

**Center for Middle Eastern Studies
Spring Quarter 2016 Course Descriptions**

AKKD 30378-01
Cuneiform Mathematics
Wee, John
TR 1:30-2:50 PM
Seminar OR-210

AKKD 40341-01
Cuneiform Epigraphy
Reculeau, Herve
ARR
Course OR-318

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

ANCM 30502-01
Middle Egyptian Texts
Singer, Ariel
MWF 9:30-10:20 AM
Lecture EGPT 10103

This course features readings in a variety of genres, including historical, literary, and scientific texts.

AASR-43310-01
Feminism & Islamic Studies
Doostdar, Alireza
R 11:00 AM-1:50 PM
Course S-201 ISLM 43310, GNSE 43310

ARAB 29001
Arabic Through Film
Forster, Noha
TR 1:30-2:50 PM
Lecture C-403

This course immerses the student in Arabic through the genre of film, specifically, Egyptian film, a potent and pervasive medium since Arabs started making films in the 1920s, but more pervasive with the advent of television in the early 1960s.

Proceeding chronologically, we examine the Egyptian film through distinct stages, from the early musicals and romantic comedies of the forties and fifties, to the slew of post-1952 films offering new notions of the nation, of citizens, of womanhood, to the films of the 1970s with their commentary on the new capitalist society Sadat espoused, to the nuanced realism and focus on individual angst of the 1980s and 90s, to the gritty realism of the pre and post Arab Spring period. Two years of Arabic study or the equivalent is required. Class will be conducted in Arabic. Readings will be in Arabic. In class, we will watch sections of films, discuss them in Arabic, and make presentations. Students will write reflections on the films.

ARAB 30203-01

High Inter. Modern Standard Arabic

Forster, Noha

MWF 11:30 AM-1:20 PM

Lecture C-402

This is a three course sequence in High Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic.

ARAB 30301-01

High Inter. Classical Arabic

Heikkinen, Kay

MWF 11:30 AM-1:20 PM

Lecture C-104

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

ARAB 30325-01

The Medieval Muslim Curriculum

El Shamsy, Ahmed

M 3:00-5:50 PM

Seminar

NEHC 30325-01

This reading course surveys the typical curriculum pursued by aspiring Muslim scholars in the premodern period. By sampling a variety of teaching texts and commentaries on grammar, logic, Hadith, law, legal theory, theology, and Sufism,

students gain an understanding of the breadth and nature of the medieval educational program. We also read some texts on medieval educational philosophy in order to appreciate the purpose and assumptions of the curriculum.

ARAB 30352-01

Arabic Through Maghribi Literature

Choudar, Lakhdar

MW 3:00-4:20 PM

Lecture C-430

Through a variety of texts (selected fragments from novels, short stories, book chapters), this course explores how Maghrebian writers express their ideas and reflect on their societies and other sentimental issues that occupy their minds (some of the writers may meet with students on Skype and answer their questions). The work of writers from various Arab countries in Maghreb will be discussed after being read thoroughly. Main themes will be examined to achieve full understanding of the text along with a discussion of media issues. Also this course exercises certain language aspects: reading, writing, grammatical, and speaking skills.

ARAB 40102-01

Adv. Arabic Syntax 2

Qutbuddin, Tahera

TR 10:30-11:50 AM

Lecture

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

ARAB 40392-01

Readings: The Sira Literature

Donner, Fred

MW 1:30-2:50 PM

Seminar C-430 ISLM 40392

Readings in selected texts from the Sira literature (traditional biography of the prophet Muhammad).

ARME 30103-01
Adv. Modern Armenian
Haroutunian, Hripsime
ARR
Course

BIBL 44602-01
Song of Songs
Chavel, Simeon
TR 12:30-1:50 PM
Course S-403 NEHC 44602

BIBL 52800-01
The Book of Kings: Seminar
Chavel, Simeon
W 3:00-5:50 PM
Course S-403 NEHC 42800

EGPT 30121-01
Demotic Texts
Johnson, Janet
ARR
Course OR-216
Building on the basic grammar, vocabulary, and orthographic styles learned in EGPT 30120, this course focuses on the reading and analysis of various Demotic texts.

