

Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures

Overview

The Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (MELC) studies the languages, literature, and cultures of the ancient, medieval, and the modern Middle East. The department offers specialized training in archaeology, art history, Assyriology, Egyptology, Iranian studies, Judaic studies, Islamic studies, comparative Semitics, and Turkish, Hebrew, Arabic, and Persian languages and literature. Students can explore the interconnected worlds of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and their neighbors, as well as the modern literature and diverse cultures and societies of the modern Middle East. Students are given the opportunity to participate in a discovery experience that is innovative, collaborative, transdisciplinary, and features digital research.

Undergraduate Programs

The Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (MELC) B.A. program offers two specializations: 1) Languages and Literature and 2) Middle Eastern Worlds. Students in the Languages and Literature specialization can pursue a major in the modern languages of:

- Arabic
- Hebrew
- Persian

The Middle Eastern Worlds specialization is the study of the material, intellectual, religious histories, and cultures of the region from ancient to modern times. Students can pursue a major in:

- Middle Eastern Ancient Worlds
- Middle Eastern Modern Worlds

In addition to the major program, the department offers a minor in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (MELC), as well as minors in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. For more information about the major and minor programs, please visit the pages below:

Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/middle-eastern-languages-cultures/>) (Major and Minor)

Arabic (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/arabic/>) (Minor)

Hebrew (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/hebrew/>) (Minor)

Persian (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/persian/>) (Minor)

Turkish (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/turkish/>) (Minor)

Graduate Programs

Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/middle-eastern-languages-cultures/>): Master's and Ph.D. (with concentrations in Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian Languages and Literatures, Middle Eastern Archaeology, Art History, Cuneiform, Hebrew Bible, Biblical and Judaic Studies, Old Iranian Studies, Egyptology and Islamic Studies)

Libraries

The Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures libraries are essential parts of the department. These non-circulating libraries are important for research for both graduate and undergraduate students in the department. The libraries house reference materials relating to the various disciplines within MELC, as well as more general monographs and serials, and serve as seminar classrooms.

The **Hebrew/Semitics Library** and the **Islamic Studies Library** both contain basic reference materials, including dictionaries and encyclopedias, and some of the most important texts in their fields. Access is generally limited to graduate students in the department. Both libraries are non-circulating.

The **Baer-Keller Library of Egyptology** is a non-circulating collection of approximately 9,000 volumes maintained by the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures Department primarily for the use of UC Berkeley students and faculty pursuing a serious study of ancient Egyptian culture, Coptology, and Papyrology. Egyptology students and professionals from other institutions are also welcome. Interested individuals should apply to the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures Department. The core of the library collection comes from bequests to the Department of Near Eastern Studies by Professors Klaus Baer (1987) and Cathleen (Candy) Keller (2008). Professor Baer was an Associate Professor of Egyptology and History at UC Berkeley before becoming a Professor of Egyptology at the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago. Professor Keller was an Associate Professor of Egyptology at UC Berkeley for many years.

Cooperative arrangements between the University and the nearby Graduate Theological Union enable students in the department to use the extensive library holdings of the Union and supplement their programs with selected courses in Palestinian archaeology, Biblical studies, and Semitic epigraphy and philology.

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Arabic

ARABIC 1A Elementary Arabic 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Spring 2025
Elementary Arabic introduces students to Modern Standard Arabic and is designed for those with little to no prior knowledge of the language, including its alphabet and sounds. The course is suitable for individuals familiar with Arabic colloquial speech but without formal training in Modern Standard Arabic. The course develops foundational skills in speaking, reading, listening, and writing while building vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and grammar. Students will learn to communicate and engage in discussions on topics such as self, family, and surroundings. The course uses task-based and proficiency-oriented methods to enhance language learning and incorporates an exploration of Arabic cultures.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 1A is a prerequisite to ARABIC 1B

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for ARABIC 1A after completing ARABIC 10. A deficient grade in ARABIC 1A may be removed by taking ARABIC 10.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of recitation and 2 hours of workshop per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 8 hours of recitation and 2 hours of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 1B Elementary Arabic 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024

This course is the second semester of elementary Modern Standard Arabic. It focuses on developing skills in speaking, reading, listening, and writing, while expanding vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and grammar. Students will learn to communicate effectively on topics such as self, family, surroundings, daily routines, past events, and future plans. The course uses task-based and proficiency-oriented methods to enhance language learning and incorporates an exploration of Arabic cultures. Additionally, it covers basic syntax and introduces the fundamentals of the Arabic morphological system.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 1A with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for ARABIC 1B after completing ARABIC 10. A deficient grade in ARABIC 1B may be removed by taking ARABIC 10.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of recitation and 2 hours of workshop per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 8 hours of recitation and 2 hours of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 10 Intensive Elementary Arabic 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021 8 Week Session, Summer 2020 8 Week Session, Summer 2019 8 Week Session

An eight-week intensive course intended to teach skills in oral comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing Arabic. Using up-to-date language teaching and proficiency-oriented methodologies, the course also covers the basics of Arabic morphology, syntax, and grammar. While the course's vocabulary is designed to serve the needs of daily conversation in any part of the Arabic speaking world, its simultaneous attention to the rules of morphology, syntax, and grammar serves the needs of the prospective scholar.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for ARABIC 10 after completing ARABIC 1B.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 11 Arabic for Reading Knowledge 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2003 10 Week Session

The course is designed to guide students through Arabic grammar with a systematic treatment of the subject and the use of classical Arabic texts.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Bazian

ARABIC 15 Spoken Arabic 6 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2003 10 Week Session, Summer 1997 10 Week Session

Practice in speaking an Arabic dialect.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 12 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 15B Spoken Arabic 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2009, Spring 2003

Practice in speaking an Arabic dialect.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 15A

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 101B

ARABIC 20A Intermediate Arabic 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

The course teaches skills in speaking, reading, listening, and writing in Modern Standard Arabic and builds vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and grammar that allows students to further discuss topics related to self and family, community, and environment, offer opinions and speak about a number of topics in detail. Using task-based and proficiency-oriented approaches to foreign language instruction, the course includes regular discussion in Arabic and prepares students to communicate in a variety of contexts. The course engages students with authentic materials and features of Arab cultures and deepens students' knowledge of Arabic syntax and its rich morphological system.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 1B or ARABIC 10 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Credit Restrictions: A deficient grade in ARABIC 20A may be removed by taking ARABIC 30.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of recitation and 2 hours of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 20B Intermediate Arabic 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course is the second semester of the intermediate level of Modern Standard Arabic. The course further teaches skills in speaking, reading, listening and writing in Arabic and builds vocabulary, expressions and grammar that allow students to discuss topics in detail and develop and support opinions. Using task-based and proficiency-oriented approaches to foreign language instruction, the course includes regular discussion in Arabic and prepares students to communicate in a variety of contexts and for various purposes. The course engages students with authentic materials and features of Arab cultures and deepens students' knowledge of Arabic syntax and its rich morphological system.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 20A with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for ARABIC 20B after completing ARABIC 30. A deficient grade in ARABIC 20B may be removed by taking ARABIC 30.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of recitation and 2 hours of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 30 Intermediate Arabic 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021 8 Week Session, Summer 2020 8 Week Session, Summer 2019 8 Week Session

This course is equivalent to a full year of intermediate level Arabic. It will deepen skills in speaking, comprehending, reading, and writing Modern Standard Arabic.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 1B or ARABIC 10 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for ARABIC 30 after completing ARABIC 20B.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 50 Advanced Arabic 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 1997 10 Week Session, Summer 1995 10 Week Session

This course will include grammatical and stylistic analysis of Arabic texts from both the classical and the modern periods. Class will be conducted entirely in Arabic.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Two years of college level Arabic

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for 50 after taking 100A-100B.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 100A Advanced Arabic 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Intensive reading and analysis of texts of different genres. Guest lectures, films, documentaries, oral presentations, research papers. Formal and informal styles of writing and correspondence. Extensive vocabulary building.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 100B Advanced Arabic 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Intensive reading and analysis of texts of different genres. Guest lectures, films, documentaries, oral presentations, research papers. Formal and informal styles of writing and correspondence. Extensive vocabulary building.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 100A with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 103 Media Arabic 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2022

This course aims to strengthen the student's skills in aural comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing in Arabic Media. Students will engage with authentic materials like newspapers, magazines, and internet news sites, which will provide them with a deeper understanding of the linguistic properties of Arabic media output, as well as insight into sociolinguistics, critical discourse analysis, and translation issues. The course will include enrichment activities. Moreover, there will be a group of tasks assigned that will open the door for students to practice what they learned in a meaningful context. Students will also learn about vocalicity and the way news anchors and media professionals speak Arabic.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of workshop per week

Summer: 3 weeks - 15 hours of lecture and 5 hours of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 104A Modern Arabic Prose 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021

This course is designed for students who wish to concentrate on contemporary prose. Reading and analysis of modern Arabic fiction, including short stories, drama, the novel, and expository prose.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 104B Classical Arabic Prose 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2020

This course is designed for students who wish to concentrate on Arabic of the classical periods of Arab and Islamic civilization. Reading and analysis of literary texts of various genres, including essays, biography, and travel literature.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 105A Modern Arabic Poetry 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Readings and analysis of 20th-century Arabic poetry.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 105B Classical Arabic Poetry 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2017, Fall 2008

Readings and analysis of poetry from the pre-Islamic through the classical periods.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 107 Arabic Historical and Geographical Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2018

Readings from the classical historians and geographers and from contemporary scholarship. Development of historiography.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 108 Islamic Religious and Philosophical Texts in Arabic 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Readings in the basic texts of Islam (Qur'an, Huran, Hadith, Sira, commentary) and in theological, mystical, and philosophical texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 111A Survey of Arabic Literature (in Arabic) 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013

