 20013. 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): Brian 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): HIST 15604, CLCV 25900, SOSC 20013

**NEHC 20014. Ancient Empires IV: the Achaemenid Empire. 100 Units.**

This course introduces students to the Achaemenid Empire, also known as the First Persian Empire (ca. 550-330 BCE). We will be examining the political history and cultural accomplishments of the Achaemenids who, from their homeland in modern-day Iran, quickly rose to become one of the largest empires of the ancient world, ruling from North Africa to North India at their height. We will also be examining the history of Greek-Persian encounters and the image of the Achaemenids in Greek and Biblical literature. The students will visit the Oriental Institutes' archive and object collection to learn more about the University of Chicago's unique position in the
exploration, excavation, and restoration of the Persian Empire’s royal architecture and administrative system through the Persian Expedition carried out in the 1930s.

Instructor(s): Mehrnoush Soroush 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): CLCV 21722, HIST 25602

NEHC 20015. Ancient Empires V: The Umayyad. 100 Units.

The Umayyads ruled over the last “great empire” of late antiquity: the early Islamic empire, spanning from the Atlas to the Hindu Kush, from the Atlantic to the Amu Darya, and embracing regions with different cultural and political traditions. This course introduces to the history of the Umayyad caliphate, focusing on some of the visible legacies its inhabitants left behind: texts, objects, and monumental buildings that are still standing in cities of the Middle East and Europe. But we will also reflect upon less material legacies: for example, cities with a long-lasting urban culture, infrastructures for communicating across a vast empire, the consolidation of religious traditions, and exchanges and cohabitation of different religious groups.

Instructor(s): Cecilia Palombo 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): HIST 25706, RLST 20315

NEHC 20016. Ancient Empires VI: The Assyrian Empire. 100 Units.

This course will examine the concept and definition of empire and the practices of imperial control through a case study of Mesopotamia’s best-known empire, the Neo-Assyrian (first half of the 1st millennium BCE). At its peak, the Assyrians ruled a vast area covering most of modern Iraq and Syria, plus parts of Iran, Turkey and the Levant, with aspirations to control Egypt. The gradual expansion of this empire from late 2nd millennium BCE beginnings and its extremely rapid collapse in ca. 612 BCE provide an excellent example of the tensions within trajectories of empire. The course themes include warfare and political strategies, identity and ethnicity, imperial bureaucracy, and the practical and ideological purposes of infrastructure building. Evidence examined will include texts (in translation) and the archaeological record at various scales, from settlements through artworks. We will also examine paradoxes, such as the contrast between textual claims of hegemony and limited archaeological evidence for this, and the power of visual propaganda versus its select audience.

Instructor(s): Augusta McMahon 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): HIST 20405

NEHC 20022. Documentary Cultures in Early Islamicate Societies. 100 Units.

This Seminar for graduate students centers on the use of material and documentary sources for the study of early Islamic history (ca. 640-1000 CE), particularly looking at multiple religious groups, languages, and literary traditions. It will introduce the students to the study of documentary texts such as the Arabic papyri, the expansion of Arabic papyrology as a field, and the integration of literary and non-literary sources. Students will be encouraged and challenged to think of texts also as material objects. We will talk about sources and resources for the study of political, economic, social, and intellectual histories of the Islamicate world; in so doing, we will discuss also methods, problems, and perspectives.

Instructor(s): CECILIA PALOMBO Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 30022, ISLM 30022, HIST 46000, RLST 20122

NEHC 20034. From the Harem to Helem: Gender and Sexuality in the Modern Middle East. 100 Units.

This course will provide a historical and theoretical survey of issues pertaining to gender and sexuality in the modern Middle East. First, we will outline the colonial legacies of gender politics and gendered discourses in modern Middle Eastern history. We will discuss orientalist constructions of the harem and the veil (Allouche, Laila Ahmed, Lila Abu-Lughod), and their contested afterlives across the Middle East. We will also explore colonial (homo)sexuality, and attendant critiques (Najmabadi, Massad). We will pay especial attention to local discourses about gender and sexuality, and trouble facile assumptions of “writing back” while attending to the various specificities of local discourses of everyday life across various sites of the Middle East. Eschewing reductive traps for more nuanced explorations of the specifics of life in Beirut, Cairo, Istanbul, or Tehran - as well as to rural areas - we will show how gender and sexuality are constructed and practiced in these locales. In addition to foundational scholarly texts in the field, we will also engage with an array of cultural texts (films, novels, poetry, comics) and - where possible - have conversations with activists who are working in these sites via Skype/teleconferencing.

Instructor(s): Stephanie Kraver Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 30034, GNSE 30112, GNSE 20112

NEHC 20040. Eat, Pray, Tax: How the Middle East Shaped the World. 100 Units.

Fundamental elements of today’s world originate in the Middle East. The region saw the beginning of agriculture, the emergence of the first state, the invention of the alphabet and the codex, and the birth of the great monotheistic religions. This course explores these momentous developments. It traces their origins, effects, and interconnections through history, anthropology, and sociology as well as a range of excursions and hands-on activities designed to allow students to engage with the topics both intellectually and experientially.
NEHC 20050. Introduction to Hadith Literature. 100 Units.
This course offers an introduction to hadith literature, which encompasses traditions about the life of the prophet Muhammad, his speeches and deeds. The aim is to familiarize students with the basic terminology, the different genres of hadith literature, the development of the classical hadith scholarship, the most important hadith collections, as well as studies on hadith criticism. We will examine the methods of collecting and transmitting the hadiths in Islamic history, their evaluation and assessment by Muslim scholars, the role of hadiths in law, theology and Sufism, and the modern academic debates on the authenticity of the hadiths. Additionally, the course will engage with the genesis of Twelve Shi'ite and Zaidi hadith.
Instructor(s): Mehmetcan Akpinar Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This course meets the HS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 30050, RLST 11050, NEHC 30050

NEHC 20110. Media Islam. 100 Units.
Media are increasingly integrated into contemporary life. As in the past, we consume media-watching movies and television, listening to music and podcasts, and following influencers on social media. However, these passive activities now overlap with media production, participation, and commentary. For Muslims negotiating identity in diverse global society, media figure into representation and self-representation in complex, often subtle, ways. Intersecting with the family, mosque, community, and other core social institutions, media play a central role in contemporary Muslim experience. This class will examine religious media, i.e. those branded as "Islamic" in some fashion, such as television programs on Islamic law, or social media content with explicit religious commitments and claims to authority. It will also consider how Islam has been represented in popular culture, and the ways Muslims have related to those constructions of their faith. However, this dichotomy of religious and popular media no longer holds with Muslim-oriented television shows like Ramy, Ms. Marvel, the integration of Islam into popular American entertainment from Jack Ryan to Mr. Robot, and the complex engagement with religion in media across the historically Muslim world.
Instructor(s): Maguire, Tom Terms Offered: Autumn

NEHC 20130. Textual Amulets in the Ancient Mediterranean. 100 Units.
Amulets with inscribed texts were used broadly by individuals and households and across ancient Mediterranean cultures for protection against evils, for curing disease, and for obtaining advantage over adversaries in all walks of life. In this course, we will survey a broad range of such amulets coming from the Levant, Mesopotamia, the Phoenician-Punic world, Greece and southern Italy, and inscribed on such varied materials as sheets of gold and silver, papyri, ostraca and gems, while scrutinizing their material aspects, their cultural context, and their shared and distinctive features.
Instructor(s): Carolina Lopez-Ruiz, Sofia Torallas-Tovar, Christopher Faraone Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Classical or Near Eastern languages recommended but not required.
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 40130, HREL 40130, CLCV 27923, CLAS 37923, RLST 20130

NEHC 20160. Central Asia Past and Present/From Alexander the Great to Al Qaeda. 100 Units.
Central Asia Past and Present serves as a multi-disciplinary course, spanning anthropology, history and political science. This course introduces students to the fluid, political-geographic concept of Central Asia as well as to the historical and cultural dimensions of this particular and oft-redefined world. My understanding of Central Asia comes from studies of ex-Soviet Central Asia, which includes five independent countries (since 1991) within central Eurasia—the former U.S.S.R. Thus the course encompasses Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in addition to parts of northern Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and western China (Xinjiang/Sinkiang). Students will familiarize themselves with universal and divergent factors among the Central Asian peoples based on phenomena such as human migrations, cross-cultural influences, historical events, and the economic organization of peoples based on local ecology and natural boundaries. Working together and as individuals, we will study maps and atlases to gain a fuller understanding of historical movements and settlements of the Central Asian peoples.
Instructor(s): R. Zanca
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 30160, ANTH 32206, ANTH 23616

NEHC 20202. Islamicate Civilization II: 950-1750. 100 Units.
This course, a continuation of Islamicate Civilization I, surveys intellectual, cultural, religious and political developments in the Islamic world from Andalusia to the South Asian sub-continent during the periods from ca. 950 to 1750. We trace the arrival and incorporation of the Steppe Peoples (Turks and Mongols) into the central Islamic lands; the splintering of the Abbasid Caliphate and the impact on political theory; the flowering of literature of Arabic, Turkic and Persian expression; the evolution of religious and legal scholarship and devotional life; transformations in the intellectual and philosophical traditions; the emergence of Shi'i states (Buyids and Fatimids); the Crusades and Mongol conquests; the Mamluks and Timurids, and the "gunpowder empires" of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Moghuls; the dynamics of gender and class relations; etc. This class partially fulfills the requirement for MA students in CMES, as well as for NELC majors and PhD students.
Instructor(s): Mustafa Kaya Terms Offered: Winter. This course will not be offered for the 2021-2022 academic year.
NEHC 20203. Islamic Civilization III: 1750-Present. 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): Carl Shook Terms Offered: Spring. This course will not be offered for the 2021-2022 academic year.
Prerequisite(s): Islamicate Civilization II (NEHC 20202) or Islamic Thought & Literature-2 (NEHC 20602), or the equivalent
Note(s): The Islamicate Civilization sequence does not fulfill the General Ed requirements
Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 30202, NEHC 30202, HIST 15612, MDVL 20202, HIST 35622, RLST 20202

NEHC 20204. Islamic Intellectual History. 100 Units.
The course introduces students to current methodological trends in the Western study of intellectual history and then examines debates and discourses in the field of Islamic intellectual historiography, with a focus on selected examples. Students will develop and present individual original research projects.
Instructor(s): Ahmed El-Shamsy Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 30203, RLST 20203, HIST 35623, NEHC 30203, HIST 15613

