NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

http://neareast.jhu.edu/

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 and art. 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.

Undergraduate Programs
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 of specialization of the department - Egyptology, Assyriology, Northwest Semitic languages and literatures (including the Hebrew Bible), and Near Eastern Archaeology and Art - or in the civilizations of the ancient Near East in general.

Near Eastern Studies Major Requirements
Also see Requirements for a Bachelor’s Degree (http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/undergrad-students/academic-policies/requirements-for-a-bachelors-degree).

Students must earn a "C-" or higher grade in all courses used to satisfy major requirements and courses may not be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Two Introductory Courses (Select two of the following five): 6

AS.130.101 Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations
or AS.130.122 Gods and Monsters in Ancient Egypt
or AS.130.133 Pyramids, Temples and Tombs
or AS.130.141 Hebrew Bible / Old Testament
or AS.130.170 Diplomacy and Conflict in the Ancient Middle East

Two Upper-Level Core Courses (Select two of the following): 6

AS.130.301 History of Ancient Syria-Palestine
or AS.130.302 History of Ancient Mesopotamia when offered

or AS.130.303 History of Ancient Mesopotamia II when offered

Four 300-level courses in a focus area of art and archaeology, history, and culture, or language

Three Near Eastern Studies courses at any level 9

AS.130.420 Seminar in Research Methods in Near Eastern Studies: (Auto)biography in the Ancient Near East 3

Total 36

Note: AS.130.420 - This writing intensive seminar covers different selected topics in order help students develop skills in specific research areas such as critical reading, analysis, interpretation, and writing. Specific topics vary each semester. AS.130.420 is required of NES Majors, but is also open to non-majors who have taken at least one 100-level and one 300-level Near Eastern Civilization course, or with the consent of the instructor. It is recommended that NES majors take the class during their sophomore or junior years.

* Students pursuing the language focus area need to select four courses from the following languages: Akkadian, Arabic, Ancient Egyptian, Biblical Hebrew, Modern Hebrew or Sumerian. These may not be 300-level.

Honors
Those seniors wishing to be considered for departmental honors may choose to write a senior thesis. A student must maintain a 3.5 GPA in the major (through the junior year) to be eligible for departmental honors. It is advisable for such students to contact a faculty member to supervise the thesis during the spring semester of their junior year. The student should then register for two semesters of independent study in the senior year.

Sample Program
A typical path toward degree completion might include the following sequence of courses:

**Freshman**

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<td>Required intro course #1</td>
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**Sophomore**

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| Course in focus area at 300 level #1 | 3 |
| 6 |

**Junior**

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| AS.130.420 Seminar in Research Methods in Near Eastern Studies: (Auto)biography in the Ancient Near East | 3 |

| Course in focus area at 300 level #2 | 3 |
| 3 |

| 6 |
| 6 |
Near Eastern Studies Minor Requirements

To minor in Near Eastern Studies, a student must complete six courses (18 credits) from among the department’s offerings. One of these courses must be from among the Department’s regularly offered introductory courses to the ancient Near East: 130.101 Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations; 130.126 Gods and Monsters in Ancient Egypt; 130.135 Pyramids, Temples and Tombs; 130.170 Diplomacy and Conflict in the Ancient Middle East. The remaining five courses are selected, in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies in Near Eastern Studies, to meet the needs and interests of the student. Minors may wish to survey all of the different fields covered by the department or to focus on a single ancient language, culture, or methodology in more depth.

Students must earn a “C-” or higher grade in all courses used to satisfy minor requirements and courses may not be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

AS.130.101 Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations or AS.130.126 Gods and Monsters in Ancient Egypt or AS.130.135 Pyramids, Temples and Tombs or AS.130.140 Hebrew Bible / Old Testament or AS.130.170 Diplomacy and Conflict in the Ancient Middle East

5 Additional Near Eastern Studies Courses

Total Credits: 18

Graduate Program

The graduate program, the oldest of its kind in the nation, is designed to train professional scholars and teachers in four main areas: Egyptology, Assyriology, Northwest Semitic languages and literatures (including Hebrew Bible), and Near Eastern archaeology and art. The courses 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/people/

Faculty

Chair
Richard Jasnow
Egyptology.

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

Marian Feldman

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

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

Associate Professors
Paul Delnero
Assyriology

Michael Harrower
Archaeology

Jacob Lauinger
Assyriology

Assistant Professor
Alice Mandell
William Foxwell Albright Chair in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies: Hebrew Bible

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

P. Kyle McCarter
William Foxwell Albright Professor Emeritus

Lecturers
Sanchita Balachandran
Lecturer: museum studies.
Ellen Robbins
Lecturer: Hebrew Bible.

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

Courses

AS.130.101. Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz
Area: Humanities

AS.130.102. From the Neanderthals to the Neolithic. 3.0 Credits.
Emphasizing theories about human biological and cultural development, this course consists of an in-depth survey of Neanderthal 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): S. McCarter
Area: Humanities

AS.130.105. Freshman Seminar: Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll in Ancient Egypt. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.106. Freshman Seminar: Ancient Empires. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.108. Freshman Seminar: Demons & Doctors: Magic and Medicine in the Ancient Near East. 3.0 Credits.
This course will provide an introduction to the magical and medical arts of ancient Mesopotamia and Syria-Palestine by engaging with ritual texts dealing with disease, exorcisms, sorcery, and harmful ghosts.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): E. Guinn-Villareal
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.109. Freshman Seminar: Ancient Homes and Houses. 3.0 Credits.
What will your bedroom tell future archaeologists? What can ancient houses tell archaeologists of past societies? This course explores methods/theories of Household Archaeology in the Near East and beyond.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Swerida
Area: Humanities

AS.130.110. Introduction To Archaeology. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): E. Anderson
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.130.111. Freshman Seminar: Cleopatra's Egypt. 3.0 Credits.
Egypt in the time of Cleopatra was a fascinating mix of peoples and cultures. Jews, Greeks, and other ethnic groups lived in this unique landscape along with the native Egyptians. In this class we will consider the rich civilization and complex history of Egypt during the reign of this legendary Queen.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.119. Ancient Medicine. 3.0 Credits.
A survey of medicine and medical practice in the ancient Near East and, to a lesser extent, the Aegean world. The abundant sources range from magical spells to surprisingly "scientific" treatises and handbooks. Readings are selected from translations of primary sources in the writings of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel, Greece, and Rome. Topics will 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities

