

Modern Middle Eastern Studies

2020-2021 Course List

There has rarely been a time in which an in-depth understanding of the languages, cultures, history, and politics of the contemporary Middle East has been more important. This interdisciplinary degree is designed to allow students to specialize in the Middle East as a region of the world by combining course work using both social scientific and humanistic approaches, underpinned by relevant language skills. Students will work with faculty committed to supporting interdisciplinary, applied, research-oriented advanced study. The major gives students opportunities to work on problems of politics, policy, history, ideology, literature, social thought, economic development, and international relations.

The Major:

The major consists of at least 12 course units to be distributed as follows:

- (1) Disciplinary Distribution: A selection of three courses that must include both the Social Sciences and the Humanities – three course units
- (2) Language: Four course units on one Middle Eastern Language (e.g.: Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish) including at least two course units at the intermediate (second year) level or above.
- (3) Regional coverage: Three course units, including at least one foundational course and at least one course centered on a culture other than that associated with the language selected in (2). One or two of these may be courses about the Middle East region in general.
- (4) Two seminar courses requiring significant research papers.

The Minor:

At least six course units on the Middle East including the following:

- (1) Two courses from the Humanities
- (2) Two courses from the Social Sciences
- (3) Two elective courses (which may include two language courses in a single language)

Course List Key:

Blue: Course Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement

Orange: Course Fulfills MMES Social Sciences Requirement

Green: Course Fulfills MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

Purple: MMES Foundational Course

Highlighted: Prior Approval from Middle East Center Required for Course to Fulfill MMES Requirement

Foundational Courses in Modern Middle Eastern Studies

Art History

ARTH 235 – Islamic Civilization & Its Visual Culture

History

HIST 081 – History of the Middle East Since 1800

HIST 371 – Africa and the Middle East

Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

NELC 102 – Introduction to the Middle East

Political Science

PSCI 211 – Politics in the Contemporary Middle East

PSCI 253 – International Relations of the Middle East

Religious Studies

RELS 143 – Introduction to Islam

RELS 146 – Islam in the Modern World

All Modern Middle Eastern Studies majors MUST take at least one foundational course. Note that not every foundational course is offered every year.

Modern Middle Eastern Studies 2020-2021 Course List

Africana Studies

AFRC 233 World History: Africa or the Middle East

African cities in the past contributed to dynamic and prosperous civilizations. What happened? This course examines Africans' aspirations of modernity through the lens of African urban history using fiction, film and current scholarship in several disciplines. Each class will explore two temporalities -- the precolonial history of African cities, and the colonial and postcolonial histories of economic, social and political progress which goes by the name of development. Grounded in the case studies of both ancient and modern cities, this course explores the emergence and decline of trading centers, the rise of colonial cities, and the dilemmas of postcolonial economies and politics.

Taught by: Babou, Powell

Usually offered in Spring semester

Also Offered As: GSWS 232, HIST 232, NELC 282

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: Topics vary: See the Africana Studies Program's website at www.sas.upenn.edu/africana for a description of the current offerings.

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

(Prior Approval from MEC Required for MMES Credit)

AFRC 274 Faces of Jihad in African Islam

This course is designed to provide the students with a broad understanding of the history of Islam in Africa. The focus will be mostly on West Africa, but we will also look at developments in other regions of the continent. We will explore Islam not only as religious practice but also as ideology and an instrument of social change. We will examine the process of Islamization in Africa and the different uses of Jihad. Topics include prophetic jihad, jihad of the pen and the different varieties of jihad of the sword throughout the history in Islam in sub-Saharan Africa.

Taught by: Babou

Usually offered in Fall semester

Also Offered As: HIST 275

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

AFRC 332 North Africa: History, Culture, Society

This interdisciplinary seminar aims to introduce students to the countries of North Africa, with a focus on the Maghreb and Libya (1830-present). It does so while examining the region's close economic and cultural connections to sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Readings will include histories, political analyses, anthropological studies, and novels, and will cover a wide range of topics such as colonial and postcolonial experiences, developments in Islamic thought and practice, and labor migration. This class is intended for juniors, seniors, and graduate students.

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: AFRC 332, HIST 370, NELC 332, NELC 632

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

AFRC 372 Africa and the Mid-East

This seminar will explore the historical relationship between these two regions from the early modern age to the present. We will examine the history of trade, particularly the slave trade, and its cultural and political legacy. We will compare the experiences of European imperialism -- how the scramble for Africa dovetailed with the last decades of the Ottoman Empire -- with an eye to how this shaped nationalist movements in both regions. The course will also explore the decades of independence with a special eye towards pan-Africanism and pan-Arabism. We will also study the ramifications of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the relationship between African and Middle-Eastern countries, from Uganda to Ethiopia, from OPEC to Darfur. This course will pay close attention to migrations through the regions, whether forced or economic or religious. Whenever possible we will explore, through film and literature, how people in Africa and the Middle East see their connections, and their differences.