EGPT 30260-01
Economy & Society In Ancient Egypt
Muhs, Brian
TR 9:00-10:20 AM
Lecture OR-210 EPGT 20260

HEB 30503-01
Adv. Modern Hebrew-3
Lowey, Schacham Ilanit
MW 1:30-2:50 PM
Course JWSC 25800
This course assumes that students have full mastery of the grammatical and lexical content at the intermediate level. However, there is a shift from a reliance on the cognitive approach to an emphasis on the expansion of various grammatical and vocabulary-related subjects. Students are introduced to sophisticated and more complex syntactic constructions, and instructed how to transform simple sentences into more complicated ones. The exercises address the creative effort on the part of the student, and the reading segments are longer and more challenging in both style and content. The language of the texts reflects the literary written medium rather

than the more informal spoken style, which often dominates the introductory and intermediate texts.

HIST 35612-01

Iranian Political Culture II

Payne, Richard

R 3:00-5:50 PM

Seminar NEHC 30722, NEHC 20722, HIST 25614

The second of a two-part seminar examining the emergence and evolution of the Iranian Empire in late antiquity. From its inception, Ērānšahr was conceived in relation to its Roman, Central Asian, and South Asian neighbors, and inter-imperial interactions structured the subsequent development of its society, culture, political economy, and imperial infrastructure. The seminar will center on the role of war, diplomacy, trade, and cultural exchange between Iran and its neighbors in the shaping of its political culture.

HIST 35904-01

Islamic History & Society 3: The Modern Middle East

Shissler, Ada Holly

TR 10:30-11:50 AM

Lecture STU-104 NEHC 20503, NEHC 30503, HIST 25904

This course covers the period from ca. 1750 to the present, focusing on Western military, economic, and ideological encroachment; the impact of such ideas as nationalism and liberalism; efforts at reform in the Islamic states; the emergence of the "modern" Middle East after World War I; the struggle for liberation from Western colonial and imperial control; the Middle Eastern states in the cold war era; and local and regional conflicts.

HIST 45904-01

Transmission of Islamic Knowledge in South Asia Since 1800

Robinson, Francis

T 3:30-6:20 PM

Course F-209 SALC 47302, NEHC 37302, ISLM 37302

One of the most striking developments in the Muslim world over the past two centuries is that, in spite of most of it being subject to colonial rule, or to rulers who wished to reshape Muslim societies after the model of the West, Islamic knowledge has come to be more vigorously and more widely disseminated than ever before. There has been an Islamisation of Muslim societies from below. This course will examine this most important process in the context of South Asia. We will examine the role of ulama, the madrasas in which they teach, the nature of the Dars-i Nizami madrasa curriculum, and the reasons for the spread of these institutions from c. 100 formal madrasas in 1900 to c. 100,000 today. Women's madrasas will not be neglected. We will examine Sufis and Sufi shrines, and their relationships to their constituencies; we will explore the role of spiritual devotion in the life of the individual. Print was only taken up in South Asia in the nineteenth century so we will need to investigate the impact of the printed word. Sermons had a role to play,

but particularly two types of sermons, the milad sermon on aspects of the life of the Prophet and Shia sermons mourning the fate of the Imams. Groups with a particularly proselytising purpose will be studied, for instance, the Tablighi Jamat. But also women's proselytising groups such as al-Huda and the women's reading groups which have flourished under the Jamati Islami and its affiliates. Amongst the themes which will be addressed are: the significance of the move from orality to literacy, the impact of print, the emergence of self-interpretation and the impact of the electronic world.