AS.130.124. Texts, Tablets, and Tweets: The Sociolinguistics of Writing. 3.0 Credits.
This course examines the evolution of writing and the relationship between speech and writing in ancient and modern societies. We will examine the ways in which orthography, scripts, and the visual components inherent to written language (e.g., scripts, fonts, emoticons, diacritics etc.) are used to create and/or project certain social identities in these new written spaces. A primary aim of this course is to generate discussion regarding the ways in which writing in all of its forms—at the institutional, group, and individual level, in official documents, in emails, texts, tweets, and graffiti, using standardized and non-standard orthographies, in both regulated and unregulated spaces—can be a social and often political act of identity. The writing assignments for the course will encourage you to consider the ways in which writing can be harnessed to express social identities. You will work as a group to develop your own writing system and present it to the class. This will hone your creative and critical thinking skills and give you practice collaborating on a project. You will also research and conduct an original analysis on a corpus of writing.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): A. Mandell
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.126. Gods and Monsters in Ancient Egypt. 3.0 Credits.
To provide a basic introduction to Egyptian Religion, with a special focus on the nature of the gods and how humans interact with them. We will devote particular time to the Book of the Dead and to the “magical” aspects of religion designed for protective purposes.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.127. A Good Scribe & Learned Man: Wisdom & Knowledge in Ancient Egypt. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.131. It’s Alive! Statues in Ancient Egypt. 3.0 Credits.
Statues in ancient Egypt were extremely powerful images. Following the appropriate rituals, a statue could eat, breath, smell, and see. Wealthy men and women, including the king and his high officials, commissioned statues of themselves to erect in temples and their tombs. This allowed them to benefit from offerings set in front of the statues and essentially live forever. Throughout their history, the Egyptians also carved statues of prisoners, servants, and deities. In this class, we will explore a variety of statues from throughout ancient Egyptian history. How did the Egyptians use statues, and why did they create these objects? Do the answers to these questions vary for different types of statues? In considering this, we will discuss manufacturing techniques, materials, subject matter, style, and the relationship between text and image. However, we will also examine other topics that may at first seem to be less obviously related, including mummies and the process of mumification, religion and magic in ancient Egypt, temples and tombs, and funerary beliefs. In order for students to directly analyze statues, we will take advantage of Baltimore's museums and visit collections of Egyptian art throughout the semester.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Prakash
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.133. From Hebrews to Jews: The Development of Jewish Identity in the Ancient World. 3.0 Credits.
What happened to the ten lost tribes of Israel? Was Abraham Jewish? How far back can Jewish ethnicity be traced using genetic research? These questions and more will be topics of discussion as we explore the development of Jewish identity, beginning with the first evidence of a people called “Israel” in the 13th century BCE and ending with the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE. The class will start with a discussion of different types of identity, including ethnic, religious, and cultural identities, as well as how identity can vary between members of the same community. We will also consider how ancient peoples can be studied using textual and archaeological sources. Then we will take a loosely diachronic approach to the development of Jewish identity, from the elusive origins of the Israelites to their existence as a monarchic state under rulers such as King David; from their forced displacement under the Assyrian empire to the Diaspora caused by the Romans. Using primary and secondary source materials, we will assess the key developments in group identity that took place at these times and the factors which influenced them.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Liebermann
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.135. Pyramids, Temples and Tombs. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.
AS.130.138. Jerusalem: The Holy City. 3.0 Credits.
This course will survey the cultural history of Jerusalem over three millennia, primarily as the symbolic focus of three faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course content will focus on the transformation of sacred space as reflected by literary and archaeological evidence by examining the artifacts, architectural monuments, and iconography in relation to written sources. The creation of mythic Jerusalem through event and experience will be examined.
Course requirements will focus on the development of advanced writing skills and critical thinking.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): A. Mandell
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.139. Stargazing and Reading the Future: Science and Magic in Ancient Egypt. 3.0 Credits.
Is astrology science? Is ancient medicine magic? What is the logic of divination? I invite you to explore the answers with me by traveling back in time to ancient Egypt, a place where knowledge from the ancient Mediterranean world once converged. We will start by bridging the difference between science and magic and establishing the importance of contextualization in cross-culture studies. The topics range from the birth of astronomy, the language and logic of dream books to gynecological texts’ connections with love magic.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): L. Zhang
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.140. Hebrew Bible / Old Testament. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.147. What My Soul Said To Me. 3.0 Credits.
“What My Soul Said to Me” will be focused on looking at the mortuary culture in Middle Kingdom Egypt through various types of evidence. By looking at the funerary culture of this age, students will learn about the funerary culture of Egypt during this period and will also become more familiar with the Middle Kingdom period in general. More importantly, students will be encouraged to think about larger topics involved in archaeological and historical studies, while using Middle Kingdom period Egypt as a setting to focus those discussions. This course is aimed at students without a previous background in archaeology or Egyptology, but more advanced students are welcome.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Waller
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.148. Freshman Seminar: The Development of Useful Things: A Comparative Approach to the Study of Technology and Economy in the Ancient World. 3.0 Credits.
This archaeology course will provide an overview of technological developments in the ancient world (from the Neolithic period to the beginning of the first millennium CE) and will explore their effects on the organization of economies and societies. Each week we will discuss a technological innovation and assess its impact on the societies that introduced it. This course will focus primarily on developments and case studies from the ancient Near Eastern and eastern Africa. We will depart from this trajectory to engage in relevant comparisons with developments occurring in other areas of the ancient world. Throughout the course, social aspects of technologies will be explored alongside economic aspects. In addition to focusing on the development of technologies as ‘objects’ (stone tools, pottery, metals, etc.), we will study non-material technologies, that arose as solutions to practical problems and have altered the world in important ways (agriculture, animal domestication, writing, etc.). This course approaches past technologies from a number of different perspectives: (1) by learning about particular anthropological and archaeological case studies, (2) by engaging with scholarship focusing on major theoretical and philosophical themes, (3) by engaging with ethnographic research, both in the form of articles and in the form of documentaries, and (4) by means of thought experiments and debates. This course will benefit humanities, social science, and science-oriented students who have an interest in understanding the inner workings of two important aspects of human societies: technology and economy.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): I. Dumitru
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.130.170. Diplomacy and Conflict in the Ancient Middle East. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.174. Scientists and Soothsayers: The Pursuit of Knowledge in Ancient Egypt. 3.0 Credits.
The ancient world viewed Egypt as a repository of wisdom and learning, and even today, Egypt possesses in the modern consciousness a reputation for secret knowledge. From within Egypt, a diverse corpus of texts meant to record and transmit knowledge have survived and attest to Egyptian “scholarship.” This course will focus on what kinds of knowledge belonged to this written tradition (3000 BCE to 300 CE) and how those texts reflected broader social and cultural norms. This course will also consider, where relevant, the relationship between the intellectual traditions of Egypt and other societies of the ancient world, particularly Greece and Mesopotamia. Strong correlations between the Egyptian material and modern intellectual and scientific traditions, such as mathematics, astronomy, and medicine exist; but magic, divination, and religion were often treated in the same systematic, critical manner by the Egyptians. Thus the course will challenge modern understandings of science, and modern dichotomies such as rational versus irrational. After a brief introduction to Egypt, the first few weeks will concern who created these texts, who had access to them, and their physical and intellectual milieu. Then, each week will cover a particular area of knowledge, its primary sources, social and multicultural context, and its relationship to the theoretical themes of the course.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Davis
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.177. World Prehistory: An Anthropological Perspective. 3.0 Credits.
How and why did our nomadic hunting and gathering ancestors become farmers? What led agricultural societies to build cities, develop writing, religious institutions, wage war, and trade for exotic goods? This course surveys prehistory and ancient history from the origins of human culture to the emergence civilization. Although prehistory and ancient history yield evidence of tremendous cultural diversity this course emphasizes common elements of past human experience, culture, and culture change. These include the origins of modern humans and their adjustment to a variety of post-ice age environments, shifts from hunting and gathering to agricultural lifeways, and the initial development of the world’s earliest cities and civilizations.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.130.202. Ancient Mythology. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Delnero
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.203. Archaeology of Africa: From Human Origins to the Emergence of Civilizations. 3.0 Credits.
This course examines Africa’s ancient past from the emergence of biologically modern humans, ancient hunter-gatherers, the earliest animal herding and farming populations, to cities and civilizations. While Egypt plays an undeniably central role in world history, this course concentrates in particular on ancient geographies other than Egypt.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.130.205. Tutankhamun and His Time. 3.0 Credits.  
The reign of Tutankhamun ended a period of fascinating upheaval in ancient Egypt, when a king attempted to stamp out the traditional gods and introduce monotheism. He changed the art of Egypt radically and built a new city from which to rule. This course covers the second half of the 14th century B.C., including the time of the heretic king Akhenaten, his wife Nefertiti, and his possible son Tutankhamun who ruled over all Egypt as a boy. So many questions still exist about this time and so many surprising ideas have been put forward to explain them. We will pursue as many as we can. Illustrated lectures will combine with group and individual presentations by students, supplemented with videos and online discussions with scholars who study this time period.  
Prerequisites: NA  
Corequisites: NA  
Instructor(s): K. Bryson  
Area: Humanities  
NA.