This course is designed primarily for majors and prospective majors in Arabic studies. The Classical Periods: A literary-historical survey of Arabic literature from pre-Islamic times to the middle of the thirteenth century, with emphasis on the more important achievements of major Arab authors.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 111B Survey of Arabic Literature (in Arabic) 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This course is designed primarily for majors and prospective majors in Arabic studies. The Post-Abbasid and Modern Periods: A literary-historical survey of Arabic literature from the middle of the thirteenth century to the present.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 115A Colloquial Arabic 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2019

This course introduces students to a standard colloquial Arabic and the cultures of the region in which it spoken. The colloquial will change based on availability. The focus of the course is on speaking and listening, but also includes readings from printed materials. The course draws on various media including advertisements, theater, and film composed in colloquial style. This course will also expose students to literature composed in colloquial. Moreover, students will study the social stratification in the society along with an analysis of the speech of each social level. Students use their knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic as a platform for learning to communicate in colloquial.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 1B or ARABIC 10 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 115B Colloquial Arabic 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2020

This course introduces students to Egyptian Colloquial Arabic and the cultures of the region in which it is spoken. The focus of the course is on speaking and listening, but also includes readings from printed materials. The course draws on various media including advertisements, theater, and film composed in colloquial style. This course will also expose students to literature composed in colloquial. Moreover, students will study the social stratification in the Egyptian society along with a analysis of the speech of each social level. Students use their knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic as a platform for learning to communicate in Egyptian colloquial.

Objectives & Outcomes

Course Objectives: By the completion of ECA course students should be able to:

1. Read and comprehend literature written in ECA
2. Hold longer conversations with native speakers on different topics.
3. Understand the sociolinguistic aspects of Egyptian culture.
4. Understand and engage in the Egyptian humor which forms a big part of the culture.
5. Understand and engage in social occasions such as greetings giving condolences, etc.
6. Recognize the language level of the speaker to avoid misunderstandings.
7. Respond to any speaker according to his/her language level.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ARABIC 115A with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC H195 Senior Honors 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2003

Directed study centered upon preparation of an honors thesis.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Limited to senior honors candidates

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 4 units.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

ARABIC 198 Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2000 10 Week Session

Instruction in areas not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Enrollment is restricted; see the section on Academic Policies-Course Number Guide in the Berkeley Bulletin.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 2-8 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

ARABIC 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 1998

Enrollment restrictions apply; see the Introduction to Courses and Curricula section of this catalog.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Enrollment is restricted; see the section on Academic Policies-Course Number Guide in the Berkeley Bulletin.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Cuneiform

CUNEIF 100A Elementary Akkadian 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2020

Akkadian was the language of literature, diplomacy, law, commerce, religion, and technical knowledge in Mesopotamia (ancient Iraq).

This course offers students the fundamentals in the language and cuneiform script in which the Hammurabi Laws, the Epic of Gilgamesh, the Babylonian Creation, along with many other texts, were written. The study of Akkadian will enable students to read the classics of Akkadian literature and understand the emergence and development of the earliest writing system, cities and states, social and economic structures, and religious beliefs. This course is approved for UC Berkeley majors in Linguistics, as well as filling a requirement for the Near Eastern Civilization major.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: No prerequisites

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for CUNEIF 100A after completing CUNEIF 100B.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

CUNEIF 100B Elementary Akkadian 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2021

Akkadian was the language of literature, diplomacy, law, commerce, religion, and technical knowledge in Mesopotamia (ancient Iraq).

This course offers students the fundamentals in the language and cuneiform script in which the Hammurabi Laws, the Epic of Gilgamesh, the Babylonian Creation, along with many other texts, were written. The study of Akkadian will enable students to read the classics of Akkadian literature and understand the emergence and development of the earliest writing system, cities and states, social and economic structures, and religious beliefs. This course is approved for UC Berkeley majors in Linguistics and for the Near Eastern Civilization major.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Cuneiform 100A: Elementary Akkadian or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

CUNEIF 101A Selected Readings in Akkadian 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2021

In each semester of this course, the student who has completed the first year of the study of Akkadian will read a variety of texts in the cuneiform script either of the Old Babylonian or the Neo-Assyrian periods. In any semester, the texts to be read may be drawn from a variety of text genres: legal, mythological, historical, prayer, etc., but each semester will focus on only one genre.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 100A-100B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: 100A-100B-100C.

CUNEIF 101B Selected Readings in Akkadian 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2020

In each semester of this course, the student who has completed the first year of the study of Akkadian will read a variety of texts in the cuneiform script either of the Old Babylonian or the Neo-Assyrian periods. In any semester, the texts to be read may be drawn from a variety of text genres: legal, mythological, historical, prayer, etc., but each semester will focus on only one genre.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 100A-100B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: 100A-100B-100C.

CUNEIF 102A Elementary Sumerian 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2017

Introduction to Sumerian grammar and writing.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Background in German and French recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

CUNEIF 102B Elementary Sumerian 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2018, Spring 2016

Introduction to Sumerian grammar and writing.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Background in German and French recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

CUNEIF 103A Selected Readings in Sumerian 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2020

Reading of texts selected for clarity of script, simplicity of vocabulary, and historical and cultural significance.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 102A-102B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

CUNEIF 103B Selected Readings in Sumerian 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2017

Reading of texts selected for clarity of script, simplicity of vocabulary, and historical and cultural significance.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 102A-102B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

CUNEIF 106A Elementary Hittite 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2013, Fall 2008, Fall 2001

Introduction to Cuneiform Hittite language and grammar with reading of selected historical and religious texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Background in German and French recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

CUNEIF 106B Elementary Hittite 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2009, Spring 2002, Spring 2000

Introduction to Cuneiform Hittite language and grammar with reading of selected historical and religious texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Background in German and French recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

CUNEIF H195 Senior Honors 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017

Directed study centered upon preparation of an honors thesis.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Limited to senior honors candidates

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 4 units.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

CUNEIF 198 Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Instruction in areas not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

CUNEIF 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017

Enrollment is restricted by regulations shown in the .

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Cuneiform/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Egyptian

EGYPT 100A Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course introduces the fundamentals of the language and hieroglyphic script of Middle Egyptian used to write stories, poems, biographies and letters, magical spells, and eye-witness accounts of historical events from thousands of years ago. The study of this ancient language enables students to read the classics of Egyptian literature and understand the emergence and development of one of the world's oldest writing systems, and the laws, customs, social structures, and religious beliefs of the ancient people of the Nile Valley. Lectures present the grammar and writing; much of the in-class time is devoted to the translating and close reading of texts, with a discussion of their cultural and historical context and meaning.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: This course is a prerequisite for Egyptian 100B, offered in the spring semester. Both semesters of Egyptian 100 are required prerequisites for any of the other ancient Egyptian language courses

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Egyptian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EGYPT 100B Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course introduces the fundamentals of the language and hieroglyphic script of Middle Egyptian used to write stories and poems, biographies and letters, magical spells, and eye-witness accounts of historical events from thousands of years ago. The study of this ancient language enables students to read the classics of Egyptian literature and understand the emergence and development of one of the world's oldest writing systems, and the laws, customs, social structures, and religious beliefs of the ancient people of the Nile Valley. Lectures present the grammar and writing; much of the in-class time is devoted to the translating and close reading of texts, with a discussion of their cultural and historical context and meaning.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: EGYPTIAN 100A or with the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Egyptian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EGYPT 101A Intermediate Egyptian 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2016, Fall 2014

Readings in Middle Egyptian hieroglyphic and hieratic texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 100A-100B

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Egyptian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EGYPT 101B Intermediate Egyptian 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2017, Spring 2015

Readings in Middle Egyptian hieroglyphic and hieratic texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 100A-100B

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Egyptian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EGYPT 102A Elementary Coptic 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2002, Fall 2000, Spring 1997

Introduction to Sahidic dialect.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: German and Greek recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Egyptian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EGYPT 102B Elementary Coptic 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2003, Spring 2001

Readings in Sahidic, other dialects.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: German and Greek recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Egyptian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EGYPT H195 Senior Honors 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Directed study centered upon preparation of an honors thesis.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Limited to senior honors candidates

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 4 units.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Egyptian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

EGYPT 198 Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Instruction in areas not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Egyptian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

EGYPT 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Enrollment is restricted by regulations shown in the .