NEHC 20210. Greek and Near Eastern Creation Stories. 100 Units.
This course will offer a comparative view of Greek traditions about the origin of the world (cosmogony) and the origin of the gods (theogony), and the multiple layers on which they were entangled with Near Eastern narratives. On the Greek side, we will focus on Hesiod, Homer, and the Orphic poems. Near Eastern sources will include Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Hittite, Phoenician, and Hebrew texts. The reading of primary sources will be done in translation (though students are always encouraged to check the texts in the original language for closer reading and discussion, if training allows). We will engage with secondary bibliography, especially works that take a comparative approach or discuss the comparative method. We will discuss the methodological challenges and advantages of comparative mythology and the phenomenon of cultural exchange, as revealed in these mythical and literary connection.
Instructor(s): Carolina López-Ruiz Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CLCV 20222, RLST 20210

NEHC 20228. History of Jews in the Middle East. 100 Units.
This class examines the history of Jews in the Middle East from the early modern period, when many Jewish refugees fleeing Spain and Portugal settled in the Ottoman Empire, to the modern Period, when Jews debated and challenged colonialist, reformist, nationalist, leftist, and secular ideologies. Reading novels, memoirs, and new works in the fields of Jewish and Middle Eastern Studies, we will examine how early modernity and modernity gave birth to new identity formations and new frames of belonging. We will visit the unknown histories of early modern communities who produced translations and explications of the Hebrew Bible in Arabic, of Jews and Muslims who fought together Christian missionary activities, of Arab Jewish feminists, and of Jewish communists who established anti-Zionist societies in the Middle East.
Instructor(s): Orist Bashkin Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 23405, RLST 20228, HIST 25810

NEHC 20271. Islamicate Civilization in West Africa. 100 Units.
This course will critically explore the history of Islamic scholarship and the transmission of religious knowledge and scholarly authority in West African Muslim societies from the late medieval period to the present day. We will examine a variety of knowledge traditions, textual and pedagogical approaches, epistemologies, and embodied practices of Muslim scholars and students of the region in order to understand what it means to seek, transmit, and create knowledge in the context of West African Muslim societies. In addition to relevant secondary literature, we will read passages from some of the texts taught in these places. Intermediate Arabic is recommended, but not required for this course.
Instructor(s): Abubakar Abdulkadir Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This course meets the HS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 33271, NEHC 33271, RLST 20271, KNOW 33271

NEHC 20300. Readings in Islamic Law. 100 Units.
This course explores the history and theoretical foundations of Islamic law in North and West Africa, with a focus on the Malikī texts that formed the basis of legal education from the late medieval period to the present. In addition to discussing secondary literature addressing themes of scholarly authority, knowledge transmission, embodiment, and canonization, we will study selected legal texts authored by key figures such as Ibn Abī Zayd al-Qayrawānī, Khalīl ibn Isāq and Sīdī ʿAbd Allāh wuld al-Ḥājj Ibrāhīm [in translation].
Instructor(s): Abubakar Abdulkadir Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): No prerequisites, but there will be opportunities for students with Arabic proficiency to make use of it.
Note(s): This course meets the HS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
NEHC 20350. Bordering the Middle East: Imperial State-building and its Legacies. 100 Units.
In this course, students will learn about the bordering of the Middle East, as a regional whole, and in the particulars of individual nation-state boundaries, in the 19th and 20th centuries. We will study ideas about North African and Southwest Asian geography, history, and culture, and their use, by Ottoman, British, and French imperial actors engaged in creating and enforcing political boundaries. We will also learn about the impacts of these borders on the lives of the bordered in the past and present.
Instructor(s): Carl Shook Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 30350

NEHC 20410. Introduction to Arabic and Islamic Studies. 100 Units.
This course is designed for graduate students who wish to learn about the tools, primary and secondary sources, references, journals, distinct subfields, and electronic resources available to researchers in Arabic and Islamic Studies. We will acquire first-hand knowledge and practice of basic skills that will help professionalize students in the field, and will discuss methodological and historiographical issues related to the study of Islamicate civilization in various historical, cultural, political, and religious frameworks.
Instructor(s): Mehmetcan Akpinar Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Basic ability to work with Classical Arabic is required.
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): ARAB 40010, ISLM 40010, ARAB 20410, NEHC 40010, RLST 20410

NEHC 20471. Readings in Maimonides' Guide of the Perplexed. 100 Units.
A careful study of select passages in Maimonides' Guide of the Perplexed, focusing on the method of the work and its major philosophical-theological themes, including: divine attributes, creation vs. eternity, prophecy, the problem of evil and divine providence, law and ethics, the final aim of human existence.
Instructor(s): James T. Robinson Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 21107, JWSC 21107, NEHC 40470, HIJD 45400, MDVL 25400, HREL 45401, FNDL 24106, RLVC 45400, ISLM 45400

NEHC 20504. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. 100 Units.
The course introduces the Jewish/Hebrew Bible as a literary treasury with a material history. We will survey the genres and the different works, review scholarly theories about the texts and about ideas in them, and situate them in the history of Israel and Judea and in the culture of ancient Southwest Asia. We will also engage theories of history, literature, and narrative. The course includes a weekly Discussion Section for mixed-modes activities and conceptual discussions.
Instructor(s): Simeon Chavel Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students. This course counts as a Gateway course for RLST majors/minors.
Equivalent Course(s): HIJD 31004, NEHC 30504, JWSC 20120, FNDL 30063, BIBL 35310, NEHC 35310

NEHC 20513. Early Jewish Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible. 100 Units.
Explores Jewish ideas and hermeneutics at Exodus 19-20 and select other biblical texts, in sources from the Septuagint and Dead Sea scrolls through Targumim and Rabbincic literature to Medieval Jewish commentaries.
Instructor(s): Simeon Chavel Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Biblical Hebrew and either Aramaic or Greek (Koiné or Septuagint)
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): HIJD 53510, RLST 20510, JWSC 20510, NEHC 53510, NEHC 53510

NEHC 20552. Slavery and Social Justice in the Hebrew Bible. 100 Units.
What is a "just" society? And how do we know if justice has been achieved? This course is both an overview of the concept of a "just society" and a thematic survey of the narratives of the Hebrew Bible (the Jewish Tanak, the Christian Old Testament) through the lens of social justice. In this course we will examine several perspectives within the Hebrew Bible on what makes a just society, with particular emphasis on the narratives and legal corpora of the Pentateuch, the historical narratives of the former prophets, and the sayings and exhortations of the "writing" prophets. We will aim to understand more clearly what the ancient Israelites would have likely understood by the notion of a "just society," and how those understandings may differ from our own. Through our discussions, students will develop their skills in close-reading of texts and literary analysis of biblical narratives. In this course we will study several social issues and their reflections in biblical texts. Among the possibilities are: slavery, the treatment of the poor, the rights of the community vs. the individual, the treatment of the disabled, homicide, war, revenge, animal rights and environmentalism, inheritance, and immigration.
Instructor(s): David Harris Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 23550, JWSC 20550

NEHC 20568. 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): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 3301, ANTH 25908, ANTH 35908, REES 2909, NEHC 30568, CMLT 23001, REES 39009

NEHC 20570. Mughal India: Tradition & Transition. 100 Units.
The focus of this course is on the period of Mughal rule during the late sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, especially on selected issues that have been at the center of historiographical debate in the past decades.
Instructor(s): M. Alam Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Advanced standing or consent of instructor. Prior knowledge of appropriate history and secondary literature required.
Equivalent Course(s): SALC 37701, HIST 26602, NEHC 30570, HIST 36602, SALC 27701

NEHC 20573. The Burden of History: The Nation and Its Lost Paradise. 100 Units.
What makes it possible for the imagined communities called nations to command the emotional attachments that they do? This course considers some possible answers to Benedict Anderson’s question on the basis of material from the Balkans. We will examine the transformation of the scenario of paradise, loss, and redemption into a template for a national identity narrative through which South East European nations retell their Ottoman past. With the help of Žižek’s theory of the subject as constituted by trauma and Kant’s notion of the sublime, we will contemplate the national fixation on the trauma of loss and the dynamic between victimhood and sublimity.
Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): REES 29013, REES 39013, CMLT 23401, NEHC 30573, HIST 34005, HIST 24005, CMLT 33401

NEHC 20600. Saints and Sinners in Late Antiquity. 100 Units.
Between the third and seventh centuries, Christian communities came to flourish throughout the Middle 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 the development of Christian institutions and ideologies in relation to the distinctive social structures, political cultures, economies, and environments of the Middle East, with a focus on the Fertile Crescent. The makers of Middle 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 society through prayer, asceticism, and writing; some also intervened directly in social, political, and economic relations. The work of these saints depended on the cooperation of aristocrats, merchants, and rulers who established enduring worldly institutions. To explore the dialectical relationship between saints and sinners, we will read lives of saints in various Middle Eastern languages in translation.
Instructor(s): R. Payne Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 35613, HCHR 31613, RLST 21613, HIST 25613, NEHC 30600

NEHC 20601-20602-20603. Islamic Thought and Literature I-II-III.
This sequence explores the thought and literature of the Islamic world from the coming of Islam in the seventh century C.E. through the development and spread of its civilization in the medieval period and into the modern world. Including historical framework to establish chronology and geography, the course focuses on key aspects of Islamic intellectual history: scripture, law, theology, philosophy, literature, mysticism, political thought, historical writing, and archaeology. In addition to lectures and secondary background readings, students read and discuss samples of key primary texts, with a view to exploring Islamic civilization in the direct voices of the people who participated in creating it. All readings are in English translation. No prior background in the subject is required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. Taking these courses in sequence is recommended but not required.

