Near Eastern Studies

The Department of Near Eastern Studies offers programs in four main areas: Egyptology, Assyriology, Northwest Semitic languages and literatures (including the Hebrew Bible), and Near Eastern Archaeology. The department approaches Near Eastern civilizations primarily through their own records, and language study is therefore an important part of the curriculum. However, many undergraduate courses require no knowledge of foreign languages and any interested student may take them.

Facilities

The university’s Milton S. Eisenhower Library contains an outstanding collection of books and journals in the branches of Near Eastern studies pursued by the department. The Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum has a collection of Near Eastern antiquities, including excellent study collections of Egyptian artifacts and Palestinian pottery. The Baltimore-Washington area is especially rich in library and museum facilities. Of special interest to students of the Near East are the Walters Art Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Library of Congress.

The ancient Near East is where history begins. It is where the first crops were sown, the first towns built, and where writing was first invented. The origins of Western culture are to be found in its great civilizations, from the three great monotheistic religions—Christianity, Islam, and Judaism—to everyday aspects of our life that we take for granted, such as the alphabet and marking time by hours and minutes. The Near Eastern studies major can be the focal point of a broad liberal arts education, as well as a basis for graduate study. An undergraduate major can specialize in one of the four main areas mentioned above or in the civilizations of the ancient Near East in general.

The graduate program, the oldest of its kind in the nation, is designed to train professional scholars and teachers in the above-mentioned areas. The courses listed below may be modified in particular years to suit the needs of students currently in residence. Reading and private study under the direction of the faculty are considered as important as work in class. The seminars allow small groups of students and faculty to engage in close study of special problems. As the program is intended to lead to the Ph.D., students are admitted as candidates for the M.A. only in unusual cases.

Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree

Students working full time toward the Ph.D. may expect to do three to four years of course work, after which comprehensive examinations must be written before work on the dissertation begins. The examinations cover a student’s major and minor fields of concentration. After passing these examinations, the student, in consultation with the faculty, prepares a dissertation proposal for faculty consideration and then proceeds to write the dissertation.

An ability to read scholarly French and German is necessary, and an examination in one of these must be passed within the first semester of residence at Hopkins. The examination in the other may be delayed not more than one year. Some command of Greek and Latin is necessary to pursue biblical studies.

Financial Aid

The department awards most students admitted to the Ph.D. program who are in need of financial aid a basic annual fellowship covering full tuition and a full stipend for living expenses for up to five years. For some of this period, the department’s support may take the form of a teaching assistantship. In addition, the period of support may be extended by the various competitive awards available to advanced students within the university. When appropriate, the department will award travel stipends for graduate students to participate in archaeological excavations in the Near East or visit collections in this country and abroad.

For further information on graduate study in Near Eastern Studies, visit the departmental website at http://neareast.jhu.edu/.

For current faculty and contact information go to http://neareast.jhu.edu/directory/

Faculty

Chair
Glenn M. Schwartz
Whiting Professor of Archaeology: Near Eastern archaeology.

Professors
Betsy M. Bryan
Alexander Badawy Chair in Egyptian Art and Archaeology: Egyptian art and archaeology, Egyptology.

Richard Jasnow
Egyptology.

Theodore J. Lewis
Blum-Iwry Professor: Hebrew Bible, Northwest Semitic philology and religion.

P. Kyle McCarter Jr.

Assistant Professors
Paul Delnero
Assyriology.

Michael Harrower
Archaeology.

Jacob Lauinger
Assyriology.

Professors Emeriti
Jerrold S. Cooper
W.W. Spence Professor Emeritus of Semitic Languages.

Hans Goedicke

Adjunct
Susan McCarter
Adjunct Assistant Professor: prehistory.

Melinda Zeder
Adjunct Professor: Near Eastern archaeology.
Lecturers
Sanchita Balachandran
Lecturer: museum studies.

Ellen Robbins
Lecturer: Hebrew Bible.

For current course information and registration go to https://isis.jhu.edu/classes/

Courses

AS.130.101. Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations. 3 Credits.
Review of important issues in ancient Near Eastern history and culture from the Neolithic era to the Persian period. Included will be an examination of the Neolithic agricultural revolution, the emergence of cities, states and writing, and formation of empires. Cultures such as Sumer and Akkad, Egypt, the Hittites, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Persians will be discussed.
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.102. From the Neanderthals to the Neolithic. 3 Credits.
Emphasizing theories about human biological and cultural development, this course consists of an in-depth survey of Neandertal morphology and culture, a brief discussion of evolutionary theory and our fossil ancestors, and concludes with an exploration of the mechanisms and results of the shift from hunting and gathering to farming. (Course formerly known as Introduction: Human Prehistory.) Cross-listed with Anthropology.
Instructor(s): S. McCarter
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.106. Freshman Seminar: Ancient Empires. 3 Credits.
Freshman Only A case-study approach to the political, social, and cultural history of one of the ancient Near Eastern states commonly described as an “empire,” such as the Akkadian Empire, the Neo-Assyrian Empire, the Neo-Babylonian Empire, or the Achaemenid (Persian) Empire. Individual classes mix a discussion of theoretical issues relevant to the study of ancient empires with close attention to primary sources.
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.107. Freshman Seminar - BIG: Monumental Buildings and Sculpture in Antiquity and Today. 3 Credits.
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 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 Baltimore—can help us understand those of the past. As a writing intensive seminar, students will also be taught techniques in academic essay writing, culminating in a final paper analyzing the social significance of a monument from the past or present.
Instructor(s): J. Osborne
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.110. Introduction To Archaeology. 3 Credits.
An introduction to archaeology and to archaeological method and theory, exploring how archaeologists excavate, analyze, and interpret ancient remains in order to reconstruct how ancient societies functioned. Specific examples from a variety of archaeological projects in different parts of the world will be used to illustrate techniques and principles discussed. Cross-listed with Anthropology.
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.130.114. The Archaeology of Ancient Israel. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the intersection of sexuality and power relationships in the forging of ethnic, political, and religious identities as presented in the Bible and ancient Near Eastern literature. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): L. Wright
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.118. Ancient Israel: In Their Own Words. 3 Credits.
This course will focus on the inscriptions of ancient Israel and its neighbors from the first millennium BCE. Texts speak to us directly in ways that other nonverbal archaeological remains – such as architecture or pottery – cannot. Also, secondary sources written by later historians and commentators are similarly limited, as they are separated from original events by space, time, and cultural situation. Considering how individuals from an ancient culture articulate thoughts “in their own words” is invaluable to any meaningful reconstruction of history. Participants will learn to glean information from inscriptions, including those that are fragmentary or seemingly mundane. They will experience hands-on history writing, using primary sources in translation, though those with any knowledge of ancient languages, especially Classical Hebrew, will be able and encouraged to engage with the texts in their original vernacular. Basic knowledge of world history will be helpful though not prerequisite.
Prerequisites: AS.130.134
Instructor(s): H. Parker
Area: Humanities.
AS.130.126. Gods and Monsters in Ancient Egypt. 3 Credits.
Not open to those that have taken AS.130.326, Egyptian Religion and Mythology. The world of Ancient Egypt was populated by a vast array of gods, goddesses, and demons of an amazing variety in nature and form. In this class we will explore that world in the hope of gaining some insight into Egyptian concepts of divinity and of the relationship between humans and deities.
Prerequisites: Not open if you have taken AS.130.326
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities.