Taught by: Eve Troutt Powell, Young
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HIST 371, NELC 334
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

Anthropology

ANTH 053 Music in Troubled Places

In this class, we go beyond the headlines to discuss the history and cultures of peoples who have had to endure terrible suffering, particularly through ethnic conflict and civil war. We will focus on a curious phenomenon: populations typically defined as separate from one another (e.g., Israelis and Palestinians) often have a history of shared or related cultural practices, of which music is a prime example. We will survey a number of current and recent conflict zones and use music as a way to deepen our understanding of the identities and relationships between the peoples involved including through a consideration of my own fieldwork in Sri Lanka. Querying the very definitions of music, trouble, and place, the course then broadens out to consider how musicians have been affected by and/or responded to important global problems like slavery, sexual violence, climate change and other ecological disasters, like Hurricane Katrina. Regions to be considered in our lectures and/or readings include: Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria (including Kurdish music), Israel-Palestine, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Myanmar/Burma, Uganda, Sierra Leone, North and South Korea, the Marshall Islands, Cambodia, Mexico, and the United States.

Taught by: Sykes
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: MUSC 053, NELC 054
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

ANTH 110 Water in the Middle East Throughout History

Water scarcity is one of the most important problems facing much of the Middle East and North Africa today. These are arid regions, but human and natural systems have interacted to determine

relative water scarcity and abundance at different times and places. This course examines the distribution of water resources throughout the Middle East and the archaeology and anthropology of water exploitation and management over the last 9000 years, looking at continuities and changes through time. Students will learn to make basic digital maps representing Middle Eastern hydro-geography and arguments about modern and historic water resources in the region. The class will cooperatively play an "irrigation management game" designed to familiarize personnel involved in the operation of irrigation schemes with the logistical and social issues involved in water management. We will engage with a variety of media, including academic readings, popular journalism, films, satellite imagery, and digital maps, in our quest to explore whether or not the past can inform present efforts to better manage modern water resources. The course is structured in units focused on each of the major hydro-environmental zones of the Middle East: the river valleys of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Levant, the internal basins of western Central Asia and the Levant, the deserts of Arabia and North Africa, highland zones in Yemen and Iran, and coastal marsh areas along the Persian Gulf. We will examine irrigation systems, water supply systems, and ways of life surrounding water sources known from ethnographic studies, history, and archaeological excavations. These data will allow us to engage with debates in Middle Eastern anthropology, including those concerning the relationship between water and political power, the environment in which the world's earliest cities arose, and the relevance of "lessons of the past" for present and potential future water crises and "water wars." In our final weeks, we will discuss archaeology and historical anthropology's contribution to conceptions of water "sustainability" and examine attempts to revive traditional/ancient technologies and attitudes about water.

For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S

Taught by: Hammer
Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: NELC 111
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

ANTH 325 Who Owns the Past? Archaeology and Politics in the Middle East

This course explores the role of cultural heritage and archaeological discoveries in the politics of the Middle East from the nineteenth century to the recent aftermath of the Arab Spring. We will explore how modern Middle East populations relate to their pasts and how archaeology and cultural heritage have been employed to support particular political and social agendas, including colonialism, nationalism, imperialism, and the construction of ethnic-religious identities. Although it was first introduced to the Middle East as a colonial enterprise by European powers, archaeology became a pivotal tool for local populations of the Middle East to construct new histories and identities during the post-World War I period of intensive nation-building after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. To understand this process, we will first look at the nineteenth-century establishment of archaeology by institutions like the Penn Museum. Then we will move on to individual case studies in Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Iran, and the republics of former Soviet Transcaucasia to look at the role of archaeology and cultural heritage in the formation of these countries as modern nation-states with a shared identity among citizens. We will conclude with an examination of the recent impact of the Islamic State on material heritage in Syria and Iraq, the changing attitudes of Middle Eastern countries toward foreign museums, and the role of UNESCO in defining Middle Eastern sites of world heritage. The course will also include field trips to the Penn Museum.

For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector

Taught by: Hammer

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: NELC 325

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

Arabic

ARAB 031 Elementary Arabic I

This is the beginner's course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). It will introduce you to the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in the standard means of communication in the Arab World. The

course is proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. Evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, dictations, grammar and translation exercises). We anticipate that by the end of this course (ARAB 031) students will range in proficiency from Novice High to Intermediate Low on the ACTFL scale; in other words (using the terminology of the government's Foreign Service Institute), from 'incipient survival' to 'full' survival' in the native-speaking environment.