ISLM 40500-01

Readings in the Text of the Qur'an

Sells, Michael

T 1:30-4:20 PM

Course S-MEM SEM NEHC 40601

ISLM 51000-01

Writings of the Ibn al-Arabi

Sells, Michael

R 1:30-4:20 PM

Course S-MEM SEM NEHC 41000

NEAA 30003-01

Art & Archaeology Near East-3: Levant

Schloen, David

TR 1:30-2:50 PM

Lecture C-110 NEAA 20003

This sequence does not meet the general education requirement in civilization studies. This sequence surveys the archaeology and art of the Near East from prehistoric times to the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

NEAA 30035-01

Zooarchaeology

Stein, Gil

TR 12:00-1:20 PM

Lecture OR-210 ANTH 38810

This course introduces the use of animal bones in archaeological research. Students gain hands-on experience analyzing faunal remains from an archaeological site in the Near East. Topics include: (1) identifying, aging, and sexing animal bones; (2) zooarchaeological sampling, measurement, quantification, and problems of taphonomy; (3) computer analysis of animal bone data; and (4) reconstructing prehistoric hunting and pastoral economies (e.g., animal domestication, hunting strategies, herding systems, seasonality, pastoral production in complex societies).

NEAA 30041-01

Monuments & Monumentality in the Past & Present

Osborne, James

TR 9:00-10:20 AM

Seminar C-106

ANTH 36035, ARTH 30040

The building of sculpted monuments and monumental architecture seems to be a universal human trait in all parts of the world, from the pyramids of ancient Egypt to the inuksuit cairns of the arctic Inuit. What explains our urge to create monumental things? Why are monuments built, and how do we experience them? This course explores various answers to these questions through the disciplines that most frequently address monuments: archaeology, architecture, and art history. We will examine the archaeological record through a series of famous case studies from around the world to investigate the social significance of monuments in their original ancient contexts. We will also determine whether lessons learned from the past can be applied to the study of monuments today, and whether studying modern monuments – including those from our immediate surroundings in Chicago – can help us understand those of the past.

NEAA 30131-01

Problems in Mesopotamian Archaeology

Gibson, McGuire

TR 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Seminar OR-ARCH BASEMENT

NEAA 30080-01

Migrations & Population Movements in the Ancient Near East

Osborne, James

F 1:30-3:50 PM Seminar OR-210

The movement of people as an explanatory model of social change has risen and fallen in academic popularity several times in the history of Near Eastern scholarship and ancient studies more broadly. From earlier conceptions that sought to explain culture change and the transitions between time periods as resulting from invading hordes of outsiders, to more recent explanations that see culture change as a purely internal phenomenon, the past several years have seen a return to large-scale population movements as a legitimate subject of analysis. This class looks at archaeological approaches to migration – whether voluntary or not – to evaluate the different strategies scholars have brought to bear on the topic. The bulk of the class is then spent analyzing in detail a number of case studies from across the ancient Near East. Ultimately, the goal is for students both to gain an appreciation of migration as a sociohistorical phenomenon as well as to understand the role of migration in leading to major cultural and demographic transformations in the ancient Near East specifically.

NEAA 30141-01

Mesopotamian Pottery

Gibson, McGuire

TR 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Seminar OR-ARCH BASEMENT

NEHC 30003-01

History & Society of Ancient Near East-3

Goedegebuure, Petra

MWF 11:30 AM-12:20 PM

Course HM-130

This course surveys the political, social, and economic history of ancient Anatolia and the Levant (Syria-Palestine) from ca. 2300 BC until the conquest of the region by Alexander that inaugurated the Hellenistic period in the Near East.

NEHC 30005-01

Ancient Near Eastern Thought & Lit 2: Anatolian Lit

Haroutunian, Hripsime

TR 10:30-11:50 AM

Course

This course will provide an overview of Anatolian/Hittite literature, as “defined” by the Hittites themselves, in the wider historical-cultural context of the Ancient Near East. In the course of discussions, we will try to answer some important questions about Hittite inscriptions, such as: why were they written down, why were they kept, for whom were they intended, and what do the answers to these questions (apart from the primary content of the texts themselves) tell us about Hittite society?