This course will trace the archaeological rediscovery of ancient Nubia and explore its changing significance in American culture. No prior knowledge of ancient Nubia is expected. Cross-listed with Africana Studies, History, and Museums & Society
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.135. Pyramids, Temples and Tombs. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the monuments and culture of Egypt from 3500 B.C. to 100 A.D. From the pyramids at Giza to Hellenistic Alexandria, this course surveys in slide illustrated lectures the remains of one of the world's greatest early cultures.
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities Wrting Intensive.

AS.130.140. Hebrew Bible / Old Testament. 3 Credits.
The Bible is arguably the most read and yet most misinterpreted book of all time, one of the most influential and yet most misapplied work of literature. The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is Scripture to Jews and Christians yet also a rich collection of literature w/ numerous literary genres that has been highly influential on secular Western culture. At its core, it is our most important literary source that (when wed with archaeology) helps us to understand the people and culture of Iron Age Israel and Judah. This is an introductory course surveying of the books of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) giving primary attention to the religious ideas they contain and the ancient contexts in which they were composed. Topics include: The Academic Study of Religion, Ancient Creation Accounts, Ancestral Religion, The Exodus and Moses, Covenant, Tribalism and Monarchy, The Ideology of Kingship, Prophecy, Priestly Sources, Psalms, Wisdom Literature, and Apocalyptic Thought.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.142. Discover Hopkins Archaeology: The Technologies of Clay. 1 Credit.
Get your hands dirty as you experience firsthand the production of ancient clay artifacts that tell the stories of history. In lab, we will work with clays of different molecular structures to determine the technological constraints under which ancient craftsmen worked. We will also examine ancient clay artifacts in local archaeological collections. Then we will discuss how history is constructed with these artifacts.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.130.170. Diplomacy and Conflict in the Ancient Middle East. 3 Credits.
The Middle East is home to the invention of agriculture, cities, and writing. It is also in the Middle East that we find evidence of humanity's earliest diplomatic activity in, for instance, the actual letters sent by ancient kings to one another, the treaties drawn up after their conflicts, and the inscriptions that commemorate their conquests. In this course, we examine texts such as these to explore questions such as: How do we characterize the international system of the ancient Middle East? Does this system change over the approximately two millennia for which we have documentation? Is it better to approach ancient diplomacy through present-day eyes or in the context of ancient world-views? Is an understanding of diplomacy in the ancient Middle East relevant to our understanding of modern international relations? All texts read in translation.
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.172. Introduction to Aramaic. 3 Credits.
Cross-listed with Jewish Studies Aramaic, a Semitic language attested from 1100 BCE and spoken to this day, is central to some of the core texts of Western culture such as the Hebrew Bible, the Talmuds and the New Testament. This course will focus on Babylonian Aramaic, as preserved in the Babylonian Talmud and parallel sources. After studying the basic forms and grammar we will read various texts from the Babylonian Talmud as well as karaitic and geonic literature and magical bowls. We will survey some of the main corpora written in Babylonian Aramaic and open a gateway to deeper understanding of this heritage.
Instructor(s): Y. Monnickendam
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.177. World Prehistory. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the archaeology of pre- and protohistoric cultures in key regions of the world, from the Neolithic revolution to the rise of complex societies. Discussions will focus on how they interacted with their neighbors, how this interaction would have played a part in their development, and the different approaches archaeologists use to understand their interconnections. Regions to be examined include the Near East, the Aegean, East Africa, East Asia, the Andes, and Central America. Cross-listed with Anthropology.
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.130.201. Cleopatra. 3 Credits.
Few individuals in history have left as lasting an impression as that of Cleopatra. In this seminar-style class we will examine both the "fact" and "fiction" associated with her eventful life (and death). All readings in translation.
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities Writing Intensive.

AS.130.212. The Archaeology of Death, Burial and The Human Skeleton. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce students to the archaeological investigation of past human populations through their mortuary and physical human remains. To this end, major theories and methodologies will be introduced, along with pertinent case studies for discussion. Dean's Teaching Prize Fellowship Course.
Instructor(s): C. Brinker
Area: Humanities.
AS.130.215. David and Solomon in History and Legend. 3 Credits.
TBD
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.220. Mummies at the Movies. 2 Credits.
Ancient Egypt has captured the imaginations of people from all over the world for centuries. Hollywood has used Egypt as a setting, plot device, and character since the early days of film. Some are masterworks of the craft, but most leave some historical accuracy to be desired. We will watch some of the many films on the topic from the ‘30s to the present, and discuss their historical and cinematic value.
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.241. Introduction to Christianity in Late Antiquity. 3 Credits.
In the first century CE, a century of crisis and change, a Jew named Jesus was born, and with him Christianity. In this course we will discuss the development of Christianity in late antiquity, its historical background and its later influences. We will survey the main texts which are the foundation of this new religion, starting from sectarian literature, through the New Testament and ending with patristic literature. Using the main Christian dogmas as test cases, we will get acquainted with the main writers and literary sources of late antiquity, and discuss some of the arguments and agreements between Jews, Christians and Pagans of the era. We will seek to reveal the different sources of Christianity, Judaism on the one hand, and Greek and Latin cultures on the other, and try to understand the processes which led the early Christians to separate themselves from their Jewish origin and become an independent religion.
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.242. Aramaic for Beginners. 3 Credits.
Aramaic, a Semitic language dating from 1100 BCE, is spoken to this day. In this period it developed various dialects, and was used in some of the core texts of the western culture such as the Bible, the Talmud and the New Testament. It is used today in various modern vernacular, spoken by Jews and Christians across the middle east. In this course we will focus on Palestinian Aramaic, as preserved in the Palestinian Talmud and the Targum. After studying the basic forms and grammar we will read various Jewish Palestinian texts, and will also refer to some verses from the New Testament and the Dead Sea scrolls.