For BA Students: Language Course

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: ARAB 631

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 032 Elementary Arabic II

This course is a continuation of ARAB 031/631.

For BA Students: Language Course

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: ARAB 632

Prerequisite: ARAB 031

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 033 Intermediate Arabic III

This is the continuation of the Elementary course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). This course is also proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. This is the continuation of ARAB031 and ARAB 032, the elementary course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). This course is also proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. As in ARAB 031-032, evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, grammar and translation exercises). We anticipate that students range from Intermediate Low to Intermediate High according to the ACTFL scale.

For BA Students: Language Course

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: ARAB 633
Prerequisites: ARAB 032 or equivalent.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 034 Intermediate Arabic IV

This course is a continuation of ARAB 033/633.
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: ARAB 634
Prerequisite: ARAB 033
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 035 Advanced Intermediate Arabic I

This is a proficiency-based course which continues from the first intermediate course, ARAB 033/034. Emphasis continues to be on all four language skills: Speaking, Listening, Reading, & Writing. The readings for the class are chosen from actual texts from both medieval and modern Arabic in a variety of fields and subjects. Students will be expected to give classroom presentations and to write short essays in Arabic. Evaluation will be both Achievement- and proficiency- based.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: ARAB 635
Prerequisite: ARAB 034
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 036 Advanced Intermediate Arabic II

This course is a continuation of ARAB 035/635.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: ARAB 636
Prerequisite: ARAB 035
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 037 Advanced Arabic and Syntax I

Advanced syntax through the reading of Arab grammarians. Development of reading in bulk. Emphasis on classical Arabic read in works by medieval and modern writers. This course is

designed to give the student experience in reading whole works in Arabic and giving reports on them.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: ARAB 637
Prerequisites: ARAB 036/636 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 039 Colloquial Arabic

A one-semester, introductory course to the spoken Arabic of one of the regions of the Arab world, chosen according to the dialect of instructor.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: ARAB 639
Prerequisite: ARAB 032
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 041 Beginning Arabic I (ARAB 031)

This is a beginner course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). It will introduce you to the speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in the standard means of communication in the Arab world. The course is proficiency-based, implying that all activities are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. Evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, dictations, grammar and translation exercises). We anticipate that by the end of this course (ARAB 041) students will range in proficiency from Novice High to Intermediate Low on the ACTFL scale; in other words (using the terminology of the government's Foreign Service Institute), from 'incipient survival' to 'full' survival' in the native-speaking environment.

Course usually offered in Fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: See the LPS Course Guide. **This course does not fulfill the College/Wharton language requirement.

ARAB 042 Beginning Arabic II (ARAB 032)

For BA Students: Language Course

Course usually offered in Spring term
Prerequisites: ARAB 041 or permission of the instructor.

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: See the LPS Course Guide. **This course does not fulfill the College language requirement.

ARAB 043 Continuing Arabic III (ARAB 033)

This is the continuation of ARAB041 and ARAB 042, the elementary course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). This course is also proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. As in ARAB 041-042, evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, grammar and translation exercises). Completion of this course fulfills the College of Liberal and Professional Studies language requirement in Arabic but not for the School of Arts and Sciences. However, it should be emphasized that you will need a longer period of study to achieve proficiency in Arabic. We anticipate that students range from Intermediate Low to Intermediate High according to the ACTFL scale.

Course usually offered in Fall term

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: See the CLPS Course Guide. **This course does not fulfill the College language requirement.

ARAB 044 Continuing Arabic IV (ARAB 034)

Course usually offered in Spring term

Prerequisites: ARAB 043 or permission of the instructor See the LPS Course Guide.]

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: See the LPS Course Guide. **This course does not fulfill the College language requirement.

ARAB 131 Intensive Elementary Arabic I&II

This is a six-week intensive beginners' course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). It will introduce the student to speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in the standard means of communication in the Arabic world. The course is proficiency-based, implying that all activities are aimed at placing the

student in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. Evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, dictations, grammar and translation exercises). We anticipate that by the end of this course (ARAB 041) students will range in proficiency from Novice High to Intermediate Low on the ACTFL scale; in other words (using the terminology of the government's Foreign Service Institute) 'survival' to 'full survival' in the native-speaking environment.