Instructor(s): O’Malley, Austin, Jack Buredn Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 25610, SOCS 22000, RLST 20401, MDVL 20601

NEHC 20601. Islamic Thought and Literature I. 100 Units.
In the first quarter of Islamic Thought and Literature, students will explore the intellectual and cultural history of the Islamic world in its various political and social contexts. Chronologically, the course begins with emergence of Islam in the 7th century CE and continues through the Mongol conquests until the rise of the “gunpowder empires” circa 1500. Students will leave the course with a historical and geographical framework for understanding the history of the Middle East and a familiarity with the major forms of premodern Islamic cultural production (e.g., history-writing, scriptural exegesis, poetry, philosophy, jurisprudence, etc.). Students will also develop the skills and contextual knowledge necessary for analyzing these sources in English translation; they will thus come to appreciate premodern Islamic cultural products on their own terms while engaging in the collective work of historical interpretation. No prior background in the subject is required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.
Instructor(s): O’Malley, Austin, Jack Buredn Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 25610, SOCS 22000, RLST 20401, MDVL 20601

NEHC 20602. Islamic Thought and Literature II. 100 Units.
This course covers the period from ca. 950 to 1700, surveying works of literature, theology, philosophy, sufism, politics, history, etc., written in Arabic, Persian and Turkish, as well as the art, architecture and music of the Islamicate traditions. Through primary texts, secondary sources and lectures, we will trace the cultural, social, religious, political and institutional evolution through the period of the Fatimids, the Crusades, the Mongol invasions, and the “gunpowder empires” (Ottomans, Safavids, Mughals).
Instructor(s): Holly Shissler, Murat Bozluolcay 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): MDVL 20602, RLST 20402, SOSC 22100, HIST 25615

NEHC 20603. Islamic Thought and Literature III. 100 Units.
This course covers the period from ca. 1700 to the present. It explores Muslim intellectuals’ engagement with tradition and modernity in the realms of religion, politics, literature, and law. We discuss debates concerning the role of religion in a modern society, perceptions of Europe and European influence, the challenges of maintaining religious and cultural authenticity, and Muslim views of nation-states and nationalism in the Middle East. We also give consideration to the modern developments of transnational jihadism and the Arab Spring. This course sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.
Instructor(s): Orit Bashkin Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 25616, SOSC 22200, RLST 20403

NEHC 20645. History of the Fatimid Caliphate. 100 Units.
This course will cover the history of the Fatimid (Shiite) caliphate, from its foundation in the North Africa about 909 until its end in Egypt 1171. Most of the material will be presented in classroom lectures. Sections of the course deal with Fatimid history treated chronologically and others with separate institutions and problems as they changed and developed throughout the whole time period. Readings heavily favored or highly recommended are all in English.
Instructor(s): P. Walker Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): MDVL 20645, HIST 34401, HIST 24401, NEHC 30645

NEHC 20692. Armenian History through Art and Culture. 100 Units.
Who are the Armenians and where do they come from? What is the cultural contribution of Armenians to their neighbors and overall world heritage? This crash-course will try to answer these and many other similar questions while surveying Armenian history and elements of culture (mythology, religion, manuscript illumination, art, architecture, etc.). It also will discuss transformations of Armenian identity and symbols of ‘Armenianness’ through time, based on such elements of national identity as language, religion, art, or shared history. Due to the greatest artistic quality and the transcultural nature of its monuments and artifacts, Armenia has much to offer in the field of Art History, especially when we think about global transculturation and appropriation among cultures as a result of peoples’ movements and contacts. The course is recommended for students with interest in Armenian Studies or related fields, in Area or Civilizations Studies, Art and Cultural Studies, etc.
Instructor(s): Hripsime Haroutunian Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 25711, ARTH 20692, NEHC 30692, ARCH 20692

NEHC 20802. Empires and Peoples: Ethnicity in Late Antiquity. 100 Units.
Late antiquity witnessed an unprecedented proliferation of peoples in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Vandals, Arabs, Goths, Huns, Franks, and Iranians, among numerous others, took shape as political communities within the Roman and Iranian empires or along their peripheries. Recent scholarship has undone the traditional image of these groups as previously undocumented communities of “barbarians” entering history. Ethnic communities emerge from the literature as political constructions dependent on the very malleability of identities, on specific acts of textual and artistic production, on particular religious traditions, and, not least, on the imperial or postimperial regimes sustaining their claims to sovereignty. The colloquium will debate the origin, nature, and roles of ethno-political identities and communities comparatively across West Asia, from the Western Mediterranean to the Eurasian steppes, on the basis of recent contributions. As a historiographical colloquium, the course will address the contemporary cultural and political concerns—especially nationalism—that have often shaped historical accounts of ethnogenesis in the period as well as bio-historical approaches—such as genetic history—that sometimes sit uneasily with the recent advances of historians.
Instructor(s): R. Payne Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Open to advanced undergraduates and graduate students.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 30802, HIST 20902, CLCV 23718, CLAS 33718, HIST 30902, MDVL 20902

NEHC 20808. Biography of the Prophet Muhammad. 100 Units.
This introductory course offers an overview of Prophet Muhammad’s life as portrayed in the early and medieval Arabic narrative tradition and through the lens of modern scholarship. We will discuss a diverse range of topics, such as life in pre-Islamic Arabia, the Prophet’s early life before prophethood, the first revelations, the Meccan period, his migration to Medina, his religio-political leadership and the military expeditions during the Medinan period, his reported miracles, etc. At the same time, students will gain an overview of the sira/maghaz’i literature, i.e., the texts devoted to the life of the Prophet Muhammad in the Muslim tradition. Modern methodological questions which concern the reliability of the narrative traditions in reconstructing the biography of the “historical Muhammad” and a wide range of approaches developed in Western academia to overcome problems related to the source material will also be addressed.
Instructor(s): Mehmetcan Akpinar Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): No background in Islamic studies or Arabic language required.
Note(s): This course meets the HS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): MDVL 20808, ISLM 30808, NEHC 30808, RLST 20808
NEHC 20838. Further Topics in Late Ottoman History-I. 100 Units.
This course will introduce students to a number of important topics in Eighteenth and nineteenth century Ottoman history, such as the nature of the great local notables, the growing importance of proteges, and the bureaucratic reform.
Instructor(s): H. Shissler Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Open to Graduate students and undergraduates with some knowledge of Middle Eastern History.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 30838

NEHC 20911. Prophets in Jewish and Islamic Traditions. 100 Units.
In this course, we will study the tales of the prophets as found in the Bible, the Qur’an, and Jewish and Islamic interpretive traditions. By examining and enjoying the narratives of individual prophets, we will develop an understanding of prophecy as a broad religious phenomenon. The course offers opportunities for comparative enquiry into two sacred scriptures—the Bible and the Qur’an—and the rich interpretive literature that Jewish and Islamic communities created in order to understand them. All readings will be in English translation.
Assignments include three short essays, an oral presentation, and a final exam.
Instructor(s): I. Andrus Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): JWST 20910, RLST 20910

NEHC 21002. Greece and the Balkans in the Age of Nationalism. 100 Units.
This course is an introduction to the history of Southeastern Europe since the 1790s. Each week’s work will examine a key topic in the Balkan affairs through a combination of lectures, readings and discussion of associated issues. The class will not follow the history of any one Balkan country comprehensively. Instead, the course will direct students’ attention to relevant developments which address questions like these: 1. How does Balkan history related to European history? 2. What is a nation, a nationality, and an ethnic group? 3. What has nationalism meant in the Balkans? The course emphasizes the history of Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia, with some attention to events in the Ottoman Empire, the Habsburg Monarchy and Hungary as appropriate. The course aims to offer a historical background that will enable students to better understand the recent history of Greece and the Balkans.
Instructor(s): Stefanos Katsikas Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): MOGK 31001, HIST 23613, REES 21001, MOGK 21001

NEHC 21451. Rhoades Seminar: Reading Ancient Egyptian Art. 100 Units.
For millennia ancient Egyptian artists constructed visual narratives on tomb chapel walls, temple structures, and other material remains - such as stelae - that provide glimpses of lived experiences in the land that gave rise to this ancient African culture. Focusing on two-dimensional representations produced in Egypt (ancient Kemet) between approximately 3000-1069 BCE, this course will consider the functions of such pictorial accounts within their original contexts and explore approaches to reading and interpreting them. We will investigate topics including depictions of “daily life” on the Nile, royal sojourns to foreign lands, and the imagined landscapes of the underworld, deconstructing scenes and the ancient artistic conventions used to produce them. Particular emphasis will be placed on how the natural environment of North Africa is reflected in the arts of ancient Egypt, from detailed renderings of indigenous flora and fauna to interpretations of the physical landscape. Sources will include ancient texts in translation and firsthand examination of Egyptian artifacts in Chicagoland museums, including the ISAC Museum.
Instructor(s): A. Arico Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 21451, NEHC 31451, ARTH 31451

NEHC 21780. Poetry of the Hebrew Bible. 100 Units.
The course will survey poetic genres of the Hebrew Bible, their elements and tropes, scholarship on biblical poetry specifically, and approaches to poetry in general.
Instructor(s): Simeon Chavel Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): PQ: Introductory Biblical Hebrew I–III (BIBL 33900–34000 + Text course) or equivalent.
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): HIJD 41780, BIBL 41780, BIBL 41780, RLST 21780

NEHC 21815. Strange Lit: Estrangement and Literature. 100 Units.
This course explores the genre of the strange, weird, bizarre and wonderful in literary works from around the world and across various time periods. In contrast to the voyeuristic and expected Othering of the ‘exotic’, the course interrogates the strange as an aesthetic mode that estranges the reader and disturbs and upends our familiar and predictable worlds. Theorists have explored art’s ability to unsettle our automatized perception, interrogating our relationship to reality, the way we know things, and the basis on which we make assumptions. This course will trace how specific literary forms (like magical-realism, fantasy, sci-fi, miracle literature, comedy/ dark comedy, and even scripture) evoke wonder and a sense of the strange. We will explore how these genres mystify and make strange things like the individual, society, modernity, the nation-state, the secular, economy, and more to unearth the myth-making inherent in processes of world-building, as well as in narrative. We will see ghosts in court, hallucinating nation-states, dead narrators, animated-inanimate objects as we move into the world of dreams, madness, and the supernatural in literary works from Iceland, Iran, Palestine, Japan, Egypt and more.
Instructor(s): Rana Ghuloom Terms Offered: Autumn
NEHC 21865. Zion and Zaphon: Biblical Texts and Memory Studies. 100 Units.
The course will engage memory studies to analyze how ancient authors responded to the campaigns of Assyria against Judea and Israel in the 8th-7th cents BCE. Sources will include ancient art, archaeological finds, and literature of many genres in the Hebrew Bible and outside it.
Instructor(s): Simeon Chavel Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Introductory Biblical Hebrew sequence (BIBL 33900–34000 + Text course) or equivalent.
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): HIJD 44600, BIBL 44600, KNOW 44600, NEHC 44600, RLST 21865