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Egyptian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Hebrew

HEBREW 1A Elementary Hebrew 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course is the first semester of the elementary level of Modern Hebrew and is meant for students who have no or little experience with the Hebrew language. Students will learn to read and write the Hebrew alphabet (both print and cursive) as well as gain proficiency in speaking and listening. Students will develop a foundational vocabulary, allowing them to communicate in basic sentences. Together with the second semester of Elementary Hebrew, students will be prepared to engage with the Hebrew language in routine contexts.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of recitation and 1 hour of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 1B Elementary Hebrew 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course is the second semester of the elementary level of Modern Hebrew. The course continues where Elementary Hebrew 1A left off and further cultivates students' speaking, reading, listening, and writing proficiencies in Modern Hebrew. It expands on vocabulary and expressions, allowing students to hold colloquial conversations and interactions. The course complements the first semester of elementary Hebrew and together the two semesters provide students with the foundational grammar and syntax of Modern Hebrew, preparing them to engage with Hebrew in routine contexts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Hebrew 1A or consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of recitation and 1 hour of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 10 Intensive Elementary Hebrew 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2007 10 Week Session, Summer 2007 8 Week Session, Summer 2006 10 Week Session

An intensive course in modern Israeli Hebrew. The course covers the basic syntactic and morphological patterns of modern Hebrew through the teaching and practice of communicative and interactive language skills in the four areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course is equivalent to two semesters of Hebrew in the regular academic year.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture and 5 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 11A Reading and Composition for Hebrew Speaking Students 5 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Designed for heritage students who possess oral skills (speaking/ comprehension, though limited) but need to improve their writing and reading abilities, and expand their knowledge of Hebrew grammar and syntax. Completion of 11A-11B will prepare the student to take Hebrew 20A, Intermediate Hebrew.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Rudimentary knowledge of spoken Hebrew and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 11B Reading and Composition for Hebrew-Speaking Students 5 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Designed for heritage students who possess oral skills (speaking/ comprehension, though limited) but need to improve their writing and reading abilities, and expand their knowledge of Hebrew grammar and syntax. Completion of 11A-11B will prepare the student to take Hebrew 20A, Intermediate Hebrew.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Hebrew 11A or the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 20A Intermediate Hebrew 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

This course is the first semester of the intermediate level of Modern Hebrew. The course continues where Elementary Hebrew 1B left off and further cultivates the student's speaking, reading, listening, and writing proficiencies in Modern Hebrew. It expands on vocabulary and expressions, allowing students to hold colloquial conversations as well as establishing a foundation to discuss more sophisticated topics.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Hebrew 1A and 1B or the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of recitation and 1 hour of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 20B Intermediate Hebrew 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course is the second semester of the intermediate level of Modern Hebrew. The course

continues where Intermediate Hebrew 20A left off and further cultivates students' speaking, reading, listening, and writing proficiencies in Modern Hebrew. It expands on vocabulary and expressions, allowing students to hold colloquial conversations as well as discussion on more sophisticated topics. The course complements the first semester of intermediate Hebrew and together the two semesters provide students with a profound foundation of Hebrew grammar and syntax as well as an expansive vocabulary, preparing them to engage with Hebrew in most contexts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Hebrew 1B or consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of recitation and 1 hour of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 30 Intermediate Hebrew 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 1997 10 Week Session, Summer 1996 10 Week Session, Summer 1995 10 Week Session

This course is equivalent to a full year of intermediate Hebrew. It will deepen skills in speaking, understanding, reading, and writing modern Israeli Hebrew.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One year of college level Hebrew

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for 30 after taking 20A-20B.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 100A Advanced Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2020

Advanced Hebrew, especially designed for those going on to the study of modern Hebrew literature. Vocabulary building, grammar review, and literary analysis of a sampling of modern texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: 20A-20B-20C.

HEBREW 100B Advanced Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018

Advanced Hebrew, especially designed for those going on to the study of modern Hebrew literature. Vocabulary building, grammar review, and literary analysis of a sampling of modern texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: 20A-20B-20C.

HEBREW 102A Postbiblical Hebrew Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2008, Fall 2002, Fall 1998

Texts from the rabbinic period (Mishnah, Tosefta, Talmud, and Midrash) and an introduction to the languages of rabbinic texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 102B Postbiblical Hebrew Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Spring 2011, Spring 2009

Texts from the rabbinic period (Mishnah, Tosefta, Talmud, and Midrash) and an introduction to the languages of rabbinic texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 103A Later Rabbinic and Medieval Hebrew Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2004

Study of midrashic, exegetical, halakhic (legal), poetic, apocalyptic, messianic, or historical texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 103B Later Rabbinic and Medieval Hebrew Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Study of midrashic, exegetical, halakhic (legal), poetic, apocalyptic, messianic, or historical texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 104A Modern Hebrew Literature and Culture 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020

A close reading of selected works of modern Hebrew fiction, poetry, and drama in their cultural and historical contexts. Topics vary from year to year and include literature and politics, eros and gender, memory and nationalism, Middle-Eastern and European aspects of Israeli literature and culture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 100A-100B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 104B Modern Hebrew Literature and Culture 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2017, Spring 2016

A close reading of selected works of modern Hebrew fiction, poetry, and drama in their cultural and historical contexts. Topics vary from year to year and include literature and politics, eros and gender, memory and nationalism, Middle-Eastern and European aspects of Israeli literature and culture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 100A-100B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 105A The Structure of Modern Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 1999

An analysis of Hebrew grammar, syntax, semantics, morphology, history of the language, fixed expressions, discourse analysis, contrastive features of Hebrew and English in the context of contemporary linguistic theories.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 105B The Structure of Modern Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2011, Spring 2008

An analysis of Hebrew grammar, syntax, semantics, morphology, history of the language, fixed expressions, discourse analysis, contrastive features of Hebrew and English in the context of contemporary linguistic theories.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 106A Elementary Biblical Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

An introduction to the language of the Hebrew Bible.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 2A-2B

HEBREW 106B Elementary Biblical Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2022

An introduction to the language of the Hebrew Bible.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 2B

HEBREW N106 Elementary Biblical Hebrew 6 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2009 10 Week Session, Summer 2009 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2008 Second 6 Week Session

An introduction to the language of the Hebrew bible.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for N106 after taking 106A-106B.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 15 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 107A Biblical Hebrew Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2015, Fall 2011

The tools and procedure of biblical exegesis applied to simple narrative texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 101A-101B

HEBREW 107B Biblical Hebrew Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2016, Spring 2012

The tools and procedure of biblical exegesis applied to simple narrative texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 101B

HEBREW 111 Intermediate Biblical Texts 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A systematic study of the Prophets beginning with Isaiah.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A-101B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 148A The Art and Culture of the Talmud: Advanced Textual Analysis 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2011, Fall 2010, Fall 2002

In this course, we will read and analyze closely talmudic texts in the original languages--Hebrew and Aramaic--together with selected medieval commentaries. The primary focus of the course will be on the acquisition of facility in reading the Talmud, comprehension of philological and historical-cultural issues and methods of study, as well as understanding the formative relation of the Talmud to the structures and practices of traditional Jewish cultures.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 102A-102B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 148B The Art and Culture of the Talmud: Advanced Textual Analysis 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2001

In this course, we will read and analyze closely talmudic texts in the original languages--Hebrew and Aramaic--together with selected medieval commentaries. The primary focus of the course will be on the acquisition of facility in reading the Talmud, comprehension of philological and historical-cultural issues and methods of study, as well as understanding the formative relation of the Talmud to the structures and practices of traditional Jewish cultures.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 102A-B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW 190B Special Topics in Hebrew 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2016, Spring 2011

Topics explore special themes and problems in Hebrew language and literature. They often reflect the research interests of the instructor and supplement regular curricular offerings. Specific descriptions of current offerings are available through the department.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 20A-20B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

HEBREW H195 Senior Honors 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2003

Directed study centered upon preparation of an honors thesis.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Limited to senior honors candidates

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 4 units.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 198 Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Spring 2002, Fall 2001

Instruction in areas not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

HEBREW 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2003, Spring 1999

Enrollment is restricted by regulations shown in the .

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Hebrew/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (MELC) MELC R1A Reading and Composition in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2024
Expository writing based on analysis of selected texts or literature in translation or writings interpreting the material culture of the ancient or modern Middle East. Specific topics vary with the instructor. R1A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and R1B satisfies the second half.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the Entry Level Writing Requirement

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD R1A after completing NE STUD 1A.

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies R1A

MELC R1B Reading and Composition in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Summer 2023 Second 6 Week Session

Expository writing based on analysis of selected texts or literatures in translation or writings interpreting the material culture of the ancient Near or modern Middle East. Specific topics vary with instructor. R1A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and R1B satisfies the second half.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Previously passed an R_A course with a letter grade of C- or better. Previously passed an articulated R_A course with a letter grade of C- or better. Score a 4 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English Literature and Composition. Score a 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English Language and Composition. Score of 5, 6, or 7 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examination in English

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD R1B after completing NE STUD 1B.

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies R1B

MELC 10 Middle Eastern Worlds: Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course introduces students to the Ancient Middle Eastern world through its languages, texts, art, and material culture. Emphasis is placed on Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia as well as their neighbors in Iran, Turkey, Arabia, and Africa. Students are introduced to techniques scholars use to study this evidence, including philology, archaeology, visual analysis, and digital humanities. Topics include urbanism, kingship, science, religion, and death. Students interact with original materials in campus and Bay Area museums. No prior coursework is required.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 10

MELC 11 Middle Eastern Worlds: The Modern Middle East 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course provides a multidisciplinary introduction to the Middle East, an area that has long dominated the news but remains relatively unknown to most Americans. In a broad sense, the Middle East refers to "Arab" countries in general as well as Israel, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and the region of Kurdistan. The course aims to help students expand their knowledge and understanding of the social, economic, and cultural complexities that underlie current events and politics in the Middle East. We will examine the interplay of cultures, societies, and economies of various regional communities that remain central to the dynamics of Middle Eastern identities.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

MELC N16 Introduction to Islamic Art 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

The art and architecture of the Islamic lands from the seventh to the seventeenth centuries.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD N16 after completing NE STUD 16. A deficient grade in NE STUD N16 may be removed by taking NE STUD 16.