For BA Students: Language Course

Course usually offered Summer term only

Activity: Lecture

2.0 Course Units

Notes: Offered through the College of Liberal and Professional Studies Summer Session I.

ARAB 133 Intensive Intermediate Arabic I&II

This is a six-week intensive course offered in the summer through LPS; see the Penn Summer Course Guide. This is the continuation of ARAB031-32 or ARAB 131, the elementary course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). This course is also proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing the student in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. As in ARAB 031-032 or ARAB 131, evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, grammar and translation exercises). Completion of this course fulfills the College of Arts and Sciences language requirement in Arabic. However, it should be emphasized that the student will need a longer period of study to achieve proficiency in Arabic. We anticipate that students range from Intermediate Low to Intermediate High according to the ACTFL scale.

For BA Students: Last Language Course

Course usually offered Summer term only

Activity: Lecture

2.0 Course Units

Notes: Offered through the College of Liberal and Professional Studies Summer Session I.

ARAB 135 Intensive Advanced Intermediate Arabic I&II

This is a six-week intensive course offered in the summer through LPS; see Penn Summer Course

Guide. It continues from the first intermediate course, ARAB 033/034 or ARAB 133. Emphasis continues to be on all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will be expected to give classroom presentations and to write short essays in Arabic. Evaluation will be both achievement-based and proficiency-based. There is no Oral Proficiency Interview at the end of this session, but we anticipate that by the end of this, third year students will range in proficiency from Intermediate High to Advanced Mid on the ACTFL scale.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered Summer term only
Activity: Lecture

2.0 Course Units

Notes: Offered through the College of Liberal and Professional Studies Summer Session I.

ARAB 180 Arabic in Residence

The Arabic House is dedicated to practicing Modern Standard Arabic outside of the classroom setting. The group meets two evenings per week for an hour of conversation practice, snacks, and mint tea. Conversations are both casual and group-led. Members are encouraged to bring any questions about their homework from class or about the Arabic language in general. Most activities are held in the Greenhouse of the Class of 1925 building located at 3941 Irving Street. Additional cultural activities may take place in Gregory, elsewhere at Penn or throughout Philadelphia. All students and Arabic enthusiasts, whether graduate or undergraduate, first-semester beginners or native speakers, are welcome to attend. Dedicated undergraduate students may choose to enroll for credit (Arabic 180).

Course usually offered in Spring term

Activity: Seminar

0.5 Course Units

ARAB 235 The Adab Tradition

Taught by: Fakhreddine, H.

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: ARAB 735

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 331 Advanced Spoken Standard Arabic

The course will concentrate on the reading and speaking skills at the advanced level. Students will be assigned reading and audio-visual materials on which to prepare oral classroom presentations. Final examination in the course will be based on performance in the oral proficiency interview.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: ARAB 531

Prerequisite: ARAB 036/636

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 333 Readings in the Qur'an and Tafsir

This course has two goals: to introduce undergraduate students to reading the Qur'an in Arabic, and to enhance the speaking, listening, and writing skills in MSA. Through the reading and study of selected major Qur'anic narratives and commentary (tafsir), students will become familiar with Qur'anic vocabulary, style, recitation practices, and other intricacies of the Qur'anic text. All students will also memorize a short sura of their choice and practice reciting it in an aesthetically appropriate manner (typically suras 1, 112, 113, or 114). Taught in MSA with writing assignments in MSA.

Taught by: Lowry

Course offered spring; even-numbered years

Prerequisites: ARAB 35 or permission of the instructor.

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

[Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement](#)

ARAB 432 Arabic Readings in Belles-Lettres

This course aims to improve reading skills and vocabulary by introducing students to extensive passages taken from a variety of Arabic literary genres from all periods. Taught in MSA with writing assignments in MSA.

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: COML 432

Prerequisite: Proficiency in ARAB 036/636

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

ARAB 433 Arabic Readings in the Social Sciences and the Media

This course trains students to be proficient with written materials and media in MSA. This class will explore the Middle East through timely analysis of Arabic media as well as original analysis of the ideological, intellectual, social, cultural, and religious background to current events, including the Arab Spring and its aftermath. It is intended that, upon completion of this course, students will be able to work independently with a variety of media texts at different levels. Taught in MSA with writing assignments in MSA.

Course usually offered in Spring term during odd-numbered years

Prerequisites: Completion of ARAB 036/636 or permission of the instructor.