AS.130.251. Made for the Gods: Votive Egyptian Objects in the Archaeological Museum. 3 Credits.
This course investigates Egyptian votive objects made as gifts to the Gods. Students will learn about Egyptian religious practices and study groups of objects in the Archaeological Museum to learn to identify how they were produced, when, and for what functions. Physical analyses of the objects will be part of the class and facilitated by museum staff.
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.255. From Feast to Famine in the Ancient World. 3 Credits.
Biological life, on its most basic level, is the quest for sustenance. However, in human societies, food transcends mere sustenance to become a major actor in each society’s structure and beliefs. This dual nature of food as basic necessity and cultural touchstone makes its study of great importance to our understanding of civilization, both past and present. This class will explore the role food has played in Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Mesoamerican, and Andean cultures as evidenced in the archaeological record. Dean’s Teaching Prize Fellowship Course.
Instructor(s): A. Maskevich
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.130.257. The Archaeology of Food. 3 Credits.
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.258. Ceramic Analysis in Archaeology. 3 Credits.
At archaeological sites following the invention of pottery roughly 10,000 BCE, ceramics are the single most frequent and ubiquitous class of artefact that archaeologists uncover. This class, which will be conducted in the Hopkins Archaeological Museum as a combination of lectures, discussions, and hands-on interactions with ancient and modern ceramics, surveys the methods and interpretive techniques that archaeologists use when studying this important category of material culture. Specific topics include manufacturing techniques, craft specialization, typology and chronology, production and exchange, scientific analyses, stylistic and functional analysis, and socio-political organization.
Instructor(s): J. Osborne
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.270. Ancient Demonology. 3 Credits.
After identifying the character of demons, ghosts, and zombies in modern literature and popular culture, this class will investigate similar disruptive and threatening creatures in the literature of Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel, and Greece, as well as early Christian traditions. By the end of the term, students will be able to address the question, “What makes an evil spirit ‘evil’?”
Instructor(s): M. Simone
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.300. History Anc Mesopotamia. 3 Credits.
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.301. History of Ancient Syria-Palestine. 3 Credits.
A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Cannan, including Ancient Israel.
Instructor(s): P. McCarver
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.302. History: Ancient Syria-Palestine II. 3 Credits.
A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Cannan, including ancient Israel. Taught with AS.134.661. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): P. McCarver
Area: Humanities.
AS.130.304. Ancient Cities. 3 Credits.
This course is a survey of cities in the ancient world from Uruk, around 3000 BC until the conquest of Babylon in 539 BC. The most important cities from this period will be studied and discussed from a historical, literary, and anthropological perspective. The topics covered include (1) the archaeological and textual evidence for these cities, (2) the depiction of these cities in literary and mythological works, and (3) contemporary theoretical approaches to understanding ancient urbanism.
Instructor(s): P. Delnero
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.305. Introduction to Ancient Law. 3 Credits.
Introduction to Ancient Law is a survey of the legal systems of the ancient Near East from the third millennium to 4th century BC. It covers subjects like sources of law, constitutional law (the form of the government and the role of the king), family law (sex and gender issues), private and criminal law. Ancient legal concepts will be compared with modern concepts. All ancient sources will be read in translation.
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.308. Creation: Man, the Gods, and the Cosmos in Ancient Myth. 3 Credits.
Instructor(s): M. Sullivan
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.309. The Obelisks of Ancient Egypt. 3 Credits.
Instructor(s): M. Seidel; R. Schulz
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.310. Mythology of the Ancient World. 3 Credits.
This course explores the mythology of the ancient Near East from the invention of writing in Sumer in 3000 B.C. until the conquest of Alexander the Great near the end of the first millennium B.C. Mythological texts from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Anatolia, the Levant, and the Bible will be read from a comparative perspective. Special attention is paid to the origin and development of the epic, culminating in the great Epic of Gilgamesh, but considerable time is also given to the vast mythological and historical literature, and such diverse genres as love poetry, proverbs, humorous dialogues, Omens, and legal and medical texts. All readings are in English translation.
Instructor(s): P. Delnero
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.311. Gilgamesh. 3 Credits.
An examination of the development of both the character of Gilgamesh and the composition of epic narrative in ancient Mesopotamia, beginning with the earliest Sumerian Gilgamesh stories of the third millennium B.C. The bulk of the course will consist of a close reading in English of the Akkadian Gilgamesh epic, focusing on its concerns with homosocial bonding, human sexuality, and mortality. Some attention will be paid to the influence of Gilgamesh on Greek epic, and the reception of Gilgamesh in the modern world since its recovery in the late 19th century.
Instructor(s): M. Sullivan
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.312. Ancient Medicine. 3 Credits.
A study of medicine in the ancient Near Eastern and Aegean worlds, including an examination of the practices of medicine in these ancient societies but with primary emphasis given to ideas about health and disease. Readings are selected from primary sources in the writings of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel, Greece, and Rome. Topics treated include the sources of our knowledge; the nature of medical practitioners, medical treatment, and surgery; beliefs about disease and the etiology of illness; concepts of contagion and ritual purity. Special attention is given to Hippocratic medicine, the synthesis of Galen, and the rise of humoralism.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.317. Akhenaten, Nefertiti and the Armana Period. 3 Credits.
This seminar will consider some of the historical and art historical issues of the time of Akhenaten, Nefertiti, and Tutankhamun. Why and in what ways did Akhenaten change traditional Egyptian religion? Was all of Egypt transformed by the king’s new sole god Aten? Who were the Atenists, and what happened to them in the time of Tutankhamun? Did Akhenaten have an unusual physical form, a genetic disorder, or other medical condition? Or was his image in sculpture solely an artistic fiction? Who was Nefertiti and did she become king after Akhenaten’s death? The course will investigate the primary evidence regarding these fascinating questions and will look into a variety of scholarly responses to them.
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.320. A Good Scribe & Learned Man: Wisdom & Knowledge in Ancient Egypt. 3 Credits.
Already in Antiquity, the Egyptians had a reputation for wisdom and “secret” knowledge. But what was the reality behind this reputation? Who was a “wise man” or “wise woman” in Egypt? How did they organize and teach scientific ideas and concepts? How did they compose, maintain, and transmit the “books” containing their canon of knowledge? From the abundant ethical, scientific, literary, magical, and religious writings of the Egyptians we will attempt to understand what wisdom and knowledge meant to the Ancient Egyptians.
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.323. Cleopatra’s Egypt: Ptolemaic-Roman Egypt. 3 Credits.
This lecture course is a survey of the history, society, and culture of Graeco-Roman Egypt. We will concentrate on Ptolemaic Egypt (ca. 332-30 B.C.), but will also devote some time to Roman Egypt, especially to the subjects of the decline of paganism and spread of Christianity in Egypt.
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.328. Ancient Egypt /Africa. 3 Credits.
Recent excavation and research have shed light on several ancient cultures of the Nile and its tributaries. We will look at the available archaeological and textual (all Egyptian) evidence for these societies and their interactions with Egypt between 3500 and 300 B.C. We will also discuss research aims and methods employed now and in the past in Egypt and the Sudan.
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.
AS.130.329. Ancient Egyptian Art and Archaeology. 3 Credits.
A survey of Egyptian art as seen in the temples, tombs, funerary, and minor arts of Egypt between 3000 and 100 B.C. Slide lectures will provide a survey of art from the Pyramids to Augustus Caesar and will focus on such topics as the principles of Egyptian art; can the term art apply to early Egypt? How were artisans trained and what techniques and materials were utilized in their work? Co-listed (meets with) AS.133.750.
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.330. Sex And The Garden. 3 Credits.
A seminar on the history of interpretation of Genesis 2-3, with a focus on the uses of the biblical story of the Garden of Eden in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. Class attendance and participation are mandatory. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies and Study of Women, Gender, & Sexuality.
Instructor(s): E. Robbins
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.331. Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll in Ancient Egypt. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores the social roles of sexuality, alcohol, other drugs, music, fragrance, and sensuality in secular and religious areas of Egyptian life, largely but not exclusively during the New Kingdom, ca. 1500 to 1000 B.C. The ancient attitudes towards these elements will be explored through the ancient textual sources in translation and the artistic representations.
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.334. Museum Study of Objects from the Eton College Myers Collection. 3 Credits.
Students will be introduced to studying Egyptian objects through an investigation of some pieces from the Eton College Myers Collection to be on long term loan to the University. Cataloguing and research for these objects will be part of the course. Taught with AS.133.706 Cross-listed with Program in Museums and Society
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.336. Human Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East and Beyond. 3 Credits.
A survey of the phenomenon of human sacrifice, primarily focusing on the practice in the ancient Near East but also covering examples from other societies, both ancient and modern
Instructor(s): H. Dewrell
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.130.338. The Talmud as Read in the Middle Ages: The Sugya of Kavod HaBriot (Human Dignity). 3 Credits.
In the early Middle Ages the Talmud emerged as the defining document of official Jewish religion and culture, and remained so until the dawn of the Modern Era. Jewish scholars in many different countries, and in a wide variety of cultural contexts, developed certain ways of reading, interpreting, and applying the Talmud. In the process, they produced an immense corpus of commentary and law. This course will examine how and why the Talmud was studied in these centuries by Jews who mined it, subject by subject, for emotional, philosophical, and legal meaning.
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities.
AS.130.351. The Emergence of Civilization: A Cross-Cultural Examination. 3 Credits.
A comparative study of the origins of urban, literate civilizations in five culture areas: Mesopotamia, China, the Indus Valley, Egypt, and Mesoamerica. For each area, we will review the physical setting, the archaeological and textual evidence for the development of states and urban civilization, and theories advanced to explain the rise (and eventual collapse) of these complex societies.
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.130.352. History of Hasidism. 3 Credits.
Although it appears to be a relic of pre-modern Judaism, Hasidism is a phenomenon of the modern era of Jewish history. This course surveys the political and social history of the Hasidic movement over the course of the last three centuries. Students will also explore basic features of Hasidic culture and thought in their historical development. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.353. Space Archaeology: An Introduction to Satellite Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS. 3 Credits.
This course introduces technologies archaeologists use to map ancient landscapes. These include Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping software, advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers, and various types of satellite imagery. Taught together with AS.131.653.
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.130.354. Archaeological Method and Theory. 3 Credits.
What questions do archaeologists ask about the ancient past, how do they collect relevant evidence, and how do they arrive at satisfying answers to their questions? This course will review approaches to method and theory including evolutionary archaeology, culture-historical archaeology, processualist and post-processualist archaeologies, and explores the future of archaeology as a scientific and humanistic discipline. Previous coursework in archaeology or Permission of instructor required. Meets with AS.131.654.
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Introduces students to the methods of analysis involved in the study of archaeological ceramics. In addition to the history of ceramic analysis and its place in archaeology, students will be introduced to the basic skills needed for processing ceramics in an archaeological setting, and introduce them to the basic corpus of ancient Eastern Mediterranean ceramics, from the Neolithic until the Hellenistic period, with an emphasis on assemblages from the region of Near East, Egypt, Aegean, Greece, and Rome. They will learn more technical forms of analysis aimed at identifying methods of production, and the function and use of ceramic vessels. The aim is to prepare students who intend to participate in archaeological field projects with the appropriate knowledge of the ceramics of the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Emphasis will be placed on linking analytical methods with the appropriate research questions they can address. Students will have the opportunity to work directly with existing collections at the university, and in the Walters Art Gallery.
Instructor(s): S. Batiuk
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.356. Ancient Magic and Divination. 3 Credits.
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.357. Geographic Information Systems in Archaeology. 3 Credits.
Applications of GIS in archaeology have recently expanded dramatically and GIS has now become an indispensable tool for archaeological research worldwide. This course will introduce the major applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in archaeology. These include the history of GIS in archaeology, air photography and satellite imagery, predictive modeling, hydrological modeling, viewsheds, and least-cost routes. It will grapple with theoretical issues manifest in archaeological GIS including conflicts between environment and social understandings of the ancient past, and will foster discussion of issues that affect outcomes of analyses including spatial scale and boundary delineation choices that can dramatically influence results. Students will learn the basics of ESRI’s ArcGIS software. Taught with AS.131.657.
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Natural Sciences.