Hours & Format

Summer:

6 weeks - 6.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies N16

MELC 18 Introduction to Ancient Egypt 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2025, Summer 2024 Second 6 Week Session

A general introduction to ancient Egypt, providing overview coverage of ancient Egyptian culture and society (history, art, religion, literature, language, social structure), Egyptian archaeology (pyramids, tombs, mummies, temples, cities, monuments, daily life), and the history and development of the modern discipline of Egyptology. Assumes no prior knowledge of subject. Almost all lectures are illustrated extensively by power point presentation. Discussion sections include meetings in the Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology, which has the best collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts west of Chicago.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD 18 after completing ANTHRO 18.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 18

MELC 24 Freshman Seminars 1 Unit

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

The Berkeley Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small-seminar setting. Berkeley Seminars are offered in all campus departments, and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final Exam To be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 24

MELC 25 Ancient Babylonian Legends and Myths 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Man's fate on earth, friendship, love, suffering, and evil—every civilization considers these themes. This course surveys legends and myths of ancient Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq), a cradle of civilization, home to the world's first cities and empires, and the first writing system. Students will read ancient literary masterpieces such as the Gilgamesh Epic, Creation and Flood Myths, and other Mesopotamian literary texts in translation.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 25

MELC C26 Introduction to Central Asia 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course will introduce the student not only to ancient and modern Central Asia, but also to the role played by the region in the shaping of the history of neighboring regions and regimes. The course will outline the history, languages, ethnicities, religions, and archaeology of the region and will acquaint the student with the historical foundations of some of the political, social and economic challenges for contemporary post-Soviet Central Asian republics.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD C26 after completing GEOG 55, or NE STUD 26. A deficient grade in NE STUD C26 may be removed by taking NE STUD 26.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies C26/Geography C55

Also listed as: GEOG C55

MELC 34 Hebrew Bible in Translation 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Readings from the Hebrew Bible in English translation.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 34

MELC 39A Freshmen & Sophomore Seminars 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A freshmen and sophomore seminar course will be taught by NES faculty in Fall 2016.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final Exam To be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 39A

MELC 98 Directed Group Study for Lower Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Topics vary.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Lower division standing. Student must submit a written proposal with consent of instructor to the department chair for approval

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 98

MELC 99 Supervised Independent Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Topics vary.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Lower division standing; 3.3 GPA and consent of instructor. Students must submit a written proposal to the chair of the department for approval

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 99

MELC 101 Women and Gender in Ancient Egypt 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2021

Women have been ignored or marginalized in much of past scholarship on ancient Egypt despite their highly visible presence in and importance to ancient Egyptian society. This course examines the roles of women and gender in ancient Egyptian society and belief systems. It reviews sources of evidence and interpretive frameworks for understanding the public and private roles of women and the definition of gender in ancient Egypt. It also places the women of ancient Egypt and ancient Egyptian gender constructions into comparative contexts with other ancient eastern Mediterranean and Middle Eastern societies.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Near Eastern Studies 18 or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 101

MELC 102 Egyptomania 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Ancient Egypt has fascinated visitors since antiquity to our modern imagination. From mummies, pyramids, and enchanting mythologies, these fanciful ideas have made their ways into books, movies, cartoons, and music. This course will explore the way ancient Egypt has been “consumed” in the West from the Napoleonic campaign to modern pop culture. We will study the impact that ancient Egypt and its wonderful monuments and civilization has had on art, literature, music, and even a number of religious and spiritual movements in the West as well as in Middle Eastern and African cultures.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 102

MELC 103 Religion of Ancient Egypt 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025

A survey of the religious beliefs of the ancient Egyptians, based primarily upon the written sources.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 18 or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 103

MELC 104 Babylonian Religion 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022

A survey of Babylonian religious beliefs and practices based on indigenous texts and monuments.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD 104 after completing NE STUD C104.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 10 weeks - 4.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 104

MELC 105 Ancient Mesopotamian Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A representative survey of original 3rd-1st millennium Cuneiform texts in translation. The Sumerian religious and scholastic tradition; myths of creation, hymns, epics and early historical material.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 105A

MELC 108 Ancient Astronomy 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

The course focuses on ancient astronomy from Babylonia to the Greco-Roman world. Readings from primary texts, including Babylonian astronomical and astrological documents (MUL.APIN, Enuma Anu Enlil, etc.) and Greek treatises such as Geminus= Introduction to the Phenomena and Ptolemy's Almagest are used. Problems of the calendar and of planetary motion are of special interest. Two different approaches to celestial phenomena are covered, one from cuneiform texts, predominantly arithmetical and linear and the other from hellenistic Greek antiquity, characteristically geometrical and introducing a quantitative dimension only after contact with and borrowing from Babylonian astronomy.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD 108 after completing COM LIT 151, IDS 113, or CLASSIC 130.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 108

MELC 109 Mesopotamian History: Stories of Ancient People and Places 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024

This course introduces students to the history of Mesopotamia, ancient Iraq, home to the world's first cities, writing and monetary exchange. Reading micro-histories of better- and lesser-known historical figures and original Akkadian and Sumerian sources (in translation), students will experience, from the distance of many millennia, the rise and fall of empires, class structures that divided and united society, the treatment of minority populations, the contributions of women --- scholars, queens, and priestesses, and the contributions of the Mesopotamian intellectual tradition to human experience. A visit to the Hearst Museum of Anthropology provides an opportunity for students to interact with original materials from antiquity.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 109

MELC 110 Digital Humanities and Egyptology 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023

The material and written culture of ancient Egypt constitutes one of the best preserved and most robust archaeological corpora to survive from antiquity as well as one of the most popular avenues for public engagement within the Humanities. Digital initiatives have become crucial for the conservation, documentation, and dissemination of ancient Egyptian material and texts to the broadest possible audience. This course will introduce students to the main projects of Egyptology in the field of archaeology, philology, and material studies, which apply techniques of Digital Humanities, from 3D modeling of objects and architectural spaces to digital epigraphy and the creation of searchable databases.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD 110 after completing NE STUD 110. A deficient grade in NE STUD 110 may be removed by taking NE STUD 110, or NE STUD 110.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Lucarelli

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 110

MELC 111 Disease, Health and Pandemics in Ancient Egypt, the Ancient Middle East, and the Classical World 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2021

Disease is a constant of the human condition. Like health, it is both a social construct and a physical reality. Epidemics are diseases that affect very large numbers of people; pandemics are epidemics with a passport—they spread over multiple countries and often continents. In this course we will survey, compare, and contrast ancient and modern conceptions of disease and health, and medicine and doctors, and examine and evaluate what evidence exists—historical, textual, archaeological—for identifying epidemics and pandemics in ancient times.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

MELC 112 Survey of Ancient Egyptian History 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A concise survey of Ancient Egyptian history from Late Predynastic times to the conquest of Alexander the Great.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 18 or equivalent or consent of instructor

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD 112 after completing NE STUD 101B, or NE STUD 101A.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 112

MELC 113 Gilgamesh: King, Hero, and God 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

The most famous of Babylonian heroes is Gilgamesh, King of Uruk. The Gilgamesh Epic, recorded on twelve tablets in cuneiform, follows him in his quest for fame and eternal life. In this course, we will read the Gilgamesh Epic as well as several earlier texts around the same character. Moreover, we will read additional ancient texts that elucidate one or another aspect of the Epic. We will follow the traditions around Gilgamesh and see how his fame was used for literary, religious, and political purposes. Finally, we will look at some of the modern Gilgamesh interpretations.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 113

MELC 114 Beyond Wikipedia: The Ancient Middle East 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Today, much of the information we gather on any topic comes from Internet sources. Goal of this class is to increase students' skills in critically evaluating the scholarly value of information on the Ancient Near East that is to be found in web pages, e-journals, and online books. We will consider the goal and context of sources of information (touristic, commercial, scholarly, religious, etc.) and how this influences and filters the information provided. Although the class will focus on Internet resources, we will not neglect to use the same critical eye when using print media. The class will feature a number of collaborative projects in which this critical attitude may be practiced.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 10 weeks - 4.5 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 114

MELC 115 Early Egypt: From Village to Pyramid 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Ancient Egypt was one of the earliest, most spectacular and most powerful of the world's complex civilizations. Beginning as a series of Neolithic villages, it slowly transformed into a state and then a great kingdom with an all-powerful king. This course explores the first crucial journey of ancient Egypt, from the Neolithic through the Predynastic, Protodynastic, Early Dynastic and Old Kingdom eras. It overviews major aspects of the archaeology, art, history, and culture of Early Egypt as well as important methodological and theoretical issues.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: NE STUD 18 or consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 115

MELC 116 Ancient Egypt: Power, Glory and Empire in the Second Millennium 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

Second Millennium BCE Egypt boasted powerful centralized kingdoms and an international empire alternating with weaker decentralized periods of provincial power and foreign subjugation. This course overviews selected aspects of archaeology, art, history and culture of First Intermediate Period, Middle Kingdom, Second Intermediate Period and New Kingdom Egypt, as well as related methodological and theoretical issues of interpretation. Middle and New Kingdom Egypt especially were soaring heights of cultural achievements and political power.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: NESTUD 18 or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 116

MELC 117AC The Origins of Racism in the West 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

This course provides students an opportunity to investigate the similarities and differences between premodern and modern group identity narratives. Premodern narratives of peoplehood will be analyzed alongside modern racial narratives utilizing a comparative approach to reading primary sources, coupled with a critical engagement with secondary sources on the issues of racism, race, ethnicity, and religion. The course will focus on narratives related to Western Civilization, Whiteness, Anti-Blackness, Antisemitism, Orientalism, and Islamophobia. It will also cover some of the parallels and differences between Western ideologies of racism and Antisemitism and those found in certain parts of the premodern Islamic world and the Middle East.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 117

MELC 118 Writing Systems of the World 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023

This course is about how humans have written language from ancient to modern times. Students will be introduced to the origins, evolutions, and adaptations of writing and explore various types of writing systems, including hieroglyphic, logographic, alphabetic, and syllabic, from around the world. The course will examine topics such as the invention of writing in ancient Mesopotamia, China, and Mesoamerica, the development of hieroglyphics in ancient Egypt, the evolution of the alphabet, the spread of Semitic scripts like Aramaic and Arabic, the invention of modern scripts such as Cherokee and Adlam, and even Emoji. Students will be encouraged to learn about additional scripts not covered in class as part of their assignments.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

MELC 119 Explorers, Archaeologists, and Tourists in the Middle East 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022