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

ARAB 434 Readings in Arabic Literature

Course not offered every year

Prerequisite: Reading knowledge of Arabic

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

ARAB 436 Introduction to Pre-Modern Arabic Texts

This course aims to provide incoming graduate students and advanced undergraduate students with an introduction to issues in Arabic grammar and syntax that commonly arise in pre-modern Arabic texts. Students will also be introduced to, and expected to consult, the standard reference works used as aids in reading such texts. Students will be expected to prepare a text or set of texts assigned by the instructor for each session. It is intended that, upon completion of this course, students will be able to work independently with a wide variety of pre-modern Arabic texts. Although the texts in this course are pre-modern, the course reinforces MSA reading skills.

Taught by: Lowry

Course usually offered in Fall term during even-numbered years

Prerequisites: Completion of ARAB 036/636

Advanced Intermediate Arabic; or permission of the instructor.

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: May be taken twice for credit with instructor's

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement permission.

ARAB 437 History & Fiction in Arabic

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

ARAB 531 Advanced Spoken Standard Arabic

The course will concentrate on the reading and speaking skills at the advanced level. Students will be assigned reading and audio-visual materials on which to prepare oral classroom presentations. Final examination in the course will be based on performance in the oral proficiency interview. Taught in MSA with writing assignments in MSA.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: ARAB 331

Prerequisite: ARAB 036/636

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 532 Advanced Arabic Composition

Development of writing skills within a variety of subjects. Extensive readings in various prose techniques and a thorough review of Arabic grammar.

Prerequisite(s): ARAB 036/636.

ARAB 533 Readings in Islamic Law

Taught by: Lowry

Course not offered every year

Prerequisites: Completion of ARAB036/636 or permission of the instructor.

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 534 Arabic: Reading Historical Manuscripts

Arabic language is used by many societies not only in communication but also in correspondence and in documenting the affairs of their daily lives. Arabic script is adopted by many groups whose native languages are not Arabic, in writing their language before some moved to the Roman alphabet. In many historical documents specific style of writing and handwriting are dominant. This specificity is influenced by the dialectical variations, the historical development of each region and the level of Arabic literacy and use.

Taught by: Dinar
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 548 Sudanese Arabic I

Sudan is a country with a rich history and diverse cultures and people. Sudan is surrounded by nine countries. Two of Sudan's neighbors have Arabic as their official language (Egypt & Libya). While in neighboring Chad and Eritrea, Arabic is widely spoken. The only barrier that divides Sudan from Arabia is the Red Sea. Arabic is the official language of the Sudan, and Sudanese pidgin Arabic (Juba Arabic) is widely used in the southern part of the country. Sudanese colloquial Arabic has close resemblance to Egyptian Colloquial Arabic and Classical Arabic. Sudanese colloquial Arabic is also spoken and is intelligible in Eritrea, Chad, Nigeria and many places in West Africa. This course will focus on speaking, listening, reading, & writing Sudanese Arabic through the following: 1- Speaking: Conversing in Sudanese Arabic in various settings. 2- Reading & Writing: Reading and writing of Sudanese Arabic Texts. 3- Listening: Listening to various audio recordings of Sudanese Arabic in different forms and settings.

Also offered as: AFST 558
Course usually offered in Fall term
Instructor: ALI-DINAR, ALI

ARAB 549 Sudanese Arabic II

Sudan is a country with a rich history and diverse cultures and people. Sudan is surrounded by nine countries. Two of Sudan's neighbors have Arabic as their official language (Egypt & Libya). Also, in neighboring Chad and Eritrea, Arabic is widely spoken. The only barrier that divides Sudan from

Arabia is the Red Sea. Arabic is the official language of the Sudan, and Sudanese pidgin Arabic (Juba Arabic) is widely used in the southern part of the country. Sudanese colloquial Arabic has close resemblance to Egyptian Colloquial Arabic and Classical Arabic. Sudanese Colloquial Arabic is mutually intelligible with Arabic dialects spoken in Eritrea, Chad, and Nigeria. This course will focus on the following four language skills: 1- Speaking: Conversing in Sudanese Arabic in various contexts. 2- Reading & Writing: Reading and writing of Sudanese Arabic texts. 3- Listening: Listening to various audio recordings of Sudanese Arabic in different forms and settings.

Also offered as: AFST 559
Course usually offered in Spring term
Instructor: ALI-DINAR, ALI

ARAB 580 Reading Arabic Manuscript

Course usually offered in Fall term

ARAB 631 Elementary Arabic I

This is the beginner's course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). It will introduce you to the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in the standard means of communication in the Arab World. The course is proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. Evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, dictations, grammar and translation exercises). We anticipate that by the end of this course (ARAB 002) students will range in proficiency from Novice High to Intermediate Low on the ACTFL scale; in other words (using the terminology of the government's Foreign Service Institute), from 'incipient survival' to 'full' survival' in the native-speaking environment.