AS.130.213. Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Art. 3.0 Credits.  
This class is a combination of illustrated lecture and discussion, punctuated with visits to museums with Egyptian collections. Participants must be able to join at least one overnight trip to New York and/or Boston (weekend) and be available for two half day visits to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. or elsewhere (TBA as best for participants), in addition to visiting Baltimore institutions with the class as part of the course. Discussion of sculpture will take place in front of the objects, so attendance is important for the visits.  
Prerequisites: NA  
Corequisites: NA  
Instructor(s): B. Bryan  
Area: Humanities  
NA.

AS.130.216. History of the Jews in Modern Times, from the Middle Ages to 1917. 3.0 Credits.  
A broad survey of the significant political and cultural dynamics of Jewish history in the Medieval, Early-Modern, and Modern Eras.  
Prerequisites: NA  
Corequisites: NA  
Instructor(s): D. Katz  
Area: Humanities  
NA.

AS.130.219. The Art of War and Peace in Ancient Mesopotamia. 3.0 Credits.  
Ancient Mesopotamia, modern-day Iraq, Syria, and Iran, is the "cradle of civilization." It witnessed new inventions previously unknown to the ancient world: urban cities, writing systems, kingship, and empires. This course examines the close relationship between war and peace and art in ancient Mesopotamia (ancient Sumer, Babylonia, and Assyria) from 3500 to 539 BCE. During the semester students will be introduced to the art, architecture, and archaeology of ancient Mesopotamia. This course is aimed at students without a previous background in art historical or archaeological approaches to Mesopotamia, but more advanced students are welcome.  
Prerequisites: NA  
Corequisites: NA  
Instructor(s): A. Taylor  
Area: Humanities  
NA.

AS.130.249. Sorcerers, Warriors and Femmes Fatales: Intro to Ancient Egyptian Literature. 3.0 Credits.  
This course explores the ancient Egyptian literature of the first millennium BCE and the Roman Era: stories of magic, epic battles, animal fables, and even cultic sex hymns.  
Prerequisites: NA  
Corequisites: NA  
Instructor(s): M. Escolano Poveda  
Area: Humanities  
NA.

AS.130.259. Ancient Science. 3.0 Credits.  
A survey of scientific practices and technological innovations in the ancient world, including astronomy, medicine, law, and divination. Special attention will be devoted to the relationship between magic and science during the periods covered.  
Prerequisites: NA  
Corequisites: NA  
Instructor(s): P. Delnero  
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
NA.

AS.130.300. History of Ancient Mesopotamia. 3.0 Credits.  
A survey of the history of Sumer, Babylonia, and Assyria.  
Prerequisites: NA  
Corequisites: NA  
Instructor(s): P. Delnero  
Area: Humanities  
NA.

AS.130.301. History of Ancient Syria-Palestine. 3.0 Credits.  
A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Canaan, including Ancient Israel.  
Prerequisites: NA  
Corequisites: NA  
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger  
Area: Humanities  
NA.

AS.130.302. History: Ancient Syria-Palestine II. 3.0 Credits.  
A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Canaan, including ancient Israel. Taught with AS.134.661. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.  
Prerequisites: NA  
Corequisites: NA  
Instructor(s): A. Mandell  
Area: Humanities  
NA.