NEHC 22010. Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to Medieval Period. 100 Units.
Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbincic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations. Through investigation of primary texts-biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary-students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The autumn course will deal with antiquity through the Middle Ages. Its readings will include material from the Bible and writings from the second temple, Hellenistic, rabbincic, and medieval periods. All sections of this course will share a common core of readings; individual instructors will supplement with other materials. It is recommended, though not required, that students take the three Jewish Civilization courses in sequence. Students who register for the Autumn Quarter course will automatically be pre-registered for the winter segment. In the Spring Quarter students have the option of taking a third unit of Jewish Civilization, a course whose topics will vary (JWSC 1200X).
Instructor(s): Larisa Reznik Terms Offered: Autumn Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 11701, RLST 22010, MDVL 12000, JWSC 12000

NEHC 22011. Jewish Civilization II: Early Modern Period to 21st Century. 100 Units.
Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbincic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations. Through investigation of primary texts-biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary-students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The Winter course will begin with the early modern period and continue to the present. It will include discussions of mysticism, the works of Spinoza and Mendelssohn, the nineteenth-century reform, the Holocaust and its reflection in writers such as Primo Levi and Paul Celan, and literary pieces from postwar American Jewish and Israeli authors. All sections of this course will share a common core of readings; individual instructors will supplement with other materials. It is recommended, though not required, that students take the three Jewish Civilization courses in sequence. Students who register for the Autumn Quarter course will automatically be pre-registered for the winter segment. In the Spring Quarter students have the option of taking a third unit of Jewish Civilization, a course whose topics will vary (JWSC 1200X).
Instructor(s): Kenneth Moss Larisa Reznik Terms Offered: Spring Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 11702, RLST 22011, JWSC 12001

NEHC 22110. American Islam. 100 Units.
The American Muslim community hails from all corners of the globe, and represents a diverse mix of ethnic groups, socio-economic backgrounds, political persuasions, and theological positions. American Islam is older than the nation itself, and Muslims have contributed to the American project throughout its history. Today, the United States represents one unique node in a complex, global Muslim world, with deep and active relationships connecting the United States to the historic centers of Muslim life. Conspicuously religious Muslims also occupy greater positions of power and visibility across American society, from the halls of Congress to the comedy club stage. This course will provide a historically-informed, globally-inflected exploration of contemporary American Islam. Students will engage primary texts of American Muslim life and consider them within social, cultural, and historical context.
Instructor(s): Tom Maguire Terms Offered: Winter

NEHC 22308. Phoenician Religion (In Their Own Words And Those of Their Neighbors) 100 Units.
The Phoenicians were a Canaanite people who maintained their language, religion, and culture until Roman times. One of the main challenges facing the study of the Phoenician religion (and culture in general) is that most of their literature is lost. This course gathers together a variety of emic sources in the Phoenicians’ own language or stemming from the Phoenician realm but written in Greek or Latin, as well as sources written by others about the Phoenicians, with a special focus on cult and religious identity. The texts we will read and discuss range from royal, votive, and funerary inscriptions, to the views about the Phoenicians in the Hebrew Bible, and Greek and Roman writers. This course is partly a text-based, reading course, and partly a thematic, culture course.
Instructor(s): Carolina López-Ruiz Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Intermediate knowledge (2 years) of a Semitic language (e.g., Hebrew, Phoenician, Aramaic, Ugaritic, Arabic) OR of ancient Greek and/or Latin.
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): CLAS 32322, CLCV 22322, RLST 22308, HREL 42308, NEHC 42308
NEHC 22502. Persian Literary Translation Through the Translation of Hafez. 100 Units.
Persian Literary Translation Through the Translation of Hafez. Translating poetry is often a challenging endeavor, but translating Persian classical poetry is especially complex for several reasons, including the genre's prevalence of ebhām (ambiguity) and ihām (polyvalence). These challenges have caused many literary translators to dub Hafez's poetry as practically untranslatable, yet nonetheless there have been many attempts at translation, with varying degrees of success. This course aims to both explore the specific challenges translators of Hafez have encountered and also to strengthen students' literary translation skill through the translation of Hafez's works. After conducting a survey of existing translations of Hafez and other Persian classical poets, hands-on translations of several ghazals of Hafez will foster a better understanding of the multilayered meanings of his poetry. In addition, published as well as video sources on literary translation will serve as an introduction to prevailing theories of translation and to efficient methodologies of translating literary texts. The course being essentially designed to familiarize students with the practice of translation, students will create and refine their own translations of selected poems of Hafez. The complete term paper must be 10-15 pages of typed double-spaced font 12 text and include the introductory essay, the translation, and the original poems.
Instructor(s): Shabani-Jadidi, Pouneh Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): PERS 20102
Equivalent Course(s): PERS 20502, NEHC 32502

NEHC 22700. Biblical Law. 100 Units.
This course will examine the laws in the Torah/Pentateuch and elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible for their legal, social, and moral reasoning; their style; their meaning in literary works, as literature; and their historical setting. It will compare them to laws in other ancient works like the Hammurabi monument(s).
Instructor(s): Simeon Chavel Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 22702, NEHC 32700, HIJD 32700, BIBL 32700, RLST 22700

NEHC 22707. Rumi: Poetry, Wisdom, and Metaphysics. 100 Units.
Hailed as one of the world's greatest mystical poets, Jalal al-Din Rumi (d. 1273) transcends the boundaries of language, religion and ethnicity. Today Rumi's poems can be heard in mosques, monasteries, churches and synagogues. This course examines Rumi's teachings, the metaphysics of love and his perennial wisdom through translations of his sublime verse, the quintessential art form of the Sufis. Students will engage with the field of Persian Sufi literature and understand the methods employed by scholars in studying Sufi poetry.
Instructor(s): Mukhtar Ali Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 22707, FNDL 22707

NEHC 22708. Persian Literature in the West: Transcendentalism to New Age Spirituality. 100 Units.
Although we may have passed "peak Rumi," Persian poetry is still often translated and consumed as a component of modern "global" spirituality, and poets like Hafiz and Rumi are frequently understood to be universalizing mystics. This course explores how Persian poetry has been adapted into European languages and interpreted over the past two hundred years, from Transcendentalists to New Agers, with a particular focus on how it has been variously invested with religious or "spiritual" meaning in Euro-American contexts. Class readings include a variety of translations of Persian poetry; secondary sources on translation, reception, and "world literature"; and theoretical critiques of "religion" and "mysticism" as analytic categories. All readings are in English, and no prior familiarity with Persian or the Persian language is required.
Instructor(s): O'Malley, Austin Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): All readings are in English, and no prior familiarity with Persian or the Persian language is required.

NEHC 22780. Readings: Sufism in Morocco. 100 Units.
A close reading 18th-19th century Moroccan Sufi texts with a focus on the Shadhili writings of Sidi Ali al-Jamal and Mulay al-'Arabi al-Darqawi.
Instructor(s): Yousef Casewit Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Arabic reading proficiency required.
Note(s): This course meets the HS or CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 42780, RLST 22780, NEHC 42780

NEHC 22906. The Book of Ezekiel. 100 Units.
A seminar for reading the Book of Ezekiel (in English; optional reading group for those who read biblical Hebrew), the Bible's most bizarre and challenging Prophetic work. It features Ezekiel's close encounters with a brutal divine, instantaneous transportation to future spaces and faraway places, dream-scenes that become real, mortifying dramatizations, and surreal sensory overload. Ezekiel says he played the role of a crude mime, a confounding cryptic, and an erotic singer. This charged and disturbing work generated a variety of literary and speculative Jewish and Christian traditions, like the Apocalyptic and the Mystical. Modern Bible critics discount its retrospective frame, consider it a repository of historical materials, and probe Ezekiel for personality disorders. We will engage it the way it presents itself to us, as literature, in which a character tells his glorious and troubled story, and explore its frame, content, poetics, Judean literary traditions, contemporary Babylonian scene, and historical message.
Instructor(s): Simeon Chavel Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
NEHC 23250. Introduction to Islamic Theology. 100 Units.
Survey of ideas and arguments formulated by renowned Muslim theologians and responses that their doctrines triggered. Major doctrines will be covered, starting with early debates over the nature of belonging to the Muslim community, the nature of God, revelation, prophecy, freewill and predestination. The course roughly follows the historical development of Islamic theology in conversation with other Islamic sciences (philosophy, sufism, law), with a close examination of the confrontation between a group of rationalist theologians (Mu'tazilites), the traditionalist hadith-scholars, and the emergence of Sunni Ash'arite theology between the 9th and 11th centuries.
Instructor(s): Yousef Casewit Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): No knowledge of Arabic is required. Reading materials will be in English. Open to graduate students. This course meets the CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 22906, RLST 22906, BIBL 32906, NEHC 32906, HIJD 32906

NEHC 23524. Constantinople, Byzantine and Ottoman: Crossroads of East and West. 100 Units.
Constantinople (modern Istanbul) was founded in 324 AD to be the capital of the eastern Roman empire. It did this until 1453, when it became the capital of the emerging Ottoman empire, a function that it served until 1922. No city in history has, for so long, served continually as the capital of two successive empires that, in their various incarnations, straddled Europe, Asia, and Africa and played a major role in shaping global politics and world culture. In this course, students will learn about these two parallel histories and cultures through a series of paired thematic units: Foundations; Imperial Cultures; Religious Cultures; and Hagia Sophia (a monument that continues to be a flashpoint for competing claims to the past and modern identities). One week in the middle will be devoted to Transitions, namely to the period around the siege of 1453, before which many Turks lived under east Roman rule and after which most Romans (Greeks) lived under Ottoman rule. The instructors will foster creative dialogue between these two cultures by focusing, in each unit, on exemplary monuments and primary written sources. Students will explore how public authority was claimed and contested, and how each phase of the city’s history appropriated or sidelined the legacy of its own past.
Instructor(s): Anthony Kaldellis; Hakan Karateke Terms Offered: TBD
Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 36250, NEHC 36250, RLST 23250