For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: ARAB 031

Prerequisites: For the second semester: completion of the first semester or permission of the instructor.

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 632 Elementary Arabic II

This course is a continuation of ARAB 031/631.
For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: ARAB 032
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 633 Intermediate Arabic III

This is the continuation of the Elementary course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). This course is also proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. This is the continuation of ARAB031 and ARAB 032, the elementary course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). This course is also proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. As in ARAB 031-032, evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, grammar and translation exercises). We anticipate that students range from Intermediate Low to Intermediate High according to the ACTFL scale.

For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: ARAB 033
Prerequisites: ARAB 033or equivalent. For the second semester: completion of the first semester or permission of the instructor
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 634 Intermediate Arabic IV

This course is a continuation of ARAB 033/633.
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: ARAB 034
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 635 Advanced Intermediate Arabic I

This is a proficiency-based course which continues from the first intermediate course, ARAB 033/034. Emphasis continues to be on all four language skills: Speaking, Listening, Reading, & Writing. The readings for the class are chosen from actual texts from both medieval and modern Arabic in a variety of fields

and subjects. Students will be expected to give classroom presentations and to write short essays in Arabic. Evaluation will be both Achievement- and proficiency- based.

Course usually offered in Fall term
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Also Offered As: ARAB 035
Prerequisites: ARAB 033or permission of instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 636 Advanced Intermediate Arabic II

This course is a continuation of ARAB 035/635.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: ARAB 036
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 637 Advanced Arabic and Syntax I

Advanced syntax through the reading of Arab grammarians. Development of reading in bulk. Emphasis on classical Arabic read in works by medieval and modern writers. This course is designed to give the student experience in reading whole works in Arabic and giving reports on them.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARAB 037
Prerequisites: ARAB 036/636 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 639 Colloquial Arabic

A one-semester, introductory course to the spoken Arabic of one of the regions of the Arab world, chosen according to the dialect of instructor.

Course not offered every year, usually in Spring term
Also Offered As: ARAB 039
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 731 Topics in Islamic Studies

Topics vary from year to year in accordance with the interests and needs of students. Although this

course typically focuses on premodern Arabic texts, the readings reinforce MSA reading skills.

Taught by: Lowry
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: ARAB 436 or equivalent

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

ARAB 733 Arabic Texts in Islamic History

This is a graduate seminar course in which different genres of premodern Arabic texts are covered at the advanced graduate level. Students in this course are expected to be able to read and prepare (vowel, parse, and translate) passages from Arabic texts on a weekly basis and to be able to discuss them critically during the class itself. Topics are chosen to reflect student interest. Recent and potential topics include: Geographers and travel accounts; biographical dictionaries; chronicles; heresiography; poetry; memoir and sira. Although this course typically focuses on premodern Arabic texts, the readings reinforce MSA reading skills.

Taught by: Cobb
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: ARAB 036 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

ARAB 734 Selected Topics in Arabic Literature

This is a survey of Arabic poetry from the Pre-Islamic era until today. Readings will be selected to trace major thematic and formal developments in Arabic poetry. Readings also include excerpts from modern critical scholarship on the topic in Arabic. The class aims to introduce students to the basics of academic research and writing in Arabic. The class is taught in MSA with oral presentations and writing assignments in MSA.

Taught by: Fakhreddine
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ARAB 735 The Adab Tradition

This is a survey of pre-modern Arabic prose. Selections will be made from major books of Adab, compilations of akhbār, the Qurʾān, the sīrah, and critical treatise. Readings will be accompanied by excerpts from modern critical scholarship on the topic in Arabic. The class is taught in MSA with oral presentations and writing assignments in MSA.

Taught by: Fakhreddine
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARAB 235
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

Art and Archaeology of the Mediterranean World

AAMW 737 Islamic Architecture

This seminar will address the problems of studying architecture in the Islamic world. Considered will be issues of architectural design, regional and trans-regional constructional traditions, structural know-how and innovation, patronage and use. The examples discussed will be mainly religious and social service complexes. Attention will be paid to the manner of transmission of architectural design knowledge and constructional skill.

Taught by: Holod
Course offered in Fall and Summer terms
Also Offered As: ARTH 737
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

Art History

ARTH 235 Introduction to Visual Culture of the Islamic World

A one-semester survey of Islamic art and architecture which examines visual culture as it functions within the larger sphere of Islamic culture in general. Particular attention will be given to relationships between visual culture and literature, using specific case studies, sites, or objects which may be related to various branches of Islamic

literature, including historical, didactic, philosophical writings, poetry, and religious texts. All primary sources are available in English translation.