This course examines the development of archaeology in the Middle East from 1800 to contemporary times. The first half of the course explores the roles that explorers, pilgrims, and archaeologists played in the field's development against the backdrop of European imperialism and Middle Eastern nationalism. The second half of the course evaluates urgent issues about looting, the antiquities market, repatriation, tourism, and climate change. Students will examine primary source materials such as ethnographies, memoirs, films, social media, and still images, and interrogate case studies that ponder the future of the past in the Middle East.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies C119/Anthropology C123F

MELC C120A The Art of Ancient Mesopotamia: 3500-1000 BCE 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2011, Fall 2006

The art and architecture of early Mesopotamia will be explored in terms of the social, political, and cultural context of ancient Sumer, Babylonia, and Assyria during the period of urbanization and early kingdoms. The course provides an integrated picture of the arts of Mesopotamia and neighboring regions from 3500-1000 BCE with an emphasis on the development of visual narrative, the use of art in the expression of authority and legitimacy, and artistic interconnections between cultures. Collections on campus or in the area will be incorporated whenever possible.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD C120A after completing NE STUD 120A. A deficient grade in NE STUD C120A may be removed by taking NE STUD 120A.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies C120A/History of Art C120A

Also listed as: HISTART C120A

MELC C120B The Art of Ancient Mesopotamia: 1000-330 BCE 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020

The royal art and architecture of later Mesopotamia will be explored in terms of the social, political, and cultural context of the great empires of Assyria, Babylon, and Persia. The course provides an integrated picture of the arts of Mesopotamia and neighboring regions from 1000-330 BCE with an emphasis on the development of visual narrative, the use of art in the expression of authority and legitimacy, and artistic interconnections between cultures. Collections on campus or in the area will be incorporated whenever possible.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD C120B after completing NE STUD 120B. A deficient grade in NE STUD C120B may be removed by taking NE STUD 120B.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies C120B/History of Art C120B

Also listed as: HISTART C120B

MELC C121 Topics in Islamic Art 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2015

The course will treat in depth topics in Islamic architecture and topics in Islamic art. Subjects addressed may include painting, calligraphy, and book production.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for MELC C121A after completing HISTART 121A, NE STUD 121A, or MELC 121A. A deficient grade in MELC C121A may be removed by taking NE STUD 121A, NE STUD 121A, or MELC 121A.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures C121A/ History of Art C121A

Also listed as: HISTART C121A

MELC 122 Iranian Archaeology 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A survey of the archaeology of Iran and its neighbors from the Paleolithic Era to the Sasanian period. Students will analyze architecture, artifacts, and written sources, discuss debates, and learn archaeological methods.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: MELC 10 is recommended

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD 122 after completing NE STUD 122B, or NE STUD 122A.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 122

MELC 123 Archaeology of Mesopotamia 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A survey of Mesopotamian archaeology from the Paleolithic Era to 300 BCE investigating the origins of agriculture, urbanism, states, and empires in ancient Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. Students will analyze architecture, artifacts, and written sources, discuss current debates, and learn archaeological research methods.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: MELC 10 is recommended

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD 123 after completing NE STUD 123A, or NE STUD 123B.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 123

MELC 124 Archaeology of the Levant 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

A survey of Levantine archaeology from the Paleolithic Era to 300 BCE investigating the origins of agriculture, technologies, villages, and states in ancient Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria. Prehistoric, Canaanite, and Israelite societies are emphasized. Students will analyze architecture, artifacts, and written sources, discuss debates, and learn archaeological methods.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: MELC 10 is recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 124

MELC 125 Art and Archaeology of Middle Eastern Christianity 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This course explores the art, archaeology, and history of Middle Eastern Christian communities from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages. Particular emphasis is placed on the everyday life of Christian populations in their various contexts, especially on Assyrian and Syriac-speaking communities. This course investigates material evidence using historical and archaeological methods in order to reconstruct the complex history of Middle East Christianity.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

MELC 126 Silk Road Art and Archaeology 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

The course will outline art and archaeology of the Silk Roads from the 5th century BCE to the 10th century CE. A number of specific sites located along the Silk Roads will be selected and explored in depth, as examples which reveal the manifold cultural currents along the trade routes. Special attention will be paid to the eclecticism in Silk Road cultures brought about by the movement of peoples and merchandise which facilitated the spread and fusion along these trading routes of various ideas, cultural forms, art styles, and religious concepts. The social and political underpinnings of this eclecticism will be examined.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 126

MELC 127 Art and Archaeology of Ancient Syria 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

The course provides a broad introduction to the cultures of ancient Syria from the Neolithic period to 500 BCE. The diversity of cultures and their development over time will be assessed in light of the built environment and artistic production. Emphasis is placed on interpreting the material culture of the region within its social and political contexts.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 127

MELC 128 Art and Archaeology of Ancient Turkey 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course explores the art and archaeology of ancient Turkey from the Neolithic period to the time of Alexander's conquest of the Near East (330 BCE). The survey will include geographic and historical considerations and will focus in particular on the ancient sites and monuments. Topics of discussion may include the Anatolian mother goddess, resource procurement, trade contacts, the Trojan war, and the rise of Phrygia and Lydia. A general theme throughout the course is the issue of defining indigenous, regional cultures and the ways in which they interacted with the broader ancient world.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 128

MELC 129 Arts of Iran and Central Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course focuses on the arts of the Iranian cultural environment from the mid-first Millennium BCE through the first Millennium CE. Geographically, it covers a region stretching east from modern Iran to Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, and north towards the Central Asian steppes, the ancestral home of important ancient Iranian pastoral nomadic tribes. The course will, among others, explore the art and archaeology of the Achaemenids, Parthians, Sasanians, and Sogdians to come to a better understanding of the social, political, and cultural underpinnings of the pre-Islamic Iranian world.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 129

MELC C129 Minoan and Mycenaean Art 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2010, Fall 2005

This course analyzes the art, architecture, and archaeology of prehistoric Greece, concentrating on the Minoan and Mycenaean palatial arts of the Bronze Age (3000-1200 BCE). The evocative yet still enigmatic remains of palaces and funerary complexes, frescoes and vase paintings, and precious worked pieces will be closely examined in terms of their forms and cultural contexts. The place of prehistoric Greece in the international world of the eastern Mediterranean will also be explored.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD C129 after completing NE STUD 129. A deficient grade in NE STUD C129 may be removed by taking NE STUD 129.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies C129/History of Art C140

Also listed as: HISTART C140

MELC 130 History of Ancient Israel 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

The patriarchal age through the Hellenistic period.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 130

MELC 131 Aspects of Biblical Religion 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

The teachings of ancient Israel's priests, prophets and sages on various universal problems.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 131

MELC 132 Biblical Poetry 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A survey of the poetics and genres of poetry in the Hebrew Bible, focusing on close reading of selected texts. Theoretical issues will include the dynamics of parallelism, metaphor, intertextuality, agency, and gender. Historical issues will include the ancient Near Eastern literary genres and the political and ritual dynamics of the biblical poems. Throughout the course, we will also be reading selected modern poems that respond to biblical poetry. Primary texts will be largely drawn from the books of Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and the prophets. All texts will be read in translation.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 132

MELC 133 Judaism in Late Antiquity 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This class will examine the emergence and development of classical Judaism, its piety, institutions, thought, and literature.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for MELC C133 after completing NE STUD 133, or MELC 133. A deficient grade in MELC C133 may be removed by taking NE STUD 133, NE STUD 133, or MELC 133.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies C133/Religious Studies C133/Undergrad Interdisciplinary Studies C153

MELC 134 Topics in History and Cultures of Israel 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022

A course on trends in Jewish religious, cultural, and social life. The course will study innovative and conservative aspects of thought, ritual, and belief in relation to contemporary life and traditional Jewish values in at least one country other than the United States.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 134

MELC 135 Literature and History in the Hebrew Bible 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Our understanding of the Hebrew Bible has been transformed in recent years due to insights from literary criticism, anthropology, archaeology, and historiography. This course explores the impact of these innovations and provides a multilayered introduction to the writings of the Hebrew Bible, focused on the mingling of memory, religion, and the literary imagination.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD 135 after completing UGIS C152.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 135

MELC 136 History and Historiography in the Hebrew Bible 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A critical examination of the form and content of history-like narratives of the Hebrew Bible in the light of concepts of history and historiographic practices in the ancient Near East and in contemporary historical studies. Selective focus on one or more books in Genesis through Kings, Chronicles, and Ezra-Nehemiah.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 136

MELC 137 Modern and Contemporary Jewish Thought 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

An analysis of modern Jewish movements and ideas. Topics include Spinoza, Hasidism, the Enlightenment, Jewish religious movements in America, Zionism, Buber, Rosensweig, Kaplan, Heschel.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 137

MELC 138 The Hero in the Bible and the Ancient Middle East 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

An investigation of concepts of the hero/heroine in the literature of ancient Mesopotamia, Canaan, and Israel. The importance of heroic epic in defining and exploring morality, the self, and the cosmos will be a guiding concern. Texts include the epics of Gilgamesh and Aqhat, the Hebrew Bible, and the New Testament. All texts are read in translation.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 138

MELC 139 Modern Jewish Literatures 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Trends and genres in modern Jewish literatures--translated from Hebrew and Yiddish, with selected texts translated from other Jewish languages like Ladino and Judeo-Arabic. Focus will be on developments in Jewish literary traditions since the enlightenment in the context of tensions between occidental and oriental formations of Jewish culture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 139

MELC 140 Topics in Islamic Thought and Institutions 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Selected topics from Islamic intellectual history.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 140

MELC 141 Modern and Contemporary Islamic Thought 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A survey of leading Muslim thinkers and movements of the past two centuries.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 141

MELC 142 Shi'ite Islam 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

The beliefs, traditions, and practices of the Shi'ite school of Islam.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 142