NEHC 23613. Popular Culture in the Middle East and North Africa. 100 Units.
This seminar explores the broad range of human rights struggles, concerns and activism in the contemporary Middle East region. The class will examine human rights issues posed by authoritarian, dictatorial and single-party state formations in the Middle East particularly by looking at the effects of internal security apparatuses, mechanisms of state violence, and struggles for political participation and liberty. We explore ongoing indigenous struggles for recognition and autonomy, such as the Kurdish, Sahrawi and Amazigh cases, while also contextualizing the region’s complex history of colonial and neocolonial interventions by force and their human rights implications. We will examine the varied roles that non-state actors play in Middle Eastern human rights spheres, from militias to NGOs to religious and communal structures. The course will look to local actors and movements to explore forms of resistance, struggle, and social change while maneuvering through often highly-constrained political spaces. We pay particular attention to marginalized communities by looking at the rights struggles of minorities, women, children, migrant workers, the disabled, and the LGBTQ+ community in Middle Eastern contexts. Personal Status Laws and their effects on rights, especially with regard to marital relations and parental rights are considered. Interdisciplinary and varied modes of knowledge production including film serve as source materials.
Instructor(s): Lindsay Gifford, Pozen Center for Human Rights Assistant Research Professor Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GLST 23825, HMRT 23825, NEHC 33825, CLAS 33524, CLCV 23524

NEHC 23825. Human Rights in the Middle East. 100 Units.
This course meets the CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Note(s): No knowledge of Arabic is required. Reading materials will be in English. Open to graduate students.
Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 36250, NEHC 36250, RLST 23250

NEHC 24550. Major Trends in Islamic Mysticism. 100 Units.
An examination of Islamic mysticism, commonly known as Sufism, through secondary English literature and translations of premodern Arabic Sufi texts. The goal is to gain firsthand insight into the diverse literary expressions of Islamic spirituality in their historical context, and to understand exactly what, how, and why Sufis say what they say.
Instructor(s): Travis Jackson Terms Offered: Various
Prerequisite(s): 100-level music course or consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): MUSI 23613

NEHC 24557. Islamic Psychology. 100 Units.
An exploration of the growing body of secondary literature on Islamic psychology. Relevant premodern approaches to mental well-being, rooted in scriptural, theological, philosophical, and mystical sources will be examined alongside contemporary literature that synthesizes modern psychology with Islamic teachings. No Arabic required.
Instructor(s): Yousef Casewit Terms Offered: Winter
NEHC 24590. Early Islamic Theological (Kalam) Texts. 100 Units.
This course offers the opportunity of engaging first-hand with the Arabic texts that define the discussions and polemics in Islamic theology of the formative period (7-10th centuries). Besides studying texts from different genres and produced by authors of differing theological orientations, we will discuss a wide range of themes, such as faith, free will, God’s attributes, revelation, etc., in their intellectual and polemical contexts. The study of the primary readings will be supplemented by secondary scholarly literature. The main objective of this course is to enable students to understand the early theological texts in their religious and historical contexts, which will also inform our study of the major theological works of the Islamic tradition in the later periods.
Instructor(s): Mehmetcan Akpinar Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): 2 years of Arabic required.
Note(s): This course meets the HS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 24590, NEHC 34590, ISLM 34590, MDVL 24590

NEHC 24592. Jewish and Islamic Ethics in al-Andalus. 100 Units.
This course will include readings in Jewish and Islamic ethics from al-Andalus and the Maghrib with a focus on the writings of Maimonides (d. 1204) -- especially his “Eight Chapters” and Commentary on Avot (completed in the 1160s) and Ibn al-Mar’a of Malaga (d. 1214) -- especially his commentary on Ibn al-‘Arif.
Instructor(s): Jim Robinson and Yousef Casewit Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course meets the HS or CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 24592, MDVL 24592, JWSC 24592, NEHC 34592, ISLM 34592, RETH 34592, HIJD 34592

NEHC 24801. Words of the Wise: Proverbs and Qohelet. 100 Units.
Text-course (text in biblical Hebrew only) covering the literary genres, discursive styles, and philosophical ideas of Proverbs and Qohelet (Ecclesiastes), with attention to voicing, double-voicing, and intertextuality.
Instructor(s): Simeon Chavel Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): One year of Biblical Hebrew.
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students. JWSC majors/minors can petition to count this course toward their degree requirement.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 44801, RLST 22304, BIBL 44800, HIJD 44800

NEHC 24815. Collecting the Ancient World: Museum Practice and Politics. 100 Units.
Where is this artifact from? Who does it belong to? How did it get here? Who’s telling its story? Critical inquiry into the practice and politics of museums has reached a new zenith in contemporary discourse. From discussions of acquisition and repatriation to provenience (archaeological findspot) and provenance (an object’s ownership history) and the ethics of curation and modes of display, museum and art professionals-and the general public alike-are deliberating on the concept of museums and the responsibilities of such institutions towards the collections in their care. This course will explore the early history of museums and collecting practices and their impact on the field today, with a focus on cultural heritage collections from West Asia and North Africa. We will first spend time on such topics as archaeological exploration of “the Orient,” colonial collecting practices, and the antiquities trade, as well as the politics of representation and reception in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Next, we will look at critical issues presently facing museums, including ethical collection stewardship, provenance research, repatriation, community engagement, and public education. The course will be structured in a seminar format, with lectures devoted to the presentation of key themes by the instructor and critical discussion as a group. Meetings will include visits to the ISAC Museum at UChicago.
Instructor(s): K. Neumann Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 20509, NEHC 34815, ARTH 24815, HIST 30509, ARTH 34815

NEHC 25209. Jews, Arabs, and Others: Nations from the Nile to the Jordan. 100 Units.
This course considers nationbuilding as an ongoing and recurring process in the Middle East, realigning identities and communities according to the political concerns of the time. In particular, we will examine how Arabs and Others have figured in the political imagination of both Egypt and Israel-Palestine. When can Egyptians, Palestinians, and Israelis consider themselves “Arab”--and when not? What are the stakes of naming Arab-ness or claiming it for oneself? To answer these questions, this course will include readings and popular films on Arab nationalism and minorities in Egypt, the question of Jewish versus Israeli nationalism, Arab (or Mizrahi) Jews in Israel, and the relationship of Palestinian nationalism to the borders that have been drawn within the historic land of Palestine.
Instructor(s): Callie Maidhof Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): GLST 25209, ANTH 24110

NEHC 25218. Suhrwardi and His Interpreters. 100 Units.
Shihâb al-Din Suhrwardi (d. 1191), the founder of the ishrâqi philosophical tradition, is undoubtedly one of the most innovative and influential philosophers in the history of Islamic thought. In this seminar, we will examine major themes in the writings of Suhrwardi along with excerpts from Arabic commentaries by Muslim and Jewish authors such as Ibn Kammûnah (d. 1284), Shahrazûrî (d. 1288), Qâb al-Dîn Shírâzî (d. 1311), Dawânî (d.1502), Dashâki (d. 1542), Qarâbâghî (d. 1625) and Harawî (d. 1689). Topics include, Suhrwardi’s
understanding of the history of philosophy, light and the order of existence, virtues and human happiness, self-knowledge and self-awareness, conceptual and non-conceptual knowledge, and theory of ritual actions.

Instructor(s): Nariman Aavani

Prerequisite(s): 2 years of Arabic.

Note(s): This course meets the CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 35218, NEHC 35218, RLST 25218, FNDL 25218, MDVL 25218

NEHC 25705. The last century of Persian in India (c. 1770-1850): Persian literary culture and its transformation. 100 Units.

In this seminar we will read original texts and familiarize students with archival research on Persian materials from the colonial period, looking at examples in original manuscripts and lithographed editions. Despite being rarely considered by historians of Persian cultural history and historians of British India, this period saw a fascinating profusion of writings, composed in particular by Hindu and Muslim scribes commissioned by British officers. Throughout the course we will emphasize the crucial role of Persian and Persian-writing Indian literaturi for the early colonial state administration and intelligence. Besides looking at works produced in a colonial context, we will examine the transformation of prose writing amongst Persianate literati in North Indian cities.

Instructor(s): Jean Arzoumanov

Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 35705, SACL 25705, SACL 35705

NEHC 25806. The Political Theologies of Zionism. 100 Units.

The relationship between nationalism and religion has throughout history been a stormy one, often characterized by antagonisms and antipathy. In this course we will examine from various aspects the complex nexus of these two sources of repeated ideological and political dispute within Judaism, and more specifically within Zionism as its political manifestation. Zionism has mostly been considered a secular project, yet recently, Zionist theory is scrutinized to identify and unearth its supposedly hidden theological origins. In nowadays Israel, a rise in religious identification alongside an increasing religiousization of the political discourse calls for the consideration of new theopolitical models of Zionism applicable in a post-secular environment. The aim of this course is to explore this complex intertwining of politics and religion in Israel from both historical and contemporary perspectives. The first part of the course will outline the theoretical foundation of post-secular and political-theological discourses. The second part will address the explicit and implicit political theologies of Zionism. The third part will outline contemporary aspects of political-theological thought in Israel, and their actual appearance in the political sphere.

Instructor(s): David Barak-Gorodetsky

Terms Offered: Winter

Note(s): This course meets the HS or CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): RLST 25806, JWSC 27940, HIJD 35806, THEO 35806, HIST 39403

NEHC 26062. Jewish Graphic Narrative: Between Memory and Caricature. 100 Units.

Over the past decade, there has been an explosion of "graphic novels" aimed at adult readers concerning Jewish society, history, and religion. This course explores the history of comics through the lens of its Jewish creators and Jewish themes, and the history of Jewish culture and society through the lens of graphic storytelling. We learn to interpret this complex art form that combines words and hand-drawn images, translating temporal progression into a spatial form. Reading American, European, and Israeli narratives, our discussions will focus on autobiographical and journalistic accounts of uprooting, immigration, conflict, and loss. We will ask: how do Jewish graphic novelists grapple with the history of racist caricature? What is the relationship between graphic narrative and memory culture? Authors whose work we will study include: Art Spiegelman, Rutu Modan, Lianna Finck, Joann Sfar, Joe Sacco, R. Crumb

Instructor(s): Na’ama Rokem

Terms Offered: Autunn

Equivalent Course(s): SIGN 26062, JWSC 20701, RLST 26062, CMLT 20711

NEHC 26103. Dreams, Visions, and Mystical Experience. 100 Units.