AS.130.323. Cleopatra's Egypt: Ptolemaic-Roman Egypt. 3.0 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.  
Prerequisites: NA  
Corequisites: NA  
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow  
Area: Humanities  
NA.
AS.130.328. Ancient Egypt /Africa. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.330. The Garden of Eden. 3.0 Credits.
References to the story of the Garden of Eden can be found in every significant issue of our time, from sex to politics, from race to the environment. The course will examine the story itself as well as how it's been interpreted, leading up to today. Enthusiastic participation required.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): E. Robbins
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.333. Ancient Egypt and Her Neighbors. 3.0 Credits.
An introduction to ancient Egypt's portrayals of and interactions with foreign lands and peoples, including Syria-Palestine to the east and Nubia to the south. Topics include trade, travel, warfare and diplomacy. Textual, iconographical and archaeological sources will be considered.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): A. Arico
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.334. Egyptian Funerary Arts in the Archaeological Museum. 3.0 Credits.
This class will aim to cover the production and choice of funerary objects for Egyptian elite tombs in several eras of antiquity: the Middle and New Kingdoms, the Third Intermediate Period, and the Late Periods. Students will work with specific objects after learning generally about them, and they will carry out analyses of materials, pigments, construction methods, and erosion and degradation effects. They will create a virtual exhibition for the Museum's website and present their results for inclusion in the museum cataloguing project.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan; S. Balachandran
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.335. The Pharaohs: Power and Authority in Ancient Egypt. 3.0 Credits.
This course will introduce students to the triumphs and struggles of the men (and women) who ruled ancient Egypt, comparing Egyptian kingship to other ancient and modern systems of political power and authority.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Bryson
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.3341. Traditionalism vs. Orthodoxy in the Modern Era: The Case of Judaism. 3.0 Credits.
During the Modern Era in European history, the Traditionalist Jewish civilization of Europe that had evolved over many centuries went into deep crisis. The new political, social, and intellectual realities which characterized Modernity seriously challenged, overwhelmed, and indeed threatened to destroy the Jewish Traditionalist culture and society. In response, different Traditionalist thinkers and communities evolved a number of strategies for surviving in a modern environment, strategies that unexpectedly transformed Traditionalism into something different, which came to be called Orthodox Judaism. This course explores this process of transformation, which has had an important impact on Jewish life in the modern and post-modern eras. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.343. Dead Sea Scrolls-English. 3.0 Credits.
A survey of the manuscripts found at Qumran and other sites near the Dead Sea.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Gropp
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.346. Introduction to the History of Rabbinic Literature. 3.0 Credits.
Broadly surveying classic rabbinic literature, including the Talmud and its commentaries, the legal codes and the response, this seminar explores the immanent as well as the external factors that shaped the development of this literature, the seminal role of this literature in Jewish self-definition and self-perception, and the role of this literature in pre-modern and modern Jewish culture.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.348. Religious Law Wrestles With Change: The Case of Judaism. 3.0 Credits.
Description: "How does a religious system which defines its ancient laws as God-given and unchangeable apply them to radically different and changing social, political and intellectual situations? This course explores the literature of "Questions and Answers"(She'elot u-Teshuvot), the Jewish legal responsa which have struggled to match Jewish religious law to modern life for fifteen centuries. A sweeping survey of Jewish history as revealed by one of its most impenetrable yet fascinating sources. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.130.351. The Emergence of Civilization: A Cross-Cultural Examination. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.130.353. Space Archaeology: An Introduction to Satellite Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.130.354. Archaeological Method and Theory. 3.0 Credits.
Climate change, population growth, war - 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 major theoretical currents in archaeology including evolutionary, cultural-historical, processual and post-processual approaches and discuss the future of archaeology as a scientific and humanistic discipline. Basic techniques for analyzing major categories of artifacts such as lithics, ceramics, archaeobotanical, and zooarchaeological materials will also be introduced.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.130.355. Geographic Information Systems in Archaeology. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Natural Sciences
NA.

AS.130.359. Reading the Talmud in the Post-Talmudic Era. 3.0 Credits.
Life and Death, Survival and Martyrdom, in the Literature of Post-Talmudic Rabbinic Judaism. Readings in the Original Sources (Knowledge of Hebrew Required). Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.364. Archaeology of Arabia. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.368. Nomads, Tyrants and Kings: Water in the Ancient Near East. 3.0 Credits.
This course explores economic and social histories of water in the ancient Near East. It examines water's diverse roles in ancient Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Levantine and South Arabian agriculture, politics, ritual and religion, including water's interconnected significance in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Taught jointly with AS.131.615.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.369. Law in the Ancient Middle East. 3.0 Credits.
The Middle East offers the earliest and most abundant source material for reconstructing ancient legal systems. From stone monuments like the Code of Hammurabi to clay tablets the size of postage stamps, the cuneiform record provides a window into not just legal thought but actual legal practice in the ancient Middle East. Surveying a span of more than two thousand years, we will explore the law in both its deep structure and its regional and temporal diversity. Specific topics will include homicide and personal injury law, family law, the legal status of women, codes and codification, and ancient Israelite law in its Middle Eastern context. No background is required and all texts are read in translation, but every enrolled student is expected to actively participate in this seminar-style course.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.130.373. Prophets and Prophecy in the Bible. 3.0 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?
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.376. Ancient Magic and Ritual. 3.0 Credits.
This course will introduce students to the vast body of rituals that were practiced and performed in antiquity, with a particular emphasis on rituals from ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Hebrew Bible. In addition to examining rituals from a comparative perspective, anthropological and sociological studies of ritual will be read and discussed to shed light on the social, cultural, and political significance of ritual in the ancient world and beyond.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Delnero
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.377. Creating an Egyptian Temple. 3.0 Credits.
This class will challenge every participant to plan a temple environment for a particular deity. The readings, lectures, and discussions will cover the mythology around specific gods and how it influenced temple architecture, location, ritual, and festivals. It will survey the history of temple building in Egypt, the role of architecture and art – particularly wall reliefs – in communicating the functions of particular parts of temples. The aim is to help students understand what requirements an Egyptian temple needed to fulfill. Then each student will plan a temple for a chosen deity and explain to peers how it meets the ancient requirements.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.378. Geoarchaeology: Applications of Earth Science to Archaeology. 3.0 Credits.
Geoarchaeology is a multidisciplinary subfield that applies the tools and techniques of earth science to understand ancient humans and their interactions with environments. This course examines basic topics and concepts, including archaeological site formation, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, raw materials and resources, soil science, deposition and erosion of wind and water-borne sediments in different environments such as along rivers, lakes and coastlines, radiocarbon and other chronometric dating methods, and ground-based remote sensing, including ground penetrating radar.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.130.379. The Development of Useful Things: Technology and Economy in the Ancient World. 3.0 Credits.
This course provides an overview of technological developments in the ancient world, by foregrounding the development of objects (stone tools, pottery, metals) and of non-material technologies (agriculture, animal domestication, writing).
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): I. Dumitru
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.381. Elementary Akkadian. 3.0 Credits.
An introduction to the paleography, grammar and lexicon of the Akkadian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language. Co-listed with AS.132.600
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Essam
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.382. History of Mesopotamia II. 3.0 Credits.
A survey of the history of Sumer, Babylonia, and Assyria.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.383. Elementary Akkadian II. 3.0 Credits.
An introduction to the paleography, grammar, and lexicon of the Akkadian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language. Continues AS.130.381
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Chapin
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.384. Old Kingdom Art. 3.0 Credits.
This course will explore the artistic expression of Egyptian culture from the 3rd through the 6th Dynasties, ca. 2700-2100 B.C. Tombs, temples, statuary, and two-dimensional wall decoration provide a large visual vocabulary of Egyptian concepts. This class will look at these elements, separately and in combination in order to consider the intentions behind the art and evaluate the degree to which religious and ideological symbolism, known from later Egyptian art, should be understood in the early pyramid-building era.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.130.387. The Poetics of Biblical Prose and Verse. 3.0 Credits.
An exploration of how ancient Israelite techniques of literary textual and inter-textual patterning contributes to cohesion and meaning in biblical prose and verse. Attention will be given to the distinguishing characteristics of Hebrew verse in relation to prose, and to a range of different kinds of prose in Israelite literature. These poetics will be exemplified in close readings of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible in English.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Gropp
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.388. Elementary Sumerian. 3.0 Credits.
An introduction to the paleography, grammar and lexicon of the Sumerian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Chapin
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.395. Being_ in Ancient Egypt: Ethnicity, Sexuality, and Gender. 3.0 Credits.
What was it like to live in ancient Egypt? At first this question may seem deceptively straightforward. But with further thought, its complexity becomes clear. Who are we concerned with? How the king lived? A poor farmer? His wife or children? A foreign immigrant? Moreover, what is our evidence for life in Egypt? Do all of the sources support similar interpretations? This course will begin to tackle these questions by considering the experiences of different people in ancient Egypt.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Prakash
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.400. Introduction To Middle Egyptian. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.401. Introduction To Middle Egyptian. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: Prereq: AS.130.400 or equivalent.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.420. Seminar in Research Methods in Near Eastern Studies: (Auto)biography in the Ancient Near East. 3.0 Credits.
Just as in our time, the peoples of the ancient Near East were greatly interested in their own pasts. One of the most vibrant manifestations of this interest was the writing of biographies, in which ancient authors told the stories of individual lives. These biographies present an enormous challenge to contemporary historians. On the one hand, they offer a wealth of evidence—sometimes our only evidence—about some of the most famous persons of antiquity. On the other hand, the biographies were seldom written according to what we might consider “proper historical method.” How, as modern historians, do we approach these biographies in studying the ancient past? Using a variety of case studies, students will develop skills in specific research skills such as critical reading, analysis, and interpretation. AS.130.420 is required of NES Majors, but is also open to non-majors who have taken at least one 100-level and one 300-level Near Eastern Civilization course, or with the consent of the instructor.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.440. Elementary Biblical Hebrew. 3.0 Credits.
Introduction to the grammar, vocabulary, and writing system of biblical Hebrew.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): G. Church
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.441. Elementary Biblical Hebrew. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Estrada
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.442. Readings - Hebrew Prose. 3.0 Credits.
Reading of biblical Hebrew prose, especially from the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): G. Church
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.443. Reading Of Hebrew Prose. 3.0 Credits.
Reading of Biblical Hebrew prose, especially from the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Estrada
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.130.446. Readings - Hebrew Narrative and Poetry. 3.0 Credits.
Intermediate readings in a variety of narratives with some exposure to poetic text.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Medill
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.447. Readings - Hebrew Narrative and Poetry. 3.0 Credits.
Intermediate readings in a variety of narratives with some exposure to poetic text. A continuation of AS.130.446.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Medill
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.501. Readings & Research. 3.0 Credits.
Prerequisites: You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration > Online Forms.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Feldman; P. Delnero; R. Jasnow
Area: NA
NA.