Taught by: Boomer

Course offered in Spring Term

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

Cinema Studies

CIMS 036 The Middle East through Many Lenses

This freshman seminar introduces the contemporary Middle East by drawing upon cutting-edge studies written from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. These include history, political science, and anthropology, as well as studies of mass media, sexuality, religion, urban life, and the environment. We will spend the first few weeks of the semester surveying major trends in modern Middle Eastern history. We will spend subsequent weeks intensively discussing assigned readings along with documentary films that we will watch in class. The semester will leave students with both a foundation in Middle Eastern studies and a sense of current directions in the field.

Taught by: Sharkey H

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: NELC 036

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

CIMS 118 Iranian Cinema: Gender, Politics and Religion

This seminar explores Iranian culture, art, history and politics through film in the contemporary era. We will examine a variety of works that represent the social, political, economic and cultural circumstances of post-revolutionary Iran. Along the way, we will discuss issues pertaining to gender, religion, nationalism, ethnicity, and the function of cinema in present day Iranian society. Films to be discussed will be by internationally acclaimed filmmakers, such as Abbas Kiarostami, Mohsen

Makhmalbaf, Rakhshan Bani-Etemad, Tahmineh Milani, Jafar Panahi, Bahman Ghobadi, among others.

Taught by: Entezari

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: COML 120,GSWS 118,NELC

118,NELC 618

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

CIMS 159 Modern Hebrew Literature and Film in Translation: Autobiography

This course examines cinematic and literary portrayals of childhood. While Israeli works constitute more than half of the course's material, European film and fiction play comparative roles. Many of the works are placed, and therefore discussed, against a backdrop of national or historical conflicts. Nonetheless, private traumas (such as madness, abuse, or loss) or an adult longing for an idealized time are often the central foci of the stories. These issues and the nature of individual and collective memory will be discussed from a psychological point of view. Additionally, the course analyzes how film, poetry and prose use their respective languages to reconstruct the image of childhood; it discusses the authors and directors struggle to penetrate the psyche of a child and to retrieve fragments of past events.

For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector

Taught by: Gold

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: COML 282,JWST 154,NELC 159

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

CIMS 166 Arab/Israeli Conflict in Literature and Film

This course will explore the origins, the history and, most importantly, the literary and cinematic art of the struggle that has endured for a century over the region that some call the Holy Land, some call Eretz Israel and others call Palestine. We will also consider religious motivations and interpretations that have inspired many involved in this conflict as well as the political consequences of world wars that contributed so greatly to the reconfiguration of the Middle East after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and after the revelations of the Holocaust in

Western Europe. While we will rely on a textbook for historical grounding, the most significant material we will use to learn this history will be films, novels, and short stories. Can the arts lead us to a different understanding of the lives lived through what seems like unending crisis?

Taught by: Troutt-Powell

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: HIST 166, NELC 137

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement

Education

EDUC 506 Migration, Displacement, and Education

This course examines the effects of migration (forced and voluntary) on education in a variety of contexts across the world (including the United States). The course reviews sociological and anthropological theories of immigrant incorporation and inclusion. Such frameworks are then applied to migration through case studies of im/migrants, refugees, and displaced persons in order to consider educational practices, programs and policies that address the effects of migration and displacement on education in diverse contexts.

Taught by: Ghaffar-Kucher

Course offered in Summer Term in odd numbered years

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

(Prior Approval from MEC Required for MMES Credit)

Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

GSWS 118 Iranian Cinema: Gender, Politics and Religion

This seminar explores Iranian culture, society, history and politics through the medium of film. We will examine a variety of cinematic works that represent the social, political, economic and cultural circumstances of contemporary Iran, as well as the diaspora. Along the way, we will discuss issues pertaining to gender, religion, nationalism, ethnicity, and the role of cinema in Iranian society and beyond. Discussion topics will also include the place of the Iranian diaspora in cinema, as well as the

transnational production, distribution, and consumption of Iranian cinema. Films will include those by internationally acclaimed filmmakers, such as Rakhshan Bani-Etemad, Asghar Farhadi, Bahman Ghobadi, Abbas Kiarostami, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Dariush Mehrjui, Tahmineh Milani, Jafar Panahi, Marjane Satrapi and others. All films will be subtitled in English. No prior knowledge is required.

Taught by: Entezari

Course usually offered in the Spring term

Also Offered As: CIMS 118, COML 120, NELC 118, NELC 618

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement

Hebrew

HEBR 051 Elementary Modern Hebrew I

An introduction to the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in modern Hebrew. This course assumes no previous knowledge of Hebrew. A grade of B- or higher is needed to proceed to HEBR 052, Elementary Modern Hebrew II.