An exploration of primary literature and secondary scholarship on dream interpretation, luminous vision, and religious experience, with a focus on the writings of figures from the late North African Sufi tradition such as ‘Ali al-Jamal and ‘Abd al-‘Aziz al-Dabbagh.

Instructor(s): Yousef Casewit

Terms Offered: Autunn

Note(s): This course meets the CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 36103, ISLM 36103, RLST 26062, CMLT 20711

NEHC 26232. Healing Traditions. 100 Units.

This seminar is a comparative exploration of medical and healing traditions and their religious, spiritual, and cultural intersections. Students will gain an understanding of the history of medicine in the Middle East, India, China, and the West, including the metaphysical systems that inform those traditions. Within the frameworks of Islamic Medicine, i.e. “prophetic medicine” and Sufi healing practices, Avicenna and the Galenic tradition, Chinese Medicine, Ayurveda and Buddhist medicine, we will discuss the following topics: Ritual healing, faith and prayer, divine healers and medical authority, etiology and pathology, religious pharmacology and drugs, mental health, spiritual states and possession, and near death experiences, among others. Students will conduct research on a particular modality in conversation with recent trends in health in modern allopapy while evaluating efficacy, scope and place of traditional modalities.

Instructor(s): Mukhtar Ali

Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): RLST 26322, GLST 26322, KNOW 26322, CCTS 26322, HLTH 26322
NEHC 26500. The Radiant Pearl: Introduction to Syriac Literature and its Historical Contexts. 100 Units.
After Greek and Latin, Syriac literature represents the third largest corpus of writings from the formative centuries of Christianity. This course offers students a comprehensive overview of the dominant genres and history of Syriac-speaking Christians from the early centuries through the modern day. Moving beyond traditional historiography that focuses exclusively on early Christianity within the Roman Empire, this class examines Christian traditions that took root in the Persian and later Islamic Empires as well. Through studying the history and literature of Syriac-speaking Christians, the global reach of early Christianity and its diversity comes to the fore. Syriac-speaking Christians preached the Gospel message from the Arabian Peninsula to early modern China and India. Syriac writers also raised female biblical figures and holy women to prominent roles within their works. Students will broaden their understanding of the development of Christian thought as they gain greater familiarity with understudied voices and visions for Christian living found within Syriac literature. Special attention will be paid to biblical translation, asceticism, poetry, differences between ecclesial communities as well as the changing political fortunes of Syriac-speaking populations. No previous knowledge or study expected.
Instructor(s): Erin Galgay Walsh Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 26505, NEHC 36500, GNSE 26505, BIBL 36500, HCHR 36500, GNSE 36505

NEHC 26702. Arabic into Hebrew: Translation and Cultural Change during the Middle Ages. 100 Units.
Religions, like all cultural phenomena, are akin to organic beings: they change, grow and adapt, absorb and assimilate what they encounter, become transformed constantly in relation to challenges and opportunities - and sometimes react against them. This course will focus on one example of religious-cultural-philosophical adaptation and change through a study of the medieval translation of Arabic and Judeo-Arabic works into Hebrew during the 12th-15th centuries. We will focus on the translations themselves and translation technique, but principally on what was translated and why, when and where, by whom and for whom. All this with an added emphasis on the result: how did Judaism and Jewish culture change through translation - in all its forms - during the high middle ages.
Instructor(s): James T. Robinson Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course meets the HS or CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): HIJD 36702, RLST 26702, JWSC 36702, RLVC 36702, NEHC 36702, ISLM 36702, MDVL 26702, HREL 36702

NEHC 26994. Anticolonial Worlding: Literature, Film, Thought. 100 Units.
This course explores anticolonial worldbuilding through literature, film, art, and philosophy. It focuses on the role of the cultural Cold War in shaping anticolonial aesthetics and politics during the twentieth century as well as its impact on our current political moment. The mid-century was characterized by an expansion of anticolonial festivals, exchanges, and congresses and marked by political crises and coalitional solidarity across Vietnam, Palestine, Cuba, Soviet and US imperial expansion, and the May 1968 student protests. We will explore how Pan-Arab, Pan-African, Non-Aligned/GLOBAL South, Marxist-Leninist, indigenous land rights, and racial justice movements mobilized class, gender, and language politics. Exploring anticolonial literature, film, and art across a multilingual and transnational archive we will ask how socialist and speculative realisms, engaged literature, third cinema, agitprop, and other aesthetic movements generated powerful internationalist imaginations and networks of resistance.
Instructor(s): Leah Feldman Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 36994, RDIN 26994, REES 26994, RDIN 36994, CMLT 26994, HMRT 26994, GNSE 26994, GNSE 36994, ENGL 26994

NEHC 27213. Partings, Encounters, and Entangled Histories: The Formation of Judaism and Christianity. 100 Units.
When did the fault lines between Judaism and Christianity emerge? This course explores this question by examining the formation of Judaism and Christianity within the world of the Ancient Mediterranean. What religious views, texts, and practices did Jews and Christians hold in common? How did early writers construct communal boundaries and project "ideal" belief and practice? What role did the changing political tides of the Roman and Persian empires play? We will explore continuities and growing distinctions between Jews and Christians in the areas of scriptural interpretation, ritual practices, and structures of authority. Special attention will be paid to debates around gender and sexuality, healing, and views of government and economics. We will approach these issues through material evidence and close readings of early literature in light of contemporary scholarship. Students interested in modern histories of Judaism and Christianity will gain a firm foundation in the pivotal debates, texts, and events that set the trajectories for later centuries.
Instructor(s): Erin Galgay Walsh Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite knowledge of the historical periods, literature, or religious traditions covered is expected.
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 31600, HIJD 37213, JWSC 27213, CLCV 24021, RLST 27213, NEHC 37213, HCHR 37213, CLAS 34021, BIBL 37213

NEHC 28003. Islamic Art: Private Collections on Public Display. 100 Units.
In the past decade, two museums in Texas - the MFA Houston and the Dallas Museum of Art – have suddenly emerged as major centers for Islamic art. Usually, well-developed displays of Islamic art build on sustained institutional commitment to curation over several generations. However, these Texas museums both quickly...
transformed their abilities to exhibit Islamic art by securing long term loans of significant private collections. With the al-Sabah Collection and the Hossein Afshar Collection, MFA Houston more than doubled its display space for Islamic art in 2023; and similarly, the Dallas Museum of Art has displayed the Keir Collection since 2014. This travelling seminar brings students to Texas for two weeks, facilitating direct study of an expansive range of Islamic arts produced from the medieval period to the present, in materials ranging from silk, parchment, ceramic, and rock crystal; to lacquer, sandstone, metal, jade, and plexiglass. Students will learn basic classification systems for navigating the vast range of Islamic arts, and will also each select a specific work for close study. Upon return to campus, students will develop their thoughts on the object in relation to questions of collection and display. What force does a given object have in shaping, confirming, or challenging logics of collection and display? What might the same object achieve differently within the context of a different, possibly thematic, exhibition?

Instructor(s): P. Berlekamp
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 38003, ARTH 28003, ARTH 38003

NEHC 28402. The Book of Judges. 100 Units.
A text-course (text in biblical Hebrew only). It will cover the book's concept of a "judge," its themes, plot, and values, its sources and formation, the real beginning and end of the book, and its historical referents. Framed by theory of history and of narrative.
Instructor(s): Simeon Chavel
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): One year Biblical Hebrew.
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students. JWSC majors/minors can petition to count this course toward their degree requirement.
Equivalent Course(s): BIBL 48402, RLST 22302, HIJD 48402, NEHC 48402

NEHC 28499. How Did The Ancients Interpret Their Myths? 100 Units.
How did the ancient Greeks interpret their own narratives about the gods? How did their encounter with Near Eastern mythologies shape their own story-telling, and how did their understanding and use of myths evolve with time? In this course, we will explore the ancient interpretation of myth from the archaic Greek to the Roman periods. First, we will focus on the cross-cultural adaptations of Near Eastern traditions in Greek epic (Homer and Hesiod), as a form of interpretation itself. Then we will discuss how ancient poets and thinkers interpreted and reinterpreted divine narratives, paying attention to their philosophical, literary, and cultural strategies, from Orphism and Plato to the Stoics and later philosophical schools, including Euhemerism and its engagement with Phoenician mythology.
Instructor(s): Carolina López-Ruiz
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CLCV 28422, RLST 28499, CLAS 38422, NEHC 38499, HREL 38499

NEHC 28504. Interactions b/w Jewish Phil. and Lit.in Middle Ages. 100 Units.
Any study of Jewish philosophy that focuses on a small collection of systematic summas tells only half the story. In this seminar, the emphasis will be shifted from canonical theologies to lesser-known works of literature. Each class will examine the way a different genre was used to defend philosophy and teach it to the community at large. Emphasis will be on literary form and style, rhetoric, methods of teaching and argumentation, all in relation to questions about reception and dissemination, progress and creativity, science and religion.
Instructor(s): James T. Robinson
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 28504, RLVC 42700, ISLM 42700, MDVL 22700, HIJD 42700, JWSC 22701, NEHC 42700

NEHC 28611. Jewish Sufism. 100 Units.
During the Middle Ages the Jews in the Muslim world developed a robust synthesis of Jewish Spirituality and Islamic Sufism. Even those who did not subscribe to a Sufi pietistic Judaism nevertheless introduced Sufi language and ideas into their Jewish thought. This course will introduce several important figures in this Jewish Sufi movement, from Bahya ibn Paquda in 11th-century Spain to Maimonides and his descendants in 12th-14th century Egypt. There will be a section for Arabists to read Bahya's "Duties of the Hearts" in Arabic, and a section for Hebraists to read the twelfth-century Hebrew translation of it.
Instructor(s): James T. Robinson
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 28610, NEHC 48610, RLST 28611, RLVC 48610, HIJD 48610, MDVL 28610, ISLM 48610