AS.130.504. Independent Study. 1.0 - 3.0 Credits.
Prerequisites: You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration > Online Forms.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Delnero; T. Lewis
Area: NA
NA.

AS.130.505. Independent Study-Archaeology Fieldwork. 1.0 Credit.
Prerequisites: You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration > Online Forms.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): E. Anderson; G. Schwartz; L. Deleonardis; M. Harrower
Area: NA
NA.

AS.130.506. Independent Study-Archaeology Fieldwork. 1.0 - 3.0 Credits.
Prerequisites: You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration > Online Forms.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Staff
Area: NA
NA.

AS.130.510. Archaeology Major Honors Thesis I. 3.0 Credits.
Prerequisites: You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration > Online Forms.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): E. Anderson; G. Schwartz; L. Deleonardis; M. Harrower; M. Roller
Area: NA
Writing Intensive.

AS.130.511. Archaeology Major Honors Thesis II. 3.0 Credits.
Prerequisites: You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration > Online Forms.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan; E. Anderson; G. Schwartz; L. Deleonardis; M. Roller
Area: NA
Writing Intensive.

AS.131.600. Seminar Near Eastern History: Mesopotamia. NA Credit.
Seminar in Near Eastern History: Mesopotamia
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Delnero
Area: NA
NA.

AS.131.601. Seminar Near Eastern History: Egypt. NA Credit.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: NA
NA.

AS.131.610. Seminar Near Eastern History: Egypt. NA Credit.
This course examines Africa's ancient past from the emergence of biologically modern humans, ancient hunter-gatherers, the earliest animal herding and farming populations, to cities and civilizations. While Egypt plays an undeniably central role in world history, this course concentrates in particular on ancient geographies other than Egypt.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.131.613. Archaeology of Africa: From Human Origins to the Emergence of Civilizations. NA Credit.
This course examines Africa's ancient past from the emergence of biologically modern humans, ancient hunter-gatherers, the earliest animal herding and farming populations, to cities and civilizations. While Egypt plays an undeniably central role in world history, this course concentrates in particular on ancient geographies other than Egypt.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.131.634. Seminar: Near Eastern Archaeology. NA Credit.
Topic varies but can include the archaeology of Mesopotamia, Syria, or Palestine, or thematic discussions (e.g., on ideology, state collapse, etc.).
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz
Area: NA

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

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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.131.654. Advanced Archaeological Method and Theory. NA Credit.
Climate change, population growth, war - 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 major theoretical currents in archaeology including evolutionary, cultural-historical, processual and post-processual approaches and discuss the future of archaeology as a scientific and humanistic discipline. Basic techniques for analyzing major categories of artifacts such as lithics, ceramics, archaeobotanical, and zooarchaeological materials will also be introduced.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.131.657. Geographic Information Systems in Archaeology. NA Credit.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Humanities, Natural Sciences

AS.131.664. Archaeology of Arabia. NA Credit.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: NA

AS.131.678. Geoarchaeology: Applications of Earth Science to Archaeology. NA Credit.
Geoarchaeology is a multidisciplinary subfield that applies the tools and techniques of earth science to understand ancient humans and their interactions with environments. This course examines basic topics and concepts, including archaeological site formation, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, raw materials and resources, soil science, deposition and erosion of wind and water-borne sediments in different environments such as along rivers, lakes and coastlines, radiocarbon and other chronometric dating methods, and ground-based remote sensing, including ground penetrating radar.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Harrower
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.131.800. Readings & Research. NA Credit.
NA
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Staff
Area: NA

AS.131.801. Readings And Research. NA Credit.
NA
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Staff
Area: Humanities

AS.131.848. Dissertation Research. NA Credit.
NA
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Staff
Area: NA

AS.131.849. Dissertation Research. NA Credit.
NA
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Staff
Area: NA
AS.132.600. Elementary Akkadian. NA Credit.
An introduction to the paleography, grammar and lexicon of the Akkadian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Essam
Area: NA
NA.

AS.132.601. Elementary Akkadian II. NA Credit.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Chapin
Area: Humanities
NA.

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 Handwörterbuch.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: NA
NA.

AS.132.607. Intermediate Akkadian Texts. NA Credit.
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 Handwörterbuch.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: NA
NA.

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

AS.132.631. Literature and Religious Texts. NA Credit.
This course has two primary objectives: To introduce students to texts commonly described as "historical" (e.g., royal inscriptions, chronicles); and to further expose students to the Old Babylonian dialect of the Akkadian language. A secondary objective is to begin to develop familiarity with critical research tools such as the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary and the Akkadisches Handwörterbuch.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Delnero
Area: NA
NA.