AS.130.359. Reading the Talmud in the Post-Talmudic Era. 3 Credits.
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.361. The Politics of Sexuality in the Bible and the Ancient Near East. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the intersection of sexuality and power relationships in the forging of ethnic, political, and religious identities as presented in the Bible and ancient Near Eastern literature. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies and Women, Gender, and Sexuality.
Instructor(s): E. Fleming
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.364. Archaeology of Arabia. 3 Credits.
This course examines the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula from the earliest Paleolithic in the region (c. 1.5 million years ago) through the first few centuries of the Islamic era (c. 1000 AD). We will review basic geology and environmental conditions, examine the development of animal herding and crop cultivating lifeways, and scrutinize the rise of ancient South Arabian complex societies and civilizations. Co-listed with AS.131.664.
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.366. Reading the Talmud in Pre-modern Jewish Culture. Attempting to Cope With Abusive Husbands: Annulment of Marriage in the Literature of Post Talmudic Rabbinic Judaism. 3 Credits.
The evolution of Talmudic thinking resulted in laws which made marriage too easy, divorce too difficult. This generated centuries of attempts to grapple with the consequences of this conundrum in real-life situations. This course analyzes the literature produced by these attempts. Students will read texts in original Hebrew.
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities.
AS.130.367. Jerusalem: The Holy City in History and Archaeology. 3 Credits.
Jerusalem has a global significance utterly disproportionate to its size or wealth, and it has been this way since the days when the city was first settled. On the one hand, this is due to Jerusalem’s role as a sacred space for all three of the world’s largest monotheistic religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. On the other, Jerusalem has long been the fulcrum of geopolitical struggles in the Middle East and beyond. This lecture course explores Jerusalem’s political, cultural, and religious trajectory over the past three millennia through the lens of the city’s amazingly rich historical and archaeological records. In so doing, we unravel the mythical and historical threads that combine to create the powerful symbolic resonance of Jerusalem today, discovering en route that, when it comes to Jerusalem, identifying what is “myth” and what is “history” is a complex and contested undertaking.
Instructor(s): J. Osborne
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.371. Ritual and Magic in Ancient Egypt. 3 Credits.
This course will serve to introduce students to the study of religion, ritual, and magic through the lens of a specific culture: ancient Egypt. Throughout the course students will be introduced to ancient Egyptian culture and will interact with Egyptian texts and artifacts, including those found in the collections of The Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum, in order to illustrate key concepts. Dean’s Teaching Fellowship course.
Instructor(s): M. Fraser
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.372. Prophetic Lit-Hebrew Bib. 3 Credits.
A survey of the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) as it is understood in its ancient Near Eastern cultural and historical context. Freshmen admitted with permission.
Instructor(s): A. Davis
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.373. Prophets and Prophecy in the Bible. 3 Credits.
From thundering voices of social justice to apocalyptic visionaries, biblical prophets have been revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims for thousands of years. They have inspired civic leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. yet also provided fodder for modern charlatans promising a utopian future. Yet who were these individuals (orators? politicians? diviners? poets?) and what was the full range of their message as set against the Realpolitik world of ancient Israel, Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Jordan?
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.374. The Archaeology of Imaginary, Entangled, Hybrid Globalizations. 3 Credits.
In this course students will read and examine two recent books, Michael Shanks’ (2012) “The Archaeological Imagination”, Ian Hodder’s (2012) “Entangled: An Archaeology of the Relationships between Humans and Things” and critically compare them with readings on archaeologies of world systems, colonialism, hybridity, and globalization. In particular, we will examine how post-colonial social theory can inform and enhance understandings of ancient past and how it might interface with scientific, empirically oriented archaeological field research and history building. Course requirements will include a short weekly written response to the readings - no exams or term paper will be required.
(Taught jointly with AS.131.674)
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.400. Introduction to Middle Egyptian. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the grammar and writing system of the classical language of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (ca. 2055-1650 B.C.). In the second semester, literary texts and royal inscriptions will be read. Course meets with AS.133.600.
Instructor(s): K. Davis
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.401. Introduction To Middle Egyptian. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the grammar and writing system of the classical language of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (ca. 2011-1700 B.C.). Co-listed with AS.133.601.
Instructor(s): K. Davis
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.402. Intermediate Middle Egyptian. 3 Credits.
Second year reading course in Middle Egyptian. In this course we will read a variety of Middle Egyptian hieroglyphic compositions and documents. Knowledge of Middle Egyptian required.
Instructor(s): A. Arico; M. Fraser.