NEHC 28882. Magic and Divination in the Islamic World. 100 Units.
From weather forecasts to stock market speculations, our modern world is saturated with predictions for the future. In spite of this, other divinatory methods such as astrology are often portrayed as superstitious, irrational, or unreligious. This course will introduce students to the unexpected interaction of science, magic, and religion through the exploration of divination in the Islamic world. We will ask how divination can be a part of religious practice and how methods of future-telling are said to be "work" from the perspective of the philosophers and scientists who practiced them. We will also explore the arguments against divination and identify and understand religious and/or scientific objections to the practice. All readings will be in English translation.
Instructor(s): Alex Matthews
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): MDVL 28882, KNOW 28882, CCTS 21020, HIPS 28882, RLST 28882
NEHC 29003. Islam Beyond the Human: Spirits, Demons, Devils, and Ghosts. 100 Units.
This seminar explores the diverse spiritual and sentient lifeforms within Islamic cosmology that exist beyond the human-from jinn, angels, and ghosts to demons and devils. We will focus on theological, scientific, philosophical, anthropological, and historical accounts of these creatures across a variety of texts, as well as their literary and filmic afterlives in contemporary cultural representations. In so doing, we will delve into questions on the relationship between romantic, familial, and divine love; gender, sexuality, and the body; and Orientalism and the politics of reading desire cross-culturally. Exploring a diverse set of primary sources that range from the Qur’an to Rûmî’s Masnâvî to contemporary Bollywood, we will encounter different representations of love, desire, and sexuality in religious and philosophical discourses, literary representations, and visual media. We will examine not only how these representations reflect different historical norms, but also how and to what extent texts and images can inform or impact the norms of their contexts as well. No prerequisite knowledge of the topics or time periods discussed is needed, and students will have the opportunity over the course of the class to develop a project that relates our content to their own interests.
Instructor(s): Allison Kanner-Botan Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This course counts as a Concepts course for GNSE majors.
Equivalent Course(s): MDVL 28013, GNSE 23135, CMLT 28013, SALC 28013, RLST 28013

NEHC 29023. Returning the Gaze: The West and the Rest. 100 Units.
Aware of being observed. And judged. Inferior... Abject... Angry... Proud... This course provides insight into identity dynamics between the "West," as the center of economic power and self-proclaimed normative humanity, and the "Rest," as the poor, backward, volatile periphery. We investigate the relationship between South East European self-representations and the imagined Western gaze. Inherent in the act of looking at oneself through the eyes of another is the privileging of that other’s standard. We will contemplate the responses to this existential position of identifying symbolically with a normative site outside of oneself-self-consciousness, defiance, arrogance, self-exoticization-and consider how these responses have been incorporated in the texture of the national, gender, and social identities in the region. Orhan Pamuk, Ivo Andrić, Nikos Kazantzakis, Aleko Konstantinov, Emir Kusturica, Milcho Manchevski.
Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 29023, REES 29023, CMLT 39023, REES 39023, HIST 23609, NEHC 39023, HIST 33609

NEHC 29030. Islam, Race and Decoloniality. 100 Units.
This course explores western perspectives, attitudes and representations of Muslims and Islam from medieval European thought, through liberal colonial encounters to contemporary media and political discourses. Students will examine the intersection of race and religion as it applies to the construction of Muslim identity and alterity in the Western imagination. We will explore the remarkable consistency across centuries of the threatening, menacing, barbaric and uncivilized Muslim "Other". The course centers around these Orientalist constructions and will explore the power structures, colonial modalities, epistemological frameworks, and ideological assumptions that perpetuate the racialization of Islam and Muslims within the United States and abroad. This course ultimately aims to uncover potentials for resistance, recovery and renewal through the politics and praxis of decoloniality. Students will gain familiarity with decolonial theory and practices, as well as the important project of 'epistemic delinking' as it is framed by contemporary scholars intent on challenging, possibly undoing and remapping the Muslim experience within global liberal political modernity.
Instructor(s): Maliha Chishti Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This course meets the SCSR Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): RDIN 39030, NEHC 39030, RLST 29030, ANTH 29030, ANTH 39030, RDIN 29030, KNOW 39030, ISLM 39030

NEHC 29765. Cultural Heritage Management Crisis in Conflict Areas. 100 Units.
As a result of the widespread destruction of monuments, museums, and archaeological sites in conflict areas, combined with the creation of brand-new international funds to protect heritage in situations of armed conflict or climate change, this class presents a series of lectures and discussions by the course instructors along with guest lectures by heritage specialists who focus on the various geographical zones concerned. It will also adopt a transdisciplinary approach where several fields of expertise will be convened, from archaeology and curatorial to international heritage protection law.
Instructor(s): Marc Maillot, Gil Stein Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 39765, KNOW 39765, KNOW 29675, ARTH 39765

NEHC 29899. Research Colloquium. 100 Units.
Required of fourth-year students who are majoring in NELC. This is a workshop course designed to survey the fields represented by NELC and to assist students in researching and completing their Research Project. Students must get a Reading and Research form from their College Adviser and complete the form in order to be registered. Signatures are needed from the adviser and Director of Undergraduate Studies. Please indicate on the form that you wish to register for NEHC 29899 Section 01.
Instructor(s): Kraver, Stephanie Terms Offered: Autumn

NEHC 29989. Race and the Bible. 100 Units.
The course will cover race in the Bible, race in the ancient world of the Bible, American use of the Bible on race, and the critique of race as a formative and constructed concept.
Instructor(s): Erin Galgay Walsh and Simeon Chavel Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): BIBL 31000 (Introduction to the Hebrew Bible) or BIBL 32500 (Introduction to the New Testament). BIBL 32500 can be taken concurrently.
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students. JWSC majors/minors can petition to count this course toward their degree requirement.
Equivalent Course(s): HIJD 49999, BIBL 49999, NEHC 49989, RLST 29109, CRES 27699, HCHR 49999

NEHC 29995. Research Project. 100 Units.
In consultation with a faculty research adviser and with consent of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, students devote the equivalent of a one-quarter course to the preparation of their Research Project. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Please indicate that you wish to register for NEHC 29995 Section 01 with the Director of Undergraduate Studies.
Instructor(s): Reculeau, Herve Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): 4th year NELC majors only. Approval of Director of Undergraduate Studies.

NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES COURSES

NELG 20125. Amarna Canaanite in its Sociolinguistic Setting. 100 Units.
In this course, we will focus on letters from the Amarna archive (ca. 1360-1330 BCE) that were written in what is commonly referred to as “Canaano-Akkadian”, a form of Akkadian with significant influence from the native Canaanite language(s) of the scribes. There is no consensus as of yet what “Canaano-Akkadian” represents in terms of language. One aim of the course is to look at different proposals and evaluate them based on the original texts. In order to be able to understand the origin of Canaano-Akkadian and to put it into its proper historical and sociolinguistic context, we will further read earlier texts from Canaan, including those from Hazor and Taanach, before going over to letters from major Canaanite sites attested in the Amarna archive, such as Byblos, Jerusalem, Megiddo, Gezer, and others.
Instructor(s): Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Intermediate Akkadian, two years of Hebrew (or Arabic)
Equivalent Course(s): NELG 30125

NELG 20301. 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: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Knowledge of two Semitic languages or one Semitic language and Historical Linguistics.
Equivalent Course(s): NELG 30301

NELG 20901. Advanced Seminar: Comparative Semitic Linguistics. 100 Units.
This course is an advanced seminar in comparative Semitics that critically discusses important secondary literature and linguistic methodologies concerning topics in the field, including topics in phonology, morphology, syntax, etc.
Instructor(s): R. Hasselbach-Andee Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Introduction to Comparative Semitics. Undergraduates require consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): NELG 40301

PERSIAN COURSES

PERS 10101-10102-10103. Elementary Persian I-II-III.
This sequence concentrates on modern written Persian as well as modern colloquial usage. Toward the end of this sequence, students are able to read, write, and speak Persian at an elementary level. Introducing the Iranian culture is also a goal.

PERS 10101. Elementary Persian I. 100 Units.
This course is designed for complete beginners and teaches students to pronounce, read and write standard Persian, as well as some Iranian colloquial dialect. It includes an introduction to the alphabet, pronunciation patterns, greetings, basic structures, and other fundamentals. Students who have exposure to other Middle Eastern or South Asian languages, but have not formally studied Persian before, should enroll in this course.
By the end of the course, students will be able to communicate in Persian at a Novice-Mid level according to the ACTFL National Standards. They should be able to read and compose basic texts in formal Persian relating to themselves and their everyday lives, and handle basic ‘survival’ scenarios that have been covered in class.

Instructor(s): Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi
Terms Offered: Autumn

PERS 10102. Elementary Persian II. 100 Units.
This sequence concentrates on all skills of language acquisition (reading, writing, listening, and speaking). The class begins with the Persian alphabet, and moves to words, phrases, short sentences, and finally short paragraphs. The goal is to enable the students to gain proficiency in all skills of language acquisition at a higher level. In this sequence, the students learn more complex grammatical structures and gain wider vocabulary through reading paragraph-length texts on a variety of topics related to Persian language, literature, and culture. Students will also be familiarized with Persian news and media terminology. Class meets four hours a week with the instructor and one hour with a native informant who conducts grammatical drills and Persian conversation.

Instructor(s): Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): PERS 10101

PERS 10103. Elementary Persian III. 100 Units.
This sequence concentrates on all skills of language acquisition (reading, writing, listening, and speaking). The class begins with the Persian alphabet, and moves to words, phrases, short sentences, and finally short paragraphs. The goal is to enable the students to gain proficiency in all skills of language acquisition at a higher level. In this sequence, the students learn more complex grammatical structures and gain wider vocabulary through reading paragraph-length texts on a variety of topics related to Persian language, literature, and culture. Students will also be familiarized with Persian news and media terminology. Class meets four hours a week with the instructor and one hour with a native informant who conducts grammatical drills and Persian conversation.

Instructor(s): Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi
Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): PERS 10102

PERS 20101-20102-20103. Intermediate Persian I-II-III.
This sequence deepens and expands students’ knowledge of modern Persian at all levels of reading, writing, and speaking. Grammar is taught at a higher level, and a wider vocabulary enables students to read stories, articles, and poetry. Examples of classical literature and the Iranian culture are introduced.

PERS 20101. Intermediate Persian I. 100 Units.
This sequence deepens and expands the students’ knowledge of modern Persian. The goal is to enable the students to gain proficiency in all skills of language acquisition at a higher level. In this sequence, the students learn more complex grammatical structures and gain wider vocabulary through reading paragraph-length texts on a variety of topics related to Persian language, literature, and culture. Students will also be familiarized with Persian news and media terminology. Class meets four hours a week with the instructor and one hour with a native informant who conducts grammatical drills and Persian conversation.