AS.132.640. Historical Texts. NA Credit.
Undergraduates admitted to this course earn 4.5 credits per semester.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.132.642. The Amarna Letters. NA Credit.
Students read the diplomatic correspondence from Tell el-Amarna in the original cuneiform. Focus is on language and history: the dialect(s) of Akkadian in which the letters are written and the diplomatic history of the Late Bronze Age.
Prerequisites: Prereqs: AS.132.600 or instructor’s consent.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.132.644. Treaties And Diplomacy. NA Credit.
Reading treaties and related materials in Akkadian.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: NA
NA.

AS.132.700. Elementary Sumerian. NA Credit.
An introduction to the paleography, grammar and lexicon of the Sumerian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Medill
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.132.701. Elementary Sumerian. NA Credit.
This course introduces students to letters written in the Sumerian language from a variety of historical periods. Recommended course background: AS.132.600 and AS.132.601.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Chapin
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.132.710. Advanced Sumerian. NA Credit.
We will read Letter Collection B and related materials in the original cuneiform.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Delnero
Area: NA
NA.
AS.132.711. Advanced Sumerian. NA Credit.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Delnero
Area: NA
NA.

AS.132.800. Mesopotamian Seminar. NA Credit.
Research and discussion on topics of current interest.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz; J. Lauinger; M. Feldman; P. Delnero
Area: NA
NA.

AS.132.801. Mesopotamian Seminar. NA Credit.
Research and discussion on topics of current interest.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz; J. Lauinger; M. Feldman; P. Delnero
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.133.450. Seminar in Egyptian Art and Archaeology: Approaching Egyptian Art. 3.0 Credits.
A seminar-based course requiring that students have had at least one prior course in Egyptian art or archaeology. The course will consider the wide variety of ways that people analyze Egyptian art – currently and over the last hundred twenty-five years. Art historical, anthropological, semiological, and various other approaches will be evaluated during the term. We will focus on reading authors discussing examples chosen from three millennia of art production. Recommended Course Background: At least one prior course in Egyptian art or archaeology.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.133.600. Introduction To Middle Egyptian. NA Credit.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: NA
NA.

AS.133.601. Introduction To Middle Egyptian (Hieroglyphs). NA Credit.
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.130.401
Prerequisites: Prereq: AS.133.600 or equivalent.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
NA.

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

AS.133.611. Middle Egyptian Texts. NA Credit.
In this course we read a variety of Middle Egyptian hieroglyphic compositions and documents. Knowledge of Middle Egyptian Required.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan; R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.133.615. Representation and Identity in Ancient Egypt. NA Credit.
Using artistic, archaeological, and textual data, this course will apply recent anthropological and archaeological theories for understanding identity to ancient Egypt. In order to successfully approach such a broad concept, which could easily encompass many other topics, we will focus specifically on three different types of identity: ethnic (and cultural), gender, and sexual. Throughout the semester, we will explore how scholars identify past identities and the issues associated with this process. We will also consider the ways in which these identities were fluid, socially or culturally restricted, and self-defined.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Prakash
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.133.620. Hieratic. NA Credit.
NA
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: NA
NA.

AS.133.621. Hieratic. NA Credit.
NA
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.133.630. Old Egyptian. NA Credit.
NA
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.133.631. Old Egyptian. NA Credit.
NA
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.133.640. Late Egyptian. NA Credit.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: NA
NA.

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

AS.133.646. Demotic Texts. NA Credit.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.133.647. Demotic Texts. NA Credit.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.133.648. Intro To Coptic. NA Credit.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Jasnow
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.133.657. Creating an Egyptian Temple. NA Credit.
This class will challenge every participant to plan a temple environment for a particular deity. The readings, lectures, and discussions will cover the mythology around specific gods and how it influenced temple architecture, location, ritual, and festivals. It will survey the history of temple building in Egypt, the role of architecture and art – particularly wall reliefs – in communicating the functions of particular parts of temples. The aim is to help students understand what requirements an Egyptian temple needed to fulfill. Then each student will plan a temple for a chosen deity and explain to peers how it meets the ancient requirements.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.133.706. Egyptian Funerary Arts in the Archaeological Museum. NA Credit.
This class will aim to cover the production and choice of funerary objects for Egyptian elite tombs in several eras of antiquity: the Middle and New Kingdoms, the Third Intermediate Period, and the Late Periods. Students will work with specific objects after learning generally about them, and they will carry out analyses of materials, pigments, construction methods, and erosion and degradation effects. They will create a virtual exhibition for the Museum's website and present their results for inclusion in the museum cataloguing project.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan; S. Balachandran
Area: NA
NA.

AS.133.750. Seminar: Egyptian Technology. NA Credit.
The aim of this course is to consider technology on ancient Egyptian terms. First we will consider construction and architecture, building technologies, materials, and advances/changes over time. Research on concepts of technology and science will also be included, as well as discussion of ancient words for materials and tools. The course will concentrate on the Middle and New Kingdom era, ca. 2000 to 1000 B.C.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: NA
NA.

AS.133.751. Seminar in Egyptian Art and Archaeology: Old Kingdom Art. NA Credit.
This course will explore the artistic expression of Egyptian culture from the 3rd through the 6th Dynasties, ca. 2700-2100 B.C. Tombs, temples, statuary, and two-dimensional wall decoration provide a large visual vocabulary of Egyptian concepts. This class will look at these elements, separately and in combination in order to consider the intentions behind the art and evaluate the degree to which religious and ideological symbolism, known from later Egyptian art, should be understood in the early pyramid-building era.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Bryan
Area: NA
NA.

AS.134.604. The Book Of Job. NA Credit.
Reading the Hebrew text of the book of Job with attention to philology, textual criticism, and various aspects of interpretation.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.134.605. Seminar in Hebrew: Second Isaiah. NA Credit.
Translation, textual, philological, prosodic, literary and thematic analysis of Isaiah 40-55, with focus on how Hebrew verse as distinct from prose is constructed.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Gropp
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.134.606. The Deuteronomistic History and the Construction of Israelite Identity. NA Credit.
The Deuteronomistic History is one of the most enduring and influential theories in modern biblical scholarship. Though this theory has been criticized in recent years and no longer enjoys unanimous support, it still serves as a baseline for many scholars in the field. Whether one chooses to accept or reject this theory, discussion of its history and merits raises essential questions concerning the formation of the Hebrew Bible. This includes ancient conceptions of authorship and editing practices, the development of Israelite religious ideology, and the dating of many biblical texts. This course introduces the student to the basic history of the Deuteronomistic History as a scholarly construct, while at the same time engaging in the primary Hebrew texts. Students will read and translate biblical Hebrew for the first half of the class. During the second half of class, students will discuss and evaluate the applicability of each approach to passages in particular and the Deuteronomistic History as a whole. Special focus will be on recent criticism and defense in order to explore its continued viability.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): W. Reed
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.134.607. Texts, Tablets, and Tweets: The Sociolinguistics of Writing. NA Credit.
This course examines the evolution of writing and the relationship between speech and writing in ancient and modern societies. We will examine the ways in which orthography, scripts, and the visual components inherent to written language (e.g., scripts, fonts, emoticons, diacritics etc.) are used to create and/or project certain social identities in these new written spaces. A primary aim of this course is to generate discussion regarding the ways in which writing in all of its forms—at the institutional, group, and individual level, in official documents, in emails, texts, tweets, and graffiti, using standardized and non-standard orthographies, in both regulated and unregulated spaces—can be a social and often political act of identity. The writing assignments for the course will encourage you to consider the ways in which writing can be harnessed to express social identities. You will work as a group to develop your own writing system and present it to the class. This will hone your creative and critical thinking skills and give you practice collaborating on a project. You will also research and conduct an original analysis on a corpus of writing.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): A. Mandell
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.134.608. Book Of Ezekiel. NA Credit.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: NA
NA.