MELC 143 Islam in Iran 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A general survey of the religious history of Iran in the Islamic period, covering the rise and development of religious institutions, the elaboration of the religious sciences, Sufism, and sectarian movements.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 143A

MELC 144 Sufism: The Mysticism of Islam 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

A general presentation of Sufism that, while not aiming at exhaustiveness, will seek to acquaint students with the place and function of Sufism in Islam; the main outlines of its history; doctrinal and ritual features; the relationship between Sufism and literature, especially poetry; the principal Sufi orders; leading figures in the elaboration of Sufism as a distinct mode of Islamic practice; and the great diversity of Sufism as reflected in its geographic spread throughout the Muslim world.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 144

MELC 145 Women in Islam 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

This course explores the status of women in Islam by examining how the most authentic Islamic sources, the Qur'an, and Hadith, have addressed the role of women in society. We will critically discuss the different interpretations of these texts and their instructions towards women. In addition, the course will examine other academic writings to investigate questions, such as whether the resistance to modernity in Muslim societies is due to Islam or patriarchal laws. Did Islam dictate the patriarchal order in Muslim societies? What are the difficulties that Muslim women face in their societies? Also, the course will include biographies of many great Muslim women whose names are enshrined in the ancient and modern history of Islam.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

MELC 146 Islam 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2024

This course aims at introducing students to some of the most important features of the Islamic religious tradition. The main subjects of discussion include life of Muhammad, the Quran, Tradition, Law, Sufism, Theology, Philosophy, and Politics. The course will cover both medieval and modern Islam and will touch upon all major sects. In reference to the modern period, particular emphasis will fall on the relationship of medieval and modern interpretations and on the emergence of "political" and "liberal" Islam with reference to the history of the modern Middle East. Students will also be exposed to important theories and methods in the academic study of the discipline.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 146

MELC 147 The Rise of Islamic Civilization 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A survey of Islamic civilization in the Middle East during the medieval period. Topics include the emergence of Islam in Arabia and the role of the Prophet Muhammad; the rapid rise of an Islamic empire and its effects on the societies it governed; the creation of an Islamic civilization and the religious, political, and intellectual debates it engendered; contact with Europe and Asia through trade, Crusades, and nomadic conquest; the contributions of non-Muslims, women, slaves.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 147

MELC 148 Emergence of the Modern Middle East 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

The course provides a chronological and thematic approach using biographies and texts to trace the emergence of the modern Middle East from the late 17th to the early 20th century culminating in the dissolution of the Ottoman dynasty and the advent of the nation-state structure. The course contextualizes the region's social history, culture, religious, and social stratification, colonization, and Orientalism as a pathway toward understanding the forces that shaped the modern Middle East.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 148

MELC 149 The Modern Middle East from WWI to the Present 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

The course will trace the birth of the modern map of the Middle East, explore the development of new nation-states, the emergence of various social-religious movements, anti-colonial struggles, and forging national identities as well as the erasure of others. We will explore the emerging national projects and contestations in Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and the un-making of Palestine. The course will explore the emerging and continued instrumentalization of ethnic, religious, and cultural differences by domestic and external forces, and the continued mobilization of colonial discourses in the post-colonial era.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 149

MELC 150A Arabic Literature in Translation 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

No knowledge of Arabic is required. Survey of Arabic literature from its origins in pre-Islamic poetry through its historical development during the Umayyad, and Abbasid periods.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 150A

MELC 150B Arabic Literature in Translation 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023

No knowledge of Arabic is required. Survey of Arabic literature in its development from the post-Abbasid period to the present.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 150B

MELC 151 Middle Eastern Women Writers 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024

This course focuses on poetry, short stories, novels, and the history of Middle Eastern women writers. The course will feature writings from women of diverse social and religious backgrounds and their distinct role in shaping the cultural history of Arabic poetry and literature. Texts may range from the pre-Islamic to the Medieval period as well as contemporary writings in both print and digital. Students will examine various literary methods developed over time by women writers seeking to defend and assert their rights for independence, education, and self-fulfillment. Examining their narratives from both historical and fictional sources will allow us to reflect on contemporary concerns regarding freedom, human rights, and equality.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD 151 after completing NE STUD 151. A deficient grade in NE STUD 151 may be removed by taking NE STUD 151, or NE STUD 151.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Meerkhan

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 151

MELC 152 Cultural Encounters in Modern Arabic Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course is organized around two broad but inter-related issues: the quest for identity and the representation of the "other" in modern Arabic literature. Central to both concerns is the treatment of colonialism, nationalism, and gender in modern Arabic literature and Arab culture in general.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 152

MELC 153 Synagogues, Cathedrals, and Mosques: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025

This course focuses on the cultural history of Islamic Spain (Al-Andalus) from the Muslim conquest of 711 until the expulsion of Moriscos in 1609. Topics covered include the history, literature, architecture, arts, and music of Al-Andalus. The major aim is for students to develop an understanding of and a sensibility to the history, politics, and cultures of Al-Andalus as well as its social and cultural relevance to contemporary audiences.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 153

MELC 154 Narratives of Identity in Israeli and Palestinian Fiction 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

The dynamics of identity in contemporary Israeli and Palestinian fiction. Since in both literary traditions the quest for identity invariably involves an encounter with the cultural "other," the examination of this phenomenon within a single context can be revealing. We will approach the subject through lectures, discussion, and the viewing of video and film dramatizations of Arabic and Hebrew works that deal with identity, and make use of the class location to significantly enhance learning by visiting Arabic and Hebrew theaters and literary establishments and by meeting and interacting with Israeli and Palestinian writers, critics, and scholars.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 15 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 154

MELC 155 The Thousand and One Nights in World Literary Imagination 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022

This course investigates the writing, transmission, and reception of The Thousand and One Nights. After studying the tales and examining their structure, students will investigate how stories were transmitted, translated, and received in Europe. This process offers a window into 19th-century attitudes about gender and race, especially Western views of the "oriental" other. How the tales were creatively manipulated by Western writers will be studied as will the influence of these stories on modern Arabic literature. Examples of how the stories are represented in Western films will be considered. All works will be read in English translation.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 155

MELC 156 Sociolinguistics of the Middle East 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021

The Middle East, Iran, and North Africa are home to a great number of languages and dialects, including many varieties of Arabic, as well as Persian, Kurdish, Hebrew, Aramaic, Berber, and more. This course provides an introduction to the current status of these languages, their social settings, and relevant parts of their histories. Students will acquire a basic foundation in sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology as we explore how these languages change, struggle, and thrive. Knowledge of a language from the region (e.g. Arabic or Persian) will be helpful; no background in linguistics is required.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 156

MELC 157 Reel Arabs: Film and Fiction in the Middle East 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

This course introduces students to the main themes and tropes in contemporary Arab cultural production. Within an analytical framework, the course surveys a variety of examples from the written and cinematic culture. These include films, fiction, autobiographies, documentaries, music as well as critical articles and essays. The texts engage a wide range of topics including desire, gender, Islam, colonialism, revolution, nationalism, borders, and refugees in the modern Arabic-speaking world. Ultimately, the course seeks to provide a critical method that will enable students to study and appreciate contemporary Arab culture. Knowledge of Arabic is not required.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

MELC 158AC Middle East: Post-Colonialism, Migration, and Diaspora 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

The course focuses on the impacts of migration and displacement of people from postcolonial Middle East region and the U.S. legal, political, social, and religious discourse on cross-cultural and ethical issues which arise in immigration practice while placing the phenomena within a global and transnational context. Three separate groups in the US will be examined; Middle Eastern immigrants, El Salvadoran diaspora, and rightwing white communities. The course seeks to draw connections between Middle Eastern migration and diaspora in the colonial and postcolonial periods leading to the modern period of restrictive immigration policies, building of walls, targeting Arab and Muslim immigrants as well as all immigrants from the Global South.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 158AC

MELC 159 Middle East, Empire, and Orientalism 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

From Roman to American imperial interests, the Middle East sits at the crossroads of empires and the focal point for power struggles and Orientalist imaginaries. This course explores the intersections of culture, race, and imperialism, and Western engagement in the Middle East over the last 150 years. The recent invasion of Iraq has led to a renewal in the idea of "empire" building in the Middle East. The ideas of empire, colonial legacies, Orientalist tropes, war and competition for oil, and current globalization and neoliberal policies impacting the region will be explored.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 159

MELC 160 Religions of Ancient Iran 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022

Principally devoted to Zoroastrianism and Manicheanism but with some attention to Indo-Iranian origins, and relevance of Iranian religion for the history of Hellenistic Gnosticism, Judaism, and Islam.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 160

MELC 161 Topics in Persian Art and Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021

An introduction to the visual and material cultures of the Persianate world. Persian art has one of the richest artistic heritages in world history and includes a wide range of artistic development in architecture, sculpture, painting, weaving, pottery, calligraphy, and metalwork. This course will explore the arts in terms of their larger social, political, and cultural context in history. In addition to the Iranian plateau, the course may also cover other regions that are part of the Iranian cultural domain, which stretches from India, Afghanistan, Central Asia to Egypt, and the Mediterranean.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 161

MELC 162 History of Persian Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024

These courses offer a comprehensive introduction to the main currents in Persian literature from the 10th century to the contemporary period. They introduce students to various genres, period styles, and crucial formal and thematic elements necessary to the understanding of Persian literature. While 162A deals with classical Persian literature, 162B deals with Persian literature since the advent of modernity in Persian-speaking lands, namely the 19th century. Both courses emphasize the impact of social factors, political events, and intellectual currents on Persian literary production. The course is taught in English. Knowledge of Persian is desirable but not required.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 2.5 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 162A

MELC 163 Persian Literature in Translation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023

An engaged study of Persian literature in translation, drawing on texts from the 8th to the 21st century. Readings will illustrate philosophies of either individual thinkers and themes, or the development within particular genres such as poetry, mysticism, novels, etc. We will further strive to understand the socio-political-religious milieu(s) of the text(s) and their author(s).