Instructor(s): Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): PERS 10103 or consent of instructor

PERS 20102. Intermediate Persian II. 100 Units.
This sequence deepens and expands the students’ knowledge of modern Persian. The goal is to enable the students to gain proficiency in all skills of language acquisition at a higher level. In this sequence, the students learn more complex grammatical structures and gain wider vocabulary through reading paragraph-length texts on a variety of topics related to Persian language, literature, and culture. Students will also be familiarized with Persian news and media terminology. Class meets four hours a week with the instructor and one hour with a native informant who conducts grammatical drills and Persian conversation.

Instructor(s): Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): PERS 20101 or consent of the instructor

PERS 20103. Intermediate Persian III. 100 Units.
This sequence deepens and expands the students’ knowledge of modern Persian. The goal is to enable the students to gain proficiency in all skills of language acquisition at a higher level. In this sequence, the students learn more complex grammatical structures and gain wider vocabulary through reading paragraph-length texts on a variety of topics related to Persian language, literature, and culture. Students will also be familiarized with Persian news and media terminology. Class meets four hours a week with the instructor and one hour with a native informant who conducts grammatical drills and Persian conversation.

Instructor(s): Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi
Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): PERS 20202 or consent of the instructor

PERS 20502. Persian Literary Translation Through the Translation of Hafez. 100 Units.
Persian Literary Translation Through the Translation of Hafez Translating poetry is often a challenging endeavor, but translating Persian classical poetry is especially complex for several reasons, including the genre’s prevalence of ebhām (ambiguity) and ihām (polyvalence). These challenges have caused many literary translators to dub Hafez’s poetry as practically untranslatable, yet nonetheless there have been many attempts at translation, with varying degrees of success. This course aims to both explore the specific challenges translators of Hafez have encountered and also to strengthen students’ literary translation skill through the translation of Hafez’s
works. After conducting a survey of existing translations of Hafez and other Persian classical poets, hands-on translations of several ghazals of Hafez will foster a better understanding of the multilayered meanings of his poetry. In addition, published as well as video sources on literary translation will serve as an introduction to prevailing theories of translation and to efficient methodologies of translating literary texts. The course being essentially designed to familiarize students with the practice of translation, students will create and refine their own translations of selected poems of Hafez. The complete term paper must be 10-15 pages of typed double-spaced font 12 text and include the introductory essay, the translation, and the original poems.

Instructor(s): Shabani-Jadidi, Pouneh
Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): PERS 20102
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 32502, NEHC 22502

PERS 29021. Reading Indo-Persian harmonized prose: Bahār-i dānish. 100 Units.
In this course, we will read excerpts from one of the most popular collections of stories written in harmonized (aka ornate) prose in Mughal India: #Ināyatallāh’s Bahār-i dānish. We will use several editions of the texts as well as commentaries and translations and focus on grammar, rhetoric, and the various strategies one may use to render Persian harmonized prose into English.

Instructor(s): Thibaut d’Hubert
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SALC 29021, PERS 39021, SALC 39021

TURKISH COURSES

TURK 10101-10102-10103. Elementary Turkish I-II-III.
This sequence features proficiency-based instruction emphasizing grammar in modern Turkish. This sequence consists of reading and listening comprehension, as well as grammar exercises and basic writing in Turkish. Modern stories and contemporary articles are read at the end of the courses.

TURK 10101. Beginning Modern Turkish. 100 Units.
This sequence features proficiency-based instruction emphasizing grammar in modern Turkish. This sequence consists of reading and listening comprehension, as well as grammar exercises and basic writing in Turkish. Modern stories and contemporary articles are read at the end of the courses.
Instructor(s): Kagan Arik
Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): The class meets for five hours a week

TURK 10102. Elementary Turkish II. 100 Units.
Elementary Turkish (First Year)
Instructor(s): Kagan Arik
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): TURK 10101
Note(s): This class meets for five hours a week

TURK 10103. Elementary Turkish III. 100 Units.
Elementary Turkish (First Year)
Instructor(s): K. Arik
Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): TURK 10102
Note(s): This class meets for five hours a week

TURK 10501. Intro to Turkic Languages I. 100 Units.
The first quarter of a two-section course in which Elementary Kazakh and Elementary Uzbek will be offered as one class, with the option for students to study one or the other, or both simultaneously.
Instructor(s): Kagan Arik
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): KAZK 10501, UZBK 10501

TURK 10502. Introduction to Turkic Languages II. 100 Units.
The second quarter of a two-section course in which Elementary Kazakh and Elementary Uzbek will be offered as one class, with the option for students to study one or the other, or both simultaneously.
Instructor(s): Kagan Arik
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): TURK 10501
Equivalent Course(s): KAZK 10502, UZBK 10502

TURK 15000. Turkish in Istanbul. 100 Units.
TBD

TURK 15001. Elementary Turkish in Istanbul. 100 Units.
Elementary Turkish in Istanbul

TURK 15002. Elementary Turkish in Istanbul. 100 Units.

TURK 15003. Intermediate Turkish in Istanbul. 100 Units.

TURK 15004. Intermediate Turkish in Istanbul. 100 Units.

TURK 15005. Advanced Turkish in Istanbul. 100 Units.

TURK 20101-20102-20103. Intermediate Turkish I-II-III.
This sequence features proficiency-based instruction emphasizing speaking and writing skills as well as reading and listening comprehension at the intermediate to advanced levels in modern Turkish. Modern short stories,
novel excerpts, academic and journalistic articles form the basis for an introduction to modern Turkish literature. Cultural units consisting of films and web-based materials are also used extensively in this course, which is designed to bring the intermediate speaker to an advanced level of proficiency.

TURK 20101. Intermediate Turkish I. 100 Units.
This sequence features proficiency-based instruction emphasizing speaking and writing skills as well as reading and listening comprehension at the intermediate to advanced levels in modern Turkish. Modern short stories, novel excerpts, academic and journalistic articles form the basis for an introduction to modern Turkish literature. Cultural units consisting of films and web-based materials are also used extensively in this course, which is designed to bring the intermediate speaker to an advanced level of proficiency. Prerequisite(s): TURK 10103, or equivalent with intermediate level proficiency test. Instructor(s): Helga Anezhofer Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): TURK 10103, or equivalent with intermediate level proficiency test.

TURK 20102. Intermediate Turkish II. 100 Units.
This sequence features proficiency-based instruction emphasizing speaking and writing skills as well as reading and listening comprehension at the intermediate to advanced levels in modern Turkish. Modern short stories, novel excerpts, academic and journalistic articles form the basis for an introduction to modern Turkish literature. Cultural units consisting of films and web-based materials are also used extensively in this course, which is designed to bring the intermediate speaker to an advanced level of proficiency. Instructor(s): Helga Anezhofer Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): TURK 20101

TURK 20103. Intermediate Turkish III. 100 Units.
This sequence features proficiency-based instruction emphasizing speaking and writing skills as well as reading and listening comprehension at the intermediate to advanced levels in modern Turkish. Modern short stories, novel excerpts, academic and journalistic articles form the basis for an introduction to modern Turkish literature. Cultural units consisting of films and web-based materials are also used extensively in this course, which is designed to bring the intermediate speaker to an advanced level of proficiency. Instructor(s): Helga Anezhofer Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): TURK 20102

TURK 20123. Summer Intensive Intermediate Turkish. 300 Units.
Summer Intensive Intermediate Turkish enables students to develop strong intermediate speaking, listening, reading and writing skills and further solidify their foundation and proficiency in Turkish. Students study Turkish as it is used in authentic media, literature, and film, and gain familiarity with Turkish culture and civilization. The course will also address the needs of those preparing to study Ottoman. The first half of the course emphasizes completing skills acquired in Beginning Turkish and improving competency, while the second half further deepens students’ proficiency, using an introductory sample of authentic textual and audio-visual materials, and excerpts from Turkish literature and texts, ranging from late Ottoman and early Republican period to the present time. Students will have 25 contact hours per week in this course, including synchronous and asynchronous online class time with the instructor, and time spent similarly with the native language assistant. Several hours will be allocated each week to cultural activities such as viewing films, clips, and presentations, and virtual conversation tables. Intensive Intermediate Turkish is the equivalent of the 20100-20200-20300 sequence offered during the regular academic year at the University of Chicago. Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Summer
Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of TURK 10300 or equivalent placement.

TURK 29701. Independent Study: Old Turkic. 100 Units.
Independent study in Old Turkic. Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

UGARITIC COURSES

UGAR 20101-20102-20103. Ugaritic I-II-III.
Elementary Ugaritic

UGAR 20101. Ugaritic I. 100 Units.
First readings in texts in the Ugaritic language (1250-1185BC). Instructor(s): D. Pardee Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Second-year standing and one year of Classical Hebrew

UGAR 20102. Ugaritic II. 100 Units.
Continued reading of texts in the Ugaritic language, emphasis on prose texts. Instructor(s): D. Pardee Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): UGAR 20101

UGAR 20103. Ugaritic III. 100 Units.
Continued reading of texts in the Ugaritic language, emphasis on prose texts. Instructor(s): D. Pardee Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): UGAR 20102
UZBEK COURSES

UZBK 10103. Elementary Uzbek-3. 100 Units.
TBD

UZBK 10501. Intro to Turkic Languages I. 100 Units.
The first quarter of a two-section course in which Elementary Kazakh and Elementary Uzbek will be offered as one class, with the option for students to study one or the other, or both simultaneously. 
Instructor(s): Kagan Arik Terms Offered: Autumn 
Equivalent Course(s): KAZK 10501, TURK 10501

UZBK 10502. Introduction to Turkic Languages II. 100 Units.
The second quarter of a two-section course in which Elementary Kazakh and Elementary Uzbek will be offered as one class, with the option for students to study one or the other, or both simultaneously. 
Instructor(s): Kagan Arik Terms Offered: Winter 
Prerequisite(s): TURK 10501
Equivalent Course(s): KAZK 10502, TURK 10502

UZBK 29700. Independent Study: Uzbek. 100 Units.
Independent Study: Uzbek - Continuation of Introduction to Turkic Languages
Instructor(s): Kagan Arik Terms Offered: Spring 
Prerequisite(s): TURK 10502