In this writing intensive seminar, we will explore how the Ancient Egyptians engaged with their own past and how they understood “history.” AS.130.420 is required of NES Majors, who usually will take it in their senior year. This seminar will also be open to non-majors who have taken at least one 100-level Near Eastern Civilization course and one 300-level Near Eastern Civilization course.
Instructor(s): B. Bryan; R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.436. Seminar on Amarna Art and History. 3 Credits.
This course will tackle several topics relating to the reigns of Akhenaten through Tutankhamun, combining historical and art/archaeological methodologies. The seminar will be taught at a graduate level but will accept undergraduate majors with the instructor’s permission. Background knowledge of ancient Egypt is required. A separate section will meet in addition to read primary sources in original language. Topics will include the nature of the Aten and Amarna monotheism; foreign policy in the period; extent of Akhenaten’s control and his administration, etc.; the DNA evidence and its evaluation.
Prerequisites: EN.600.107
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.440. Elem Biblical Hebrew. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the grammar, vocabulary, and writing system of biblical Hebrew.
Instructor(s): M. Simone
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.441. Elementary Biblical Hebrew. 3 Credits.
Survey of grammar and reading of simple texts. (Credit given only on completion of AS.130.440 and AS.130.441). May not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.
Instructor(s): M. Simone
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.442. Readings - Hebrew Prose. 3 Credits.
Reading of biblical Hebrew prose, especially from the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): E. Guinn-Villareal
Area: Humanities.
AS.130.443. Reading Of Hebrew Prose. 3 Credits.
Reading of Biblical Hebrew prose, especially from the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings.
Instructor(s): Staff
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.501. Readings & Research. 3 Credits.
Instructor(s): P. Delnero; R. Jasnow; Staff.

AS.130.502. Readings & Research. 3 Credits.

AS.130.503. Independent Study. 3 Credits.
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz; R. Jasnow.

AS.130.504. Independent Study. 1 - 4 Credit.
Instructor(s): B. Bryan; G. Schwartz; P. Delnero; P. McCarter; R. Jasnow.

AS.130.505. Independent Study-Archaeology Fieldwork. 1 Credit.
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.130.506. Independent Study-Archaeology Fieldwork. 3 Credits.
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.130.510. Archaeology Major Honors Thesis. 3 Credits.
Must be conducted in fall semester, senior year.
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.590. Independent Study. 1 Credit.
Instructor(s): M. Harrower.

A detailed study of selected problems in Near Eastern history.
Instructor(s): P. Delnero.

A three-year history cycle required of all graduate students and forming the core of our graduate program. One year each will be devoted to Egyptian history, Mesopotamian history, and Syro-Palestinian history.
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger.

Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities.

AS.131.622. Archaeology of Iron Age Palestine.
This course provides insight into the nature of archaeological evidence and the difficulties involved in critically evaluating, interpreting and applying this evidence to fundamental cultural and historical problems in the archaeology of ancient Israel.
Instructor(s): B. Gittlen.

Topic varies but can include the archaeology of Mesopotamia, Syria, or Palestine, or thematic discussions (e.g., on ideology, state collapse, etc.).
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz.

AS.131.635. Seminar: Near East Archaeology.
Topic varies but can include the archaeology of Mesopotamia, Syria, or Palestine, or thematic discussions (e.g., on ideology, state collapse, etc.).
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz; M. Feldman.