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

MELC 165 Film and Fiction of Iran 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course introduces students to major themes in modern Iranian literature and cinema. Short story readings and discussions provide an analytical framework for the screening of films covering diverse topics of significance in Iran today. All films have English subtitles; lectures and readings are in English. No prior knowledge of Iranian history or literature is required.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division status

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6-6 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 165

MELC 170 Islamic History and Historiography (600-1050) 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021

The course introduces students to Islamic history and challenges of Islamic historiography from the rise of Islam (ca.600 CE) to the coming of the Seljuks (1050CE). Students will gain an understanding of the religious, social, and political institutions of Islam in their historical contexts. Throughout the course, they will be exposed to various primary and secondary sources that help them develop a sense of how the historical narrative was produced.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 170

MELC 171 Turkish Literature in Translation 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A study of Turkish literature in translation, drawing on texts from the 8th to the 20th century. Readings will be chosen to illustrate the development within specific genres: lyric poetry, drama, folktale, etc.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 170A

MELC 173 Topics in the History of Central Asia and the Turks 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A survey of the main themes in the cultural, ethnic, and linguistic history of Central Asia and adjacent regions, principally from the rise of Islam down to the present. The first half of the course will deal with the Iranian element in Central Asia, and particularly with the Tajiks. The second half will be devoted to the Turks, including their history and expansion, not only in Central Asia but also in Anatolia and South East Europe.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 173A

MELC 174 Law and Society in the Early Modern Middle East 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course examines the social and religious lives of women and men through the lens of the law. A major concern is the relationship between law and culture, namely, the ways in which the law reflected ideals and tensions ranging from ideological competition between states to the problems of ordinary townspeople and peasants. In analyzing actual court cases, we will ask how individuals participated in the life of the court, and how they used the court to articulate their own self-interest and sense of moral worth. Readings will be in English. Students wishing to work with sources in the original Ottoman Turkish should also enroll in Turkish 104 (1 unit).

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 174

MELC 175 History and Culture of Afghanistan 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023

This course will discuss Afghanistan from ancient times to the present, including the emergence of Afghanistan as a modern nation-state and its geo-strategic importance. The Soviet invasion and aftermath will be emphasized, along with issues of state and society, ethnic diversity and tribal structure, challenges of modernization, and nationalism and political identity. The role of religion and mystical orders and the role of art, music, and literature will also be discussed.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 175

MELC 180 The Quran and Its Interpretation 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Summer 2024 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2024

The course introduces students to Quran and to methods of its interpretation, as adopted in the exegetical (tafsir) literature. In addition to being exposed to secondary academic literature on the Quran and its exegesis, students will be offered a high dose of primary exegetical texts in translation. Passages from a number of periods and denominations will be selected, so that students may develop an appreciation of the interpretive range of a constantly-evolving tradition.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Ahmed

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 180

MELC 181 Prophetic Biography 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

In the early seventh century, Muhammad initiated a movement that evolved into a global religion and civilization, profoundly influencing numerous cultures worldwide. This course endeavors to offer students a holistic understanding of the Prophet Muhammad's life, drawing from the perspectives of both Muslim and Western scholars. Throughout the course, students will explore various discourses surrounding Muhammad's life and character. For instance, they will delve into the biographies penned by Muslim scholars across different eras, spanning from ancient to modern times. Additionally, the course will examine the diverse perspectives of non-Muslim scholars, examining how they have perceived and depicted Muhammad from various vantage points.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

MELC 187 The Assyrians and Other Religious Groups in the Middle East 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022

This course explores the history and culture of religious groups in the Middle East beginning in the Roman and Sasanian Eras and extending up to the current day. Evidence from Christian, Jewish, Zoroastrian, Yezidi, and Muslim communities will be investigated. Particular emphasis will be placed on the development of the Assyrians from their ancient origins in Mesopotamia, their Christianization, and to their modern global diaspora. Primary texts will be read in translation and material culture will be examined in class. Themes such as persecution, nationalism, and genocide, among other topics, will be studied.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for MELC 187 after completing NE STUD 125. A deficient grade in MELC 187 may be removed by taking NE STUD 125, or NE STUD 125.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 125

MELC C188 Magic, Religion, and Science: The Ancient and Medieval Worlds 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2018, Spring 2016

This course will explore magic as an experimental science within the learned traditions of civilizations that we consider as fundamental for a modern Western identity: from ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and Rome to the medieval and early modern Middle East, Byzantium, and Europe. The primary sources used for this exploration will be texts on demons, magic, divination, and the sophisticated philosophical background to such beliefs. In addition, archeological remains pertinent to these practices such as talismans, amulets, and other magical objects will be discussed.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: HISTORY C188C

MELC 190A Special Topics in Fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: Ancient Middle Eastern Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Topics explore themes and problems in the various fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures. They often reflect the research interests of the instructor and supplement regular curricular offerings. Specific descriptions of current offerings in this series are available through the department.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 190A

MELC 190B Special Topics in Fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: Egyptian Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2022

Topics explore themes and problems in the various fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures. They often reflect the research interests of the instructor and supplement regular curricular offerings. Specific descriptions of current offerings in this series are available through the department.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 190B

MELC 190C Special Topics in Fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: Jewish Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Topics explore themes and problems in the various fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures. They often reflect the research interests of the instructor and supplement regular curricular offerings. Specific descriptions of current offerings in this series are available through the department.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 190C

MELC 190D Special Topics in Fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: Islamic Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023

Topics explore themes and problems in the various fields of Near Eastern studies. They often reflect the research interests of the instructor and supplement regular curricular offerings. Specific descriptions of current offerings in this series are available through the department.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 190D

MELC 190E Special Topics in Fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: Arabic 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Topics explore themes and problems in the various fields of Near Eastern studies. They often reflect the research interests of the instructor and supplement regular curricular offerings. Specific descriptions of current offerings in this series are available through the department.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 190E

MELC 190H Special Topics in Fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: Hebrew 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Topics explore themes and problems in the various fields of Near Eastern studies. They often reflect the research interests of the instructor and supplement regular curricular offerings. Specific descriptions of current offerings in this series are available through the department.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 190H

MELC 190I Special Topics in Fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: Iranian/ Persian 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Topics explore themes and problems in the various fields of Near Eastern studies. They often reflect the research interests of the instructor and supplement regular curricular offerings. Specific descriptions of current offerings in this series are available through the department.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 190I

MELC 192 Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This series is designed to acquaint upper division students with advanced research strategies in specific areas of Near Eastern Studies. The course may reflect current research and interests of the instructors and will introduce students to specialized problems in the field. Two units for presentation; four units for paper and presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10-10 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 192

MELC 192A Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Ancient Middle Eastern Studies 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This series is designed to acquaint upper-division students with advanced research strategies in specific areas of Middle Eastern Studies. The course may reflect current research and interests of the instructors and will introduce students to specialized problems in the field. Two units for presentation; four units for paper and presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10-10 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 192A

MELC 192B Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Egyptian Studies 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This series is designed to acquaint upper-division students with advanced research strategies in specific areas of Middle Eastern Studies. The course may reflect current research and interests of the instructors and will introduce students to specialized problems in the field. Two units for presentation; four units for paper and presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10-10 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 192B

MELC 192C Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Jewish Studies 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This series is designed to acquaint upper-division students with advanced research strategies in specific areas of Middle Eastern Studies. The course may reflect current research and interests of the instructors and will introduce students to specialized problems in the field. Two units for presentation; four units for paper and presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10-10 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 192C

MELC 192D Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Islamic Studies 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This series is designed to acquaint upper-division students with advanced research strategies in specific areas of Middle Eastern Studies. The course may reflect current research and interests of the instructors and will introduce students to specialized problems in the field. Two units for presentation; four units for paper and presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10-10 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 192D

MELC 192E Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Arabic 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This series is designed to acquaint upper-division students with advanced research strategies in specific areas of Middle Eastern Studies. The course may reflect current research and interests of the instructors and will introduce students to specialized problems in the field. Two units for presentation; four units for paper and presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10-10 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 192E

MELC 192F Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Cuneiform 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This series is designed to acquaint upper-division students with advanced research strategies in specific areas of Middle Eastern Studies. The course may reflect current research and interests of the instructors and will introduce students to specialized problems in the field. Two units for presentation; four units for paper and presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10-10 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 192F

MELC 192G Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Egyptian 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This series is designed to acquaint upper-division students with advanced research strategies in specific areas of Middle Eastern Studies. The course may reflect current research and interests of the instructors and will introduce students to specialized problems in the field. Two units for presentation; four units for paper and presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD 192G after completing NE STUD 192H.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10-10 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 192G

MELC 192H Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Hebrew 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This series is designed to acquaint upper-division students with advanced research strategies in specific areas of Middle Eastern Studies. The course may reflect current research and interests of the instructors and will introduce students to specialized problems in the field. Two units for presentation; four units for paper and presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10-10 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 192H

MELC 192I Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Iranian/Persian 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This series is designed to acquaint upper-division students with advanced research strategies in specific areas of Middle Eastern Studies. The course may reflect current research and interests of the instructors and will introduce students to specialized problems in the field. Two units for presentation; four units for paper and presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10-10 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 192I

MELC 192J Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Semitics 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This series is designed to acquaint upper-division students with advanced research strategies in specific areas of Middle Eastern Studies. The course may reflect current research and interests of the instructors and will introduce students to specialized problems in the field. Two units for presentation; four units for paper and presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10-10 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 192J