AS.134.610. Historical Hebrew Grammar. NA Credit.
Phonology and morphology of Biblical Hebrew.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. McCarter
Area: NA
NA.

AS.134.612. Qumran Aramaic. NA Credit.
Readings in the Aramaic texts from Qumran, such as the Prayer of Nabonidus, the Genesis Apocryphon, Targum of Job, and the Enochic literature. Basic ability to read Aramaic is necessary.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Gropp
Area: Humanities
NA.

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

AS.134.623. Pentateuch. NA Credit.
This course surveys the linguistic and literary structure of the Pentateuch. A second and equally important focus will be the history of scholarship and its broader impact on the study of the history and religion of ancient Israel and Judah.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): A. Mandell
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.134.652. Seminar in Ancient Israelite Religion. NA Credit.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: NA
NA.

AS.134.656. Comparative Semitics. NA Credit.
Comparative and historical analysis of the Semitic languages in their Afro-Asiatic context.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. McCarter
Area: NA
NA.

AS.134.660. History of Ancient Syria/Palestine. NA Credit.
A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Canaan, including Ancient Israel.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: NA
NA.
AS.134.661. History: Ancient Syria-Palestine II. NA Credit.
A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Cannan, including Ancient Israel.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): A. Mandell
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.134.700. Northwest Semitic Epigraphy. NA Credit.
NA
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. McCarter
Area: NA
NA.

AS.134.701. Northwest Semitic Epigraphy. NA Credit.
NA
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. McCarter
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.134.720. Ugaritic I. NA Credit.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: NA
NA.

AS.134.721. Ugaritic II. NA Credit.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): W. Reed
Area: Humanities
NA.

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

AS.134.747. Archaic Aramaic. NA Credit.
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; Kuttamuw, Nerab, Panamuwa, Sefrī, 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities
NA.

Cross Listed Courses
History of Art
AS.010.104. Freshman Seminar: Investigating Gender and Sexuality in Mesopotamian Art. 3.0 Credits.
Specifics of gender and sexuality are not universal norms, but rather are the product of particular cultural formations. Works of art are especially critical in shaping and conveying these particularities. This seminar examines how artistic products expressed and constructed gender identities and notions of sexuality in ancient Mesopotamia from the 4th millennium to the Hellenistic period. As a group, we will explore a variety of case studies, through which students will be introduced to ancient Mesopotamian culture and will develop skills in specific research skills such as critical reading, analysis, and interpretation.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Feldman
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.010.105. Art of the Ancient Americas. 3.0 Credits.
This course provides a basis for the study of ancient Americas art and architecture and a broad exposure to the issues relevant to its study. Select visual arts within the primary regions of Mexico and Central America will be emphasized. In conjunction with the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) and the JHU Archaeological Museum (JHAM), students will participate in on-site study of the collections.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): L. Deleonardis
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.010.112. Freshman Seminar - Lower, Later, Farther Away: Roman Art Beyond the Center. 3.0 Credits.
This course will introduce students to the art of the Roman world through art created by and for the Roman lower classes, art created in late antiquity, and art created in the far provinces of the empire. These topics represent a dramatic shift away from the traditional "center" of the study of Roman art (art created for the wealthy and politically privileged citizens of central Italy between the first century BCE and the first century CE), and are leading to new understanding of marginalized groups in the Roman world.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): E. Bevis
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.
AS.010.236. Palaces, Temples and Tombs in Mesopotamia. 3.0 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 (along with written records). Their arts manifest some of the earliest complex representations and follow a vibrant course for several millennia. The first empires marshaled large armies and amassed fabulous riches. Complex religious and ritual ideologies were expressed in the art and architecture. And all has been revealed by the archaeologist’s spade. This class explores the art and architecture of Mesopotamia (ancient Sumer, Babylonia and Assyria) from 3500 to 330 BCE. Emphasis is placed on the relationship between the arts and ancient society in order to enable students to acquire the skills for accessing and appreciating ancient civilizations.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Feldman
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.010.307. Diplomats, Dealers, and Diggers: The Birth of Archaeology and the Rise of Collecting from the 19th c. to Today. 3.0 Credits.
The development of archaeology in the Middle East – its history of explorers, diplomats, missionaries and gentlemen-scholars – profoundly shaped the modern world, from the creation of new museums and the antiquities market to international relations and terrorism.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Feldman
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.010.315. Art of the Assyrian Empire, 1000-600 BCE. 3.0 Credits.
The Assyrian Empire dominated the ancient world from 1000-612 BCE, stretching from Iran to Egypt and laying the foundation for the later Persian and Macedonian empires. With imperial expansion came an explosion of artistic production ranging from palace wall reliefs to small-scale luxury objects. This course provides an integrated picture of the imperial arts of this first great empire, situating it within the broader social and political contexts of the first millennium BCE.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Feldman
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.010.319. Medieval Art and Architecture of the Holy Land. 3.0 Credits.
The course focuses on art and architecture in the political and religious contexts of the Middle East, from the 4th to the 14th c. The three monotheistic religions all claimed specific territories – in particular the city of Jerusalem – for cult practices. This situation resulted in military conflicts that had an impact of Jewish, Medieval, Byzantine, and Islamic art in the Holy Land. The political conflicts, which still plague the region today, are rooted in the complex situation of the medieval period. The Roman, Arab, Byzantine, and crusader invasions resulted however in exciting eclectic styles that characterize the art and architecture of the region. We will discuss concepts behind political and religious leadership, as they intersect with the power of the arts.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): N. Zchomelidse
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.010.364. Babylon: Myth and Reality. 3.0 Credits.
Babylon – the name resonates even today, from the biblical whore of Revelation to sci-fi. It evokes exotic places and time long past. But what do we really know about the ancient city and the civilization that flourished there thousands of years ago? The first part of this course examines the archaeological city of Babylon, located in the modern state of Iraq, and considers its artistic and architectural achievements in the context of Mesopotamian history. The second part of the class explores the ongoing impact of Babylon in the cultural imagination of later periods, from the Classical and biblical authors, to European artists, Hollywood movies, science fiction, and contemporary political movements.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): N. Zchomelidse
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.010.389. The Stone and the Thread. 3.0 Credits.
Inka architecture in its social, historical and cultural contexts forms the basis of this course. Shared forms and ideas implicit in the fiber arts offer comparative points for analysis and discussion.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): L. Deleonardis
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.010.398. Tombs for the Living. 3.0 Credits.
Centering on the tomb as the unit of analysis, this course examines the cultural and material aspects of death and funerary ritual. Case studies are drawn from North America, Mesoamerica, and the Andes. Collections study in museums.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): L. Deleonardis
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.010.421. Creating Sacred Space in the Ancient and Medieval World. 3.0 Credits.
What makes a space sacred? How is it different from other spaces? This seminar explores the various means - visual, artifactual, architectural, and performative - of creating sacred space in the ancient and medieval worlds of the Near East and Mediterranean. Possible cases for study include early Sumerian temples, state-sponsored Assyrian temples, votive deposits, Greek sanctuaries, sanctuaries and landscape, early medieval Jewish, Christian, and Islamic cult buildings, cave sanctuaries, pilgrimage sites, icons and sacred space.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Feldman
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.010.470. Power and Politics in Assyrian Art. 3.0 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 wall reliefs 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Feldman
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.010.611. Seminar in Near Eastern Art. NA Credit.
Seals, artifacts associated with property, oversight, and control, were used in the ancient Near East as early as the 7th millennium BCE. These took the form of a single carved surface that could be impressed in a malleable substance such as clay to leave behind a physical mark. With the growth of large-scale urbanism and, most critical, the invention of cuneiform writing, a spool-shaped seal carved around its circumference appeared. This quintessentially Mesopotamian artifact – the cylinder seal – persisted until cuneiform writing died out around the beginning of the Common Era. The over-three-thousand-year span of the cylinder seal provides remarkably rich evidence for the ancient civilizations of the Near East.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Feldman
Area: NA
NA.