AS.131.653. Space Archaeology: An Introduction to Satellite Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS.
This course introduces technologies archaeologists use to map ancient landscapes. These include Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping software, advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers, and various types of satellite imagery. Taught together with AS.130.353.
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

What questions do archaeologists ask about the ancient past, how do they collect relevant evidence, and how do they arrive at satisfying answers to their questions? This course will review approaches to method and theory including evolutionary archaeology, culture-historical archaeology, processualist and post-processualist archaeologies, and explores the future of archaeology as a scientific and humanistic discipline. Previous coursework in archaeology or Permission of instructor required. Meets with AS.130.354.
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Applications of GIS in archaeology have recently expanded dramatically and GIS has now become an indispensable tool for archaeological research worldwide. This course will introduce the major applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in archaeology. These include the history of GIS in archaeology, air photography and satellite imagery, predictive modeling, hydrological modeling, viewsheds, and least-cost routes. It will grapple with theoretical issues manifest in archaeological GIS including conflicts between environment and social understandings of the ancient past, and will foster discussion of issues that affect outcomes of analyses including spatial scale and boundary delineation choices that can dramatically influence results. Students will learn the basics of ESRI's ArcGIS software. Taught with AS.130.357.
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Natural Sciences.

AS.131.664. Archaeology of Arabia.
This course examines the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula from the earliest Paleolithic in the region (c. 1.5 million years ago) through the first few centuries of the Islamic era (c. 1000 AD). We will review basic geology and environmental conditions, examine the development of animal herding and crop cultivating lifeways, and scrutinize the rise of ancient South Arabian complex societies and civilizations. Co-listed with AS.130.364.
Instructor(s): M. Harrower.

AS.131.674. The Archaeology of Imaginary, Entangled, Hybrid Globalizations.
In this course students will read and examine two recent books, Michael Shanks’ (2012) “The Archaeological Imagination”, Ian Hodder’s (2012) “Entangled: An Archaeology of the Relationships between Humans and Things” and critically compare them with readings on archaeologies of world systems, colonialism, hybridity, and globalization. In particular, we will examine how post-colonial social theory can inform and enhance understandings of ancient past and how it might Interface with scientific, empirically oriented archaeological field research and history building. Course requirements will include a short weekly written response to the readings - no exams or term paper will be required.
(Taught jointly with AS.130.374)
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.
**AS.131.800. Readings & Research.**
Instructor(s): Staff.
Area: Humanities.

**AS.131.801. Readings and Research.**
Instructor(s): Staff.
Area: Humanities.

**AS.131.848. Dissertation Research.**
Instructor(s): Staff.
Area: Humanities.

**AS.131.849. Dissertation Research.**
Instructor(s): Staff.
Area: Humanities.

**AS.132.600. Elementary Akkadian.**
An introduction to the paleography, grammar and lexicon of the Akkadian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language. Undergraduates admitted to this course earn 4.5 credits per semester.
Instructor(s): A. Glenn.

**AS.132.601. Elementary Akkadian.**
An introduction to the paleography, grammar and lexicon of the Akkadian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language. Undergraduates admitted to this course earn 4.5 credits per semester.
Instructor(s): Staff.

**AS.132.606. Intermediate Akkadian Texts.**
In this course a selection of intermediate level Akkadian texts from different genres and period will be read, analyzed and discussed. To build on skills learned in Introduction to Akkadian, specific emphasis will be placed on understanding more advanced grammatical forms and learning how to critically use research tools like the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary and von Soden's Akkadisches Handwoerterbuch.
Instructor(s): J. Bowen.

**AS.132.607. Intermediate Akkadian Texts.**
In this course a selection of intermediate level Akkadian texts from different genres and period will be read, analyzed and discussed. To build on skills learned in Introduction to Akkadian, specific emphasis will be placed on understanding more advanced grammatical forms and learning how to critically use research tools like the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary and von Soden's Akkadisches Handwoerterbuch.
**Prerequisites:** AS.132.600 OR AS.132.601
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: Humanities.

**AS.132.608. Akkadian Letters.**
This course introduces students to letters written in the Akkadian language from a variety of historical periods.
**Prerequisites:** AS.132.600 AND AS.132.601
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: Humanities.

**AS.132.630. Akkadian Literary & Religious Texts.**
Instructor(s): P. Delnero.

**AS.132.631. Literature and Religious Texts.**
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger.

**AS.132.640. Historical Texts.**
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger.

**AS.132.641. Historical Texts.**
Instructor(s): P. Delnero.

**AS.132.644. Treaties And Diplomacy.**
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger.

**AS.132.650. Peripheral Akkadian.**
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger.

**AS.132.651. Peripheral Akkadian.**

**AS.132.658. Akkadian Wisdom Literature.**
This course introduces students to the group of Akkadian compositions typically described as 'Wisdom Literature,' such as The Babylonian Theodicy, the Poem of the Righteous Sufferer, fables, proverbs, instructions, and disputes.
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger.

**AS.132.691. Divination & Ritual Texts.**
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger.

**AS.132.700. Elementary Sumerian.**
TBD
Instructor(s): P. Delnero
Area: Humanities.

**AS.132.701. Elementary Sumerian.**
Instructor(s): A. Glenn; J. Bowen
Area: Humanities.

**AS.132.710. Advanced Sumerian.**
We will read Letter Collection B and related materials in the original cuneiform.
Instructor(s): P. Delnero.

**AS.132.711. Advanced Sumerian.**
In this course a selection of Sumerian texts from different periods and genres will be read and discussed from a linguistic, philological, historical, and literary perspective.
Instructor(s): P. Delnero.

**AS.132.800. Mesopotamian Seminar.**
Research and discussion on topics of current interest.
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz; M. Harrower; P. Delnero.

**AS.132.801. Mesopotamian Seminar.**
Research and discussion on topics of current interest.
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz; J. Lauinger; P. Delnero.

**AS.133.320. Wisdom and Knowledge in Ancient Egypt. 3 Credits.**
Already in Antiquity, the Egyptians had a reputation for wisdom and “secret” knowledge. But what was the reality behind this reputation? Who was a “wise man” or “wise woman” in Egypt? How did they organize and teach scientific ideas and concepts? How did they compose, maintain, and transmit the “books” containing their canon of knowledge? From the abundant ethical, scientific, literary, magical, and religious writings of the Egyptians we will attempt to understand what wisdom and knowledge meant to the Ancient Egyptians.
Area: Humanities.

**AS.133.600. Introduction to Middle Egyptian.**
Introduction to the grammar and writing system of the classical language of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (ca. 2135-2000 B.C.). In the second semester, literary texts and royal inscriptions will be read.
Instructor(s): K. Davis.

**AS.133.601. Introduction To Middle Egyptian (Hieroglyphs).**
Introduction to the grammar and writing system of the classical language of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (ca. 2135-2000 B.C.). Co-listed with AS.130.401
Instructor(s): K. Davis.

**AS.133.610. Middle Egyptian Texts.**
In this course we read a variety of Middle Egyptian hieroglyphic compositions and documents. Knowledge of Middle Egyptian Required.
Instructor(s): B. Bryan; R. Jasnow.
AS.133.611. Middle Egyptian Texts.
In this course we read a variety of Middle Egyptian hieroglyphic compositions and documents. Knowledge of Middle Egyptian Required. Instructor(s): B. Bryan; R. Jasnow.