NEHC 30121-01

The Bible & Archaeology

Schloen, David

TR 3:00-4:20 PM

Seminar

In this course we will look at how interpretation of evidence unearthed by archaeologists contributes to a historical-critical reading of the Bible, and vice versa. We will focus on the cultural background of the biblical narratives, from the stories of Creation and Flood to the destruction of the Jerusalem temple by the Romans in the year 70. No prior coursework in archaeology or biblical studies is required, although it will be helpful for students to have taken JWSC 20120 (Introduction to the Hebrew Bible).

NEHC 30225-01

Multilingualism & Translation in Modern Jewish Literature

Rokem, Na'ama

MW 1:30-2:50 PM

Seminar

CMLT 30225

A survey of Modern Jewish Literature through the lens of multilingualism and translation. Covering the period roughly between 1880 and 1980, this course touches on some of the transformations and upheavals that have formed modern Jewish culture: waves of migration, modernization, and assimilation; the rise of Jewish nationalism and the foundation of the State of Israel; and the Holocaust. Our driving questions will be: How do these different revolutions and upheavals influence the dynamic relations between the different languages in which Jews

Speak and write? What is the role of translation in Jewish culture? What do we learn from the Jewish case about language politics more broadly? How should we theorize and describe the monolingual ideologies that are dominant in the modern West? And how should we read bilingual literature?

NEHC 30229-01
Israeli Cultural History
Bashkin, Orit
MW 4:00-5:50 PM
Seminar

NEHC 30603-01
Islamic Thought & Literature-3
El Shamsy, Ahmed
MWF 10:30-11:20 AM
Lecture ISLM 30603

This course covers the period from ca. 1700 to the present, exploring works of Arab intellectuals who interpreted various aspects of Islamic philosophy, political theory, and law in the modern age. We look at diverse interpretations concerning the role of religion in a modern society, at secularized and historicized approaches to religion, and at the critique of both religious establishments and nation-states as articulated by Arab intellectuals. Generally, we discuss secondary literature first and the primary sources later.

NEHC 30658-01
Narrating Conflict in Modern Arabic Literature
Hayek, Ghenwa
TR 3:00-4:20 PM
Lecture

This course is an exploration of conflict in the Arab world through literature, film and new media. In this course, we will discuss the influence of independence movements, wars, and revolts on Arabic literature: how do writers write about, or film, conflict? How does conflict affect language itself? How do these texts engage with issues of trauma and bearing witness? To answer these questions, we will look at a number of key conflicts in the Arab world, from the 1919 revolution in Egypt, to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the independence movement in Algeria, and the Lebanese and Iraq wars, as well as blogs and texts from more recent conflicts in Egypt, Tunisia, Syria and Yemen. Texts will include novels and autobiographical works, such as Tawfiq Hakim's *Return of the Spirit*, Halim Barakat's *Days of Dust*, Elias Khoury's *Little Mountain*, Jean Makdisi's *Beirut Fragments*, Suad Amiry's *Sharon and my Mother-in-Law*, as well as Mahmoud Darwish's *Memory for Forgetfulness*, and Hoda Barakat's *The Stone of Laughter* and writing by Syrian author Samar Yazbek. We will also read Joe Sacco's graphic novel *Palestine* and Mazen Kerbaj's graphic weblog about the 2006 war in Lebanon. In addition, we will read poetry by Sinan Antoon (*Baghdad Blues*), Mahmoud Darwish and Khalil Hawi, and watch films such as *The Battle of Algiers*, *Hurub Saghira*, *Paradise Now* and *Je Veux Voir*.