MELC 192K Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Turkish 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This series is designed to acquaint upper-division students with advanced research strategies in specific areas of Middle Eastern Studies. The course may reflect current research and interests of the instructors and will introduce students to specialized problems in the field. Two units for presentation; four units for paper and presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10-10 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 192K

MELC 193 Middle Eastern Archaeological Field School 6 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course teaches archaeological field methods through hands-on instruction. Students work with the project staff and receive exposure to techniques like excavation, survey, illustration, photography, and artifact processing. Students also learn local archaeology and history through weekly lectures and field trips.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: No prerequisites but courses in archaeology or Middle/ Near Eastern studies are recommended

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 40 hours of fieldwork, 5 hours of laboratory, and 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 193

MELC H195 Senior Honors 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Directed study centered upon preparation of an honors thesis.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Limited to senior honors candidates

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for NE STUD H195 after completing NE STUD 195. A deficient grade in NE STUD H195 may be removed by taking NE STUD 195.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 4 units.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies H195

MELC 198 Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Instruction in areas not covered by regularly scheduled courses: Phoenician, Cypriote, Syrian Archaeology.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 198

MELC 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Enrollment is restricted by regulations shown in the

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: Near Eastern Studies 199

Persian

PERSIAN 1A Elementary Modern Persian 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Introduction to Persian language, covering basics of the language skills in all aspects of reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking with emphasis on culture and communicative methods.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Prerequisite for Persian 1B, or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 1B Elementary Modern Persian 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Introduction to Persian language, covering basics of the language skills in all aspects of reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking with emphasis on culture and communicative methods.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 1A, or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 10 Intensive Elementary Persian 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2017, Summer 2016 10 Week Session, Summer 2015 8 Week Session

This course is equivalent to a full year of elementary Persian. It will train students in the four language skills: speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing. Emphasis will be placed on the functional usage of the language.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for 10 after taking 1A-1B.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 11A Reading and Composition for Persian Speaking Students 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Designed for heritage students who possess oral skills (speaking/ comprehension, though limited) but need to improve their writing and reading abilities, and expand their knowledge of Persian grammar and syntax. Completion of 11A-11B will prepare the student to take Persian 20A, Intermediate Persian.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Rudimentary knowledge of spoken Persian and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 11B Reading and Composition for Persian-Speaking Students 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018

Designed for heritage students who possess oral skills (speaking/ comprehension, though limited) but need to improve their writing and reading abilities, and expand their knowledge of Persian grammar and syntax. Completion of 11A-11B will prepare the student to take Persian 20A, Intermediate Persian.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 11A or the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 20 Intensive Intermediate Persian 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2017 8 Week Session, Summer 2007 10 Week Session, Summer 2007 8 Week Session

A year or more of advanced level Persian with emphasis on advanced grammar and vocabulary build up. Newspaper clippings, film reviews and cultural awareness through introduction of literature will be covered.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 1A-1B or Persian 10 or equivalent

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 20A Intermediate Modern Persian 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

The sequence begins in the fall. This course emphasizes reading of simple literary texts, expository writing and composition, formal conversation, grammar, and syntax. It involves intensive vocabulary building in preparation for advanced reading and comprehension of standard literary texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 1A-1B or Persian 11A-11B or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 20B Intermediate Modern Persian 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

The sequence begins in the fall. This course emphasizes reading of simple literary texts, expository writing and composition, formal conversation, grammar, and syntax. It involves intensive vocabulary building in preparation for advanced reading and comprehension of standard literary texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 20A or the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 50 Persian Reading and Composition 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 1997 10 Week Session, Summer 1995 10 Week Session

This course is designed to promote advanced literacy skills in students with different levels of spoken Persian but little or no reading and writing skills in the language. This course will prepare students to take advanced literature courses in the Persian language.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Knowledge of spoken Persian and consent of instructor

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for 50 after taking 106A-106B.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 100A Advanced Persian 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Emphasis on intensive vocabulary building, comprehensive grammar review, reading and analysis of short literary texts of various genres from classical and modern periods, and reading newspaper clips and other original sources in Persian media.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 20A-20B or equivalent, or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 100B Advanced Persian 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Emphasis on intensive vocabulary building, comprehensive grammar review, reading and analysis of short literary texts of various genres from classical and modern periods, and reading newspaper clips and other original sources in Persian media.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 100A or the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 101A Readings in Persian Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Fall 2013, Fall 2012

Readings in both prose and poetry, drawn chiefly from classical and modern Persian literature, designed to increase reading skills and vocabulary and to provide a transition to the study of more challenging literary texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 100A-100B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 101B Readings in Persian Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Spring 2013, Spring 2012

Readings in both prose and poetry, drawn chiefly from classical and modern Persian literature, designed to increase reading skills and vocabulary and to provide a transition to the study of more challenging literary texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 101A or the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 102A Readings in Classical Persian Prose 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2019, Fall 2016

Systematic study of representative selections from all periods of classical Persian literature, with attention to the historical and intellectual context.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A or 101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 102B Readings in Classical Persian Prose 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2008, Spring 2006

Systematic study of representative selections from all periods of classical Persian literature, with attention to the historical and intellectual context.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A or 101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 103A Classical Persian Poetry 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Systematic study of poems belonging to all genres of classical Persian poetry, with consideration of questions of prosody, rhetoric, and style.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A or 101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 103B Classical Persian Poetry 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2020, Spring 2018

Systematic study of poems belonging to all genres of classical Persian poetry, with consideration of questions of prosody, rhetoric, and style.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A or 101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 104A Contemporary Persian Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2013, Summer 1996 10 Week Session

This course will deal with significant works of Persian prose and poetry from the beginning of the 19th century down to the present. Complete works or extracts from them will be read in the original as a preliminary to their analysis in terms of literary and stylistic development, as well as the changing role of literature in society. The works of the 19th century and the period of the Constitutional Revolution (1905-1911).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A or 101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 104B Contemporary Persian Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2017, Spring 2013

This course will deal with significant works of Persian prose and poetry from the beginning of the 19th century down to the present. Complete works or extracts from them will be read in the original as a preliminary to their analysis in terms of literary and stylistic development, as well as the changing role of literature in society. The literature of the rest of the 20th century.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A or 101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 105 Modern Analytical Prose in Persian 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2015, Spring 2010

This course deals with modern/contemporary critical theory, literary history, aesthetics and philosophy, and various theories of literary and cultural criticism in Persian. It concentrates on selected modern analytical, discursive, and expository texts in Persian. The course explores, from an inter- and multi-disciplinary perspective, how different movements, genres, and rhetorical aspects of modern/contemporary literature and culture have been perceived, historically contextualized, and critically positioned within the larger intellectual and scholarly domain in Persian. All texts will be read in the original Persian.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 101A-101B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PERSIAN 120 Intensive Intermediate Persian 10 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

A year or more of advanced level Persian with emphasis on advanced grammar and vocabulary build up. Newspaper clippings, film reviews and cultural awareness through introduction of literature will be covered.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Persian 1A-1B or Persian 10 or equivalent

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 20

PERSIAN H195 Senior Honors 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Directed study centered upon preparation of an honors thesis.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Limited to senior honors candidates

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 4 units.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PERSIAN 198 Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Instruction in areas not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PERSIAN 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2003, Fall 2002

Enrollment is restricted by regulations shown in the .

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Persian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Semitics

SEMITIC 100A Aramaic 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Fall 2013

Biblical and Ancient Aramaic, including study of the Aramaic parts of Daniel and Ezra and the inscriptions and papyri from Syria, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Persian Empire. Sequence begins Fall.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Hebrew 100A-100B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Semitics/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

SEMITIC 100B Aramaic 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2014

Biblical and Ancient Aramaic, including study of the Aramaic parts of Daniel and Ezra and the inscriptions and papyri from Syria, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Persian Empire. Sequence begins Fall.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Hebrew 100A-100B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Semitics/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

SEMITIC 101 Syriac 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This introductory course will cover both the study of the classical Syriac language and a more general introduction to Syriac literature in all its diversity, with particular emphasis on East Syriac. Syriac is both an ancient tongue that can help us access older Christian histories as well as a living language within the liturgy of current Christian communities, such as the Assyrians. For some communities, Syriac is close to the living vernacular language. Undergraduate students will read Christian narratives developed in the Middle East from as far back as 1600 years ago.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Semitics/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Turkish

TURKISH 1A Elementary Modern Turkish 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Sequence begins Fall.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Turkish/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

TURKISH 1B Elementary Modern Turkish 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Sequence begins Fall.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Turkish/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

TURKISH 10 Elementary Turkish 10 Units

Terms offered: Summer 1997 10 Week Session, Summer 1995 10 Week Session

This course is equivalent to a full year of elementary Turkish. It will train students in the four language skills speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing. It will be taught with an interactional approach, aiming at communicative competence.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for Turkish 10 after completing Turkish 1A-1B.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Turkish/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

TURKISH 100A Intermediate Modern Turkish 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2021

Sequence begins Fall.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 1A-1B or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Turkish/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

TURKISH 100B Intermediate Modern Turkish 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2022

Sequence begins Fall.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 1A-1B or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Turkish/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

TURKISH 101A Readings in Modern Turkish 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Fall 2020

Selected topics from modern Turkish literary works.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 100A-100B or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Turkish/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

TURKISH 101B Readings in Modern Turkish 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2017, Spring 2016

Selected topics from modern Turkish literary works.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 100A-100B or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Turkish/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

TURKISH H195 Senior Honors 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Directed study centered upon preparation of an honors thesis.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Limited to senior honors candidates

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 4 units.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Turkish/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

TURKISH 198 Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021

Instruction in areas not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Turkish/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

TURKISH 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2000

Enrollment is restricted by regulations in the .

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Turkish/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.