AS.133.614. Funerary Texts.
Advanced Middle Egyptian texts course covering Coffin Texts and the Book of the Dead, and other afterlife ritual texts. Instructor(s): B. Bryan; R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities.

AS.133.620. Hieratic.
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow.

AS.133.630. Old Egyptian.
Instructor(s): B. Bryan.

AS.133.631. Old Egyptian.
Instructor(s): B. Bryan.

AS.133.640. Late Egyptian.
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow.

AS.133.641. Late Egyptian Texts.
An introduction to the grammar and texts of Late Egyptian. Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities.

AS.133.646. Demotic Texts.
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow.

AS.133.647. Demotic Texts.
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow.

AS.133.648. Intro To Coptic.
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow.

AS.133.649. Advanced Coptic.
In this class we will read Coptic texts of various genres. Instructor(s): R. Jasnow.

AS.133.652. The "Chapelle Rouge" of Queen Hatshepsut at Karnak.
Despite its undeniable importance, the Red Chapel of Hatshepsut at Karnak is still not fully understood. The class will deal in detail with the following main issues: • Formal structure and dogma of the relief program. • The historical value of the coronation inscription. • The significance of the Red Chapel in the religious landscape in Karnak under Queen Hatshepsut.
Instructor(s): M. Seidel; R. Schulz
Area: Humanities.

AS.133.653. Introduction to Ptolemaic Hieroglyphs.
An introduction to the grammar and hieroglyphic writing system employed in Graeco-Roman Period Egyptian temple texts. Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities.

AS.133.656. Advanced Demotic Texts.
Reading of texts of varying content in Demotic Egyptian. Instructor(s): R. Jasnow.

AS.133.706. Museum Study of Objects from the Eton College Myers Collection.
Students will be introduced to studying Egyptian objects through an investigation of some pieces from the Eton College Myers Collection to be on long term loan to the University. Cataloguing and research for these objects will be part of the course. Taught with AS.130.334
Instructor(s): B. Bryan.

AS.133.717. Akhenaten, Nefertiti and the Armana Period.
This seminar will consider some of the historical and art historical issues of the time of Akhenaten, Nefertiti, and Tutankhamun. Why and in what ways did Akhenaten change traditional Egyptian religion? Was all of Egypt transformed by the king’s new sole god Aten? Who were the Atenists, and what happened to them in the time of Tutankhamun? Did Akhenaten have an unusual physical form, a genetic disorder, or other medical condition? Or was his image in sculpture solely an artistic fiction? Who was Nefertiti and did she become king after Akhenaten’s death? The course will investigate the primary evidence regarding these fascinating questions and will look into a variety of scholarly responses to them.
Area: Humanities.

AS.133.721. Egyptian Art of the Old thru Middle Kingdom.
Instructor(s): B. Bryan.

AS.133.736. Seminar on Amarna Art and History.
This course will tackle several topics relating to the reigns of Akhenaten through Tutankhamun, combining historical and art/archaeological methodologies. The seminar will be taught at a graduate level but will accept undergraduate majors with the instructor’s permission. Background knowledge of ancient Egypt is required. A separate section will meet in addition to read primary sources in original language. Topics will include the nature of the Aten and Amarna monotheism; foreign policy in the period; extent of Akhenaten’s control and his administration, etc.; the DNA evidence and its evaluation. Instructor(s): B. Bryan.

AS.133.750. Seminar in Egyptian Art and Archaeology.
The theme for this course will be archaeology of the Mut precinct in Luxor where Johns Hopkins is excavating. Study of the comparative materials from other sites will be central with the publication of the work approaching.
Instructor(s): B. Bryan.

Instructor(s): B. Bryan.

AS.134.300. Who Wrote the Bible? The Documentary Hypothesis in Modern Research.
In the course “Who wrote the Bible? The Documentary Hypothesis in Modern Research” we will explore Wellhausen’s thesis according to which the first five books of the Bible consist of four sources: J, E, D and P. In our discussions we will focus on the historical and cultural background of the individual sources and their alleged authors.
Area: Humanities.

AS.134.602. Wisdom Literature of the Hebrew Bible.
Instructor(s): S. Garfein
Area: Humanities.

AS.134.603. Graduate Seminar in Rabbinic Text.
Readings from the Talmud, the Suga, and the Codes, in the original Hebrew and Aramaic: Emphasis on skills in reading, interpreting, and historical and cultural contextualization.
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities.

AS.134.604. The Book Of Job.
Reading the Hebrew text of the book of Job with attention to philology, textual criticism, and various aspects of interpretation.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis.
A rapid reading course aimed at increasing proficiency in reading the Hebrew text of the book of Ezekiel. Various aspects of translation and interpretation will be studied (e.g., grammar, textual criticism, Philology) including literary, historical, and theological questions. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis.

AS.134.610. Historic Hebrew Grammar.
Phonology and morphology of Biblical Hebrew.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter.

AS.134.621. Textual Criticism.
An introduction to the ancient witnesses of the biblical text and the principles of textual criticism.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter.

AS.134.630. Qumran (Dead Sea) Texts.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter.

AS.134.650. Seminar in Hebrew.
Translation and analysis of selected texts in Biblical Hebrew giving attention to advanced features of grammar and syntax. Subject announced each year.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter; T. Lewis.


AS.134.652. Seminar in Ancient Israelite Religion.
Topics include history of scholarship, methodology, representations of deity, the aniconic tradition, solar Yahwism, sacred space, blood rituals, passover, royal cult, family religion, divination, prophecy, incantations, etc.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis.

AS.134.655. Comparative Semitics.
Comparative and historical analysis of the Semitic languages in their Afro-Asiatic context.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter.

AS.134.660. History of Ancient Syria/Palestine.
A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Cannan, including Ancient Israel.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter.

AS.134.661. History: Ancient Syria-Palestine II.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter.

AS.134.700. N.W. Semitic Epigraphy.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter.

Instructor(s): P. McCarter.

AS.134.711. Alphabetic Cuneiform.
Study of alphabetic writing in cuneiform script during the second half of the second millennium B.C.E.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter.

AS.134.720. Ugaritic I.
A year-long course studying Ugaritic language and literature. The first semester will focus on grammar and translating a representative selection of mythological texts. The second semester will concentrate on ritual texts. The course will also be epigraphic in nature using both conventional and digital techniques.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis.

AS.134.721. Ugaritic II.
A continuation of AS.134.720 with emphasis on the mythological and ritual texts from Ugarit. A digital epigraphy lab will also form part of the course.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities.

Instructor(s): Y. Monnickendam.

AS.134.744. Survey Of Aramaic Texts.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities.