NEHC 30688

The Arab World Confronting Fascism & Nazism

Pending

TR 9:00-10:20 AM

Lecture

This course will examine the historical evolution and development of Arab responses to Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany in the inter-war period and during the Second World War. It will analyze the formation of a multi-vocal public discourse relating to Arab attitudes toward Fascism and Nazism, and to Mussolini and Hitler. The course will also study the activities of both pro-Nazi/pro-Fascist and anti-Nazi/anti-Fascist actions and organizations. The course will focus on Arab stances toward the development of racist and anti-Semitic Nazi doctrines, policies, and laws that created the environment for Jewish discrimination, persecution, and eventually the Shoah. Special emphasis will be placed on the ongoing historiographical debate on the topic. This course will present new studies on the subject, and will use them to confront old and established narratives. It will attempt to show that contrary to the conventional paradigm, which assumes that many individuals and forces in the Arab world identified with and supported Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany (therefore supporting racism and Jewish persecution), a new paradigm is evolving, demonstrating that many in the Arab states, both individuals and groups, rejected Fascist and Nazi racism and dictatorship and identified with the fate of the Jews in Europe. Discussion of primary sources in Hebrew and Arabic will be included in the course.

NEHC 30766-01

Shamans & Oral Poets of Central Asia

Arik, Kagan

W 12:30-3:20 PM

Course

This course explores the rituals, oral literature, and music associated with the nomadic cultures of Central Eurasia. It is a continuation of the course titled "Introduction to the Musical Folklore of Central Asia", offered on odd-numbered years in the Spring Quarter. The course covers the traditional musical performances, oral literature, and other oral performance genres of the Kazakhs, Kirghiz, Turkmens, Siberian peoples, and Mongols, and examines topics in Central Eurasian animist/shamanist/Tengriist cultural practices.

NEHC 30833-01

Late Ottoman History-2

Shissler, Ada Holly

T 12:00-2:50 PM

Seminar

NEHC 30855-01
Armenians In the Ottoman Empire & Turkish Rep.
Pending
TR 3:00-5:30 PM
Course

NEHC 30937-01
Nationalism & Colonialism in the Middle East
Bashkin, Orit
W 10:30-1:20 PM
Seminar

NELG 40301-01
Adv. Sem: Comparative Semitic Linguistics
Hasselbach, Rebecca
TR 1:30-2:50 PM
Seminar OR-208
This course is an advanced seminar in comparative Semitics that critically discusses important secondary literature and linguistic methodologies concerning topics in the field, including topics in phonology, morphology, syntax, etc.

PERS 30006-01
Survey of Persian Poetry, 10th to 15th Century
Lewis, Franklin
T 1:30-4:30 PM
Seminar P-218
This course surveys the development of Persian poetry from the tenth to fourteenth century, with a focus on the qasida, the ghazal, the ruba`i, strophic poems, and the masnavi (romances and mystico-didactic poetry). After a brief consideration of the rudiments of prosody, we will read a selection from a variety of poets, consider the ways that Persian language and poetic genres evolve and the social circumstances that produce these texts. Throughout, we will consider the traditional categories of chronological or stylistic periodization, and evaluate how best to understand the poetics of the pre-Safavid era, and in what the poetic inheres: do the different genres represent significant topical, tropological, stylistic and mood boundaries, or does poetry. This course is suitable as a third-year Persian course for students who have completed the intermediate Persian sequence.

PERS 30220-01
Poetics/Politics Modern Iran
Gahremani, Saeed
TR 10:30-11:50 AM
Lecture C-203
This course is intended for those students who have learned Persian well enough to start enjoying Persian poetry in the original language. Starting from the

Constitutional Revolution of 1906, each session a new poem (if not more) by a new poet will be discussed against the socio-political background of the time. The poets will include some women poets also, and the poems range in form, style and subject matter from traditional to modern, from satirical to prison poems and issues of human/women's rights. The students are expected to prepare for each session, participate actively in discussions, be ready for short presentations based on the assigned secondary literature, and write an essay.

TURK 30101-01
Advanced Turkish-3
Karateke, Hakan
W 10:30 AM-1:20 PM
Course NELG 30103

TURK 30503-01
Ottoman Turkish-3
Anetshofer-Karateke, Helga
TR 9:00-10:20 AM
Lecture

A selection of Turkish texts in Arabic script, both printed and handwritten, introduced in order of difficulty, and ranging from the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Texts are drawn from chronicles, official documents, memoirs, poetry, and other genres.