AS.010.625. Art and Interaction in the Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean. NA Credit.
The arts of the Near East, Aegean and Egypt are typically taught separately from one another. However, the Mediterranean Sea has always served as a connector, and the diverse cultures of these areas were in close contact with one another for much of their histories. During the Bronze Age (3000 to 1200 BCE), these interactions were particularly dynamic, resulting in a diversity of arts including wall frescoes, precious jewelry, and elaborate furnishings and weaponry. This course examines the arts of the interactions among Near Easterners, Greeks, Egyptians and others. It focuses special attention on the role of artistic products in intercultural relations, including trade, diplomacy, war and imperialism. Students are not expected to have extensive knowledge of all the areas, although some experience in at least one of them will be helpful. The course will interweave establishing a knowledge base necessary to tackle this topic with broader conceptual concerns and interdisciplinary approaches (art historical, archaeological, anthropological, and historical). There will be a final paper.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): E. Anderson; M. Feldman
Area: NA

AS.010.670. Power and Politics in Assyrian Art. NA Credit.
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 architectural and artistic production including entire cities and their ornamentation. This seminar examines the close relationship between the arts and politics in the Assyrian empire. The course will engage in close visual analysis of the ancient materials and critical readings of scholarship. There will be a final project.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): M. Feldman
Area: Humanities
NA.

Classics
AS.040.137. Freshman Seminar: Archaeology at the Crossroads: The Ancient Eastern Mediterranean through Objects in the JHU Archaeological Museum. 3.0 Credits.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
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. 3.0 Credits.
This course explores the visual and material worlds of ancient Cyprus from the earliest human evidence through the Iron Age. Course topics will include the island's unique position between the Aegean and Near East and how this has impacted both Cypruss' ancient past and the way in which it has been conceived in the modern world. Class involves regular analysis of artifacts based in the Archaeological Museum.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): E. Anderson
Area: Humanities
NA.

History
AS.100.234. The Making of the Muslim Middle East, 600-1100 A.D.. 3.0 Credits.
A survey of the major historical transformations of the region we now call the 'Middle East' (from late antiquity through the 11th century) in relation to the formation and development of Islam and various Muslim empires. Cross-listed with Near Eastern Studies and the Program in Islamic Studies.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. El-leithy
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences NA.

AS.100.362. Children and Childhood in the Middle Ages. 3.0 Credits.
Seminar on the history of childhood and ideas of childhood around the medieval Mediterranean; themes include child custody; medieval education and punishment; parent-child private letters; child mortality and the arts of bereavement/consolation. Cross-listed with the Program in Islamic Studies and Near Eastern Studies.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. El-leithy
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences NA.

AS.100.374. Conquest, Conversion, and Language Change in the Middle Ages. 3.0 Credits.
Examines case-studies of imperial conquests (Islamic, Mongol, reconquista, early colonialism) and attendant changes in religion (Christianization; Islamization) and in language (Arabization; transition from Latin to European vernaculars) across medieval Eurasia.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. El-leithy
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences NA.

AS.100.383. Conversion and Apostasy in the Middle Ages. 3.0 Credits.
Compares religious transformation in medieval Europe and the Middle East (ca. 600-1500), including conquest and conversion; conversion narratives; apostasy, martyrdom and other encounters between medieval Jews, Christians, and Muslims.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. El-leithy
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive.

AS.100.615. States, Scribes, and Archives: Medieval Arabic Documentary Cultures. NA Credit.
A historical survey of the bureaucratic practices of medieval Islamic states (in comparative perspective); includes close readings of primary official documents, e.g. petitions, edicts, fiscal receipts, and administrative reports.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. El-leithy
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences NA.

AS.100.646. Marvels and Wonder in medieval Arabic Culture. NA Credit.
Explores the concept of marvels in different genres of medieval Arabic culture: Qur'anic exegesis; travel literature; 'ethnography'; cosmography and geography; marvels of the natural world (e.g. hermaphrodites); Muslim views of pre-Islamic ('pagan') monuments.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. El-leithy
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences NA.

Archaeology
AS.136.101. Introduction To Archaeology. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): G. Schwartz
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences NA.

Earth Planetary Sciences
AS.270.205. Introduction to Geographic Information Systems and Geospatial Analysis. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): X. Chen
Area: Engineering, Natural Sciences NA.
Program in Museums and Society

AS.389.205. Examining Archaeological Objects. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): S. Balachandran
Area: Humanities

AS.389.315. Ancient Color: The Technologies and Meanings of Color in Antiquity. 3.0 Credits.
What role did the colorful surfaces of sculptures, vessels and textiles play in the ancient world? We examine historical texts and recent scholarly and scientific publications on the technologies and meanings of color in antiquity, and use imaging and analytical techniques to study polychromed objects from the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): S. Balachandran
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.