An advanced course in Aramaic devoted to the study of Old Aramaic inscriptions. We will be translating and analyzing a selection of texts from Northern Syria (e.g. Bar-Rakib; Hadad; Kuttamuwa, Nerab, Panamuwa, Sefire, Zakkur), Southern Syria (e.g. Bar-Hadad/ Melqart Stela, Hazael, Tel Dan) and Northern Mesopotamia (e.g. Tell Fakhariyah). Students will be expected to vocalize such texts as a study in historical and comparative linguistics and to clarify their understanding of the morphology and syntax.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities.

Cross Listed Courses
History of Art
AS.010.105. Art of the Ancient Americas. 3 Credits.
Surveys the art of Olmec, West Mexico, Teotihuacan, Maya, and Aztec.
Instructor(s): L. Deleonardis
Area: Humanities.

AS.010.236. Palaces, Temples and Tombs in Mesopotamia. 3 Credits.
Mesopotamia, the “land between the rivers,” is considered the cradle of civilization. Its earliest urban centers appeared by 3500 BCE in the region of modern-day Iraq, Iran, and Syria. Along with urbanism came the emergence of temples and palaces as large-scale elite institutions (replete with written records). Their arts manifest some of the earliest complex representations. This course explores the art and architecture within the social, political and cultural context of ancient Sumer, Babylonia and Assyria. It provides an integrated picture of the arts of Mesopotamia from 3500 to 330 BCE with an emphasis on the development of visual narrative and the use of art in the expression of authority and legitimacy.
Instructor(s): M. Feldman
Area: Humanities.

AS.010.364. Babylon: Myth and Reality. 3 Credits.
“Babylon - the name resonates, from the Biblical whore of Revelations to sci-fi. But what do we really know about the ancient city and its civilization?”
Instructor(s): M. Feldman
Area: Humanities.

AS.010.389. The Stone and the Thread. 3 Credits.
This course examines the built environment of the Inka and considers architecture in its social, historical, and cultural contexts. Shared forms and ideas implicit in the fiber arts offer comparative points for analysis and discussion.
Instructor(s): L. Deleonardis
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.
AS.010.392. Creating A Museum Exhibition: Micro-monuments. 3 Credits.
Area: Humanities.

AS.010.398. Tombs for the Living. 3 Credits.
Centering on the tomb as a unit of analysis, this course examines how death and funerary ritual reflect the cultural values of the living and are an active force in shaping them. Drawing on case studies from Mesoamerica and the Andes we consider various approaches to entombment and funerary ritual.
Instructor(s): L. DeLeonardis
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.010.470. Power and Politics in Assyrian Art. 3 Credits.
Assyria, centered in northern Iraq, created one of the world’s first great empires that dominated the ancient Near Eastern world from around 900 to 612 BCE. In concert with imperial expansion came an explosion of artistic production ranging from palace walls to small-scale luxury objects. This seminar examines the close relationship between the arts and politics in the Assyrian empire. Some themes that will be explored are: historical narrative, text and image, portable luxury arts and gender, politics and religion. The course will engage in close visual analysis of the ancient materials and readings of critical scholarship.
Instructor(s): M. Feldman
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

Classics

AS.040.137. Archaeology at the Crossroads: The Ancient Eastern Mediterranean through Objects in the JHU Archaeological Museum. 3 Credits.
Limited to Freshmen. This seminar investigates the Eastern Mediterranean as a space of intense cultural interaction in the Late Bronze Age, exploring how people, ideas, and things not only came into contact but deeply influenced one another through maritime trade, art, politics, etc. In addition to class discussion, we will work hands-on with artifacts from the JHU Archaeological Museum, focusing on material from Cyprus. Cross-listed with Museums and Society and Near Eastern Studies.
Instructor(s): E. Anderson
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.040.360. The Archaeology of Daily Life. 3 Credits.
Limited to juniors and seniors from Classics, History of Art, Archaeology, and Museum and Society. Others with permission of instructor only. This course will examine objects of daily life from the Greco-Roman world in the Johns Hopkins University Archaeological Museum. Students will collaborate on an online catalogue, featuring their research. Cross-listed with History of Art, Near Eastern Studies, and Museums and Society.
Instructor(s): H. Valladares
Area: Humanities.

AS.040.363. Craft and Craftpersons of the Ancient World: Status, Creativity and Tradition. 3 Credits.
This course explores the dynamic work and social roles of craftpersons in early Greece, the eastern Mediterranean and Near East. Readings and discussion will query the identities and contributions of these people—travelers, captives, lauded masters, and even children—through topics including gender, class, and ethnicity. Special focus on late third-early first millennia BCE; local field trips. Cross-listed with Near Eastern Studies.
Instructor(s): E. Anderson
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.040.366. The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus: Investigating a Mediterranean Island World in the JHU Museum. 3 Credits.
This course explores the visual and materials worlds of ancient Cyprus from the earliest human evidence through the Iron Age. Class involves regular analysis of artifacts based in the Archaeological Museum and Geospatial Analysis. Topics will include history of GIS, GIS data structures, data acquisition and merging, database management, spatial analysis, and GIS applications. In addition, students will get hands-on experience working with GIS software.
Instructor(s): X. Chen
Area: Engineering, Natural Sciences.

Earth Planetary Sciences

AS.270.205. Introduction to Geographic Information Systems and Geospatial Analysis. 3 Credits.
The course provides a broad introduction to the principles and practice of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and related tools of Geospatial Analysis. Topics will include history of GIS, GIS data structures, data acquisition and merging, database management, spatial analysis, and GIS applications. In addition, students will get hands-on experience working with GIS software.
Instructor(s): X. Chen
Area: Engineering, Natural Sciences.

Program in Museums and Society

AS.389.205. Examining Archaeological Objects. 3 Credits.
This course considers the role of materials in the production, study and interpretation of objects by examining artifacts from the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum. Students will consider materials such as ceramics, stone, metal, glass, wood and textiles, and visit artists’ studios to gain an understanding of historical manufacturing processes. M&S practicum course. Cross-listed with Archaeology, Near Eastern Studies, Classics, and History of Art.
Instructor(s): S. Balachandran
Area: Humanities.

AS.389.342. Objects in Focus: Materials, Techniques, History. 3 Credits.
What can art and archaeological objects reveal about materials, their craftsmanship and preservation? We investigate artists’ treatises, visit studios and museum conservation laboratories and closely examine artworks. M&S practicum course. Cross-listed with Classics, History of Art, Near Eastern Studies.
Area: Humanities.
**AS.389.345. Introduction to Museum Practice. 3 Credits.**
Taking the JHU Archaeological Museum as a case study and working closely with its holdings, we discuss the principles and practice of managing and preserving museum collections. Earns M&S Practicum credit. Cross-listed with History of Art, Anthropology, Near Eastern Studies, and Classics.
Instructor(s): S. Balachandran
Area: Humanities.