For BA Students: Language Course

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: HEBR 651, JWST 051

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

HEBR 052 Elementary Modern Hebrew II

A continuation of HEBR 051, First Year Modern Hebrew, which assumes basic skills of reading and speaking and the use of the present tense. Open to all students who have completed one semester of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

For BA Students: Language Course

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: HEBR 652, JWST 052

Prerequisite: HEBR 051 or permission of instructor

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

HEBR 053 Intermediate Modern Hebrew III

Development of the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in modern Hebrew on an intermediate level. Open to all students who have completed two semesters of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

For BA Students: Language Course

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: HEBR 653, JWST 053

Prerequisites: HEBR 052 or permission of the instructor.

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

HEBR 054 Intermediate Modern Hebrew IV

This course constitutes the final semester of Intermediate Modern Hebrew. Hence, one of the main goals of the course is to prepare the students for the proficiency exam in Hebrew. Emphasis will be placed on grammar skills and ability to read literary texts. Open to all students who have completed three semesters of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

For BA Students: Last Language Course

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: HEBR 654, JWST 054

Prerequisite: HEBR 053 or permission of instructor

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

HEBR 059 Advanced Modern Hebrew: Conversation & Writing

After four semesters of language study, it's time to enter the vibrant world of contemporary Israeli culture. In this course students read some of the best plays, poems, short stories, and journalism published in Israel today. They also watch and analyze some of Israel's most popular films, TV programs, and videos. Themes include Jewish-Arab relations, the founding of the State, family ties and intergenerational conflict, war and society, and the recent dynamic changes in Israel society. HEBR 054 or permission of instructor. Since the content of this course may change from year to year, students may take it more than once (but only once for credit).

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course

Taught by: Engel

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: HEBR 552, JWST 059

Prerequisite: HEBR 054 or permission of instructor

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

HEBR 552 Advanced Modern Hebrew: Conversation & Writing

After four semesters of language study, it's time to enter the vibrant world of contemporary Israeli culture. In this course students read some of the best plays, poems, short stories, and journalism published in Israel today. They also watch and analyze some of Israel's most popular films, TV programs, and videos. Themes include Jewish-Arab relations, the founding of the State, family ties and intergenerational conflict, war and society, and the recent dynamic changes in Israel society. HEBR 054 or permission of instructor. Since the content of this course may change from year to year, students may take it more than once (but only once for credit).

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course

Taught by: Engel

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: HEBR 059, JWST 059

Prerequisite: HEBR 054 or permission of instructor

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

HEBR 651 Elementary Modern Hebrew I

An introduction to the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in Modern Hebrew. This course assumes no previous knowledge of Hebrew.

For BA Students: Language Course

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: HEBR 051, JWST 051

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

HEBR 652 Elementary Modern Hebrew II

A continuation of HEBR 051, First Year Modern Hebrew, which assumes basic skills of reading and speaking and the use of the present tense. Open to all students who have completed one semester of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

For BA Students: Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HEBR 052, JWST 052
Prerequisite: HEBR 651 or permission of instructor
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HEBR 653 Intermediate Modern Hebrew III

Development of the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in Modern Hebrew on an intermediate level. Open to all students who have completed two semesters of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

For BA Students: Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HEBR 053, JWST 053
Prerequisites: HEBR 652 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HEBR 654 Intermediate Modern Hebrew IV

This course constitutes the final semester of Intermediate Modern Hebrew. Hence, one of the main goals of the course is to prepare the students for the proficiency exam in Hebrew. Emphasis will be placed on grammar skills and ability to read literary texts. Open to all students who have completed three semesters of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HEBR 054, JWST 054
Prerequisite: HEBR 653 or permission of instructor
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HEBR 999 Independent Study

Activity: Independent Study
1.0 Course Unit

History

HIST 023 Intro to Middle East

Course usually offered in Spring term
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Also Offered As: NELC 102
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

HIST 081 History of the Middle East Since 1800

A survey of the modern Middle East with special emphasis on the experiences of ordinary men and women as articulated in biographies, novels, and regional case studies. Issues covered include the collapse of empires and the rise of a new state system following WWI, and the roots and consequences of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Iranian revolution and the U.S.-Iraq War. Themes include: the colonial encounter with Europe and the emergence of nationalist movements, the relationship between state and society, economic development and international relations, and religion and cultural identity.

For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Kashani-Sabet/Troutt-Powell
Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: NELC 031
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

[Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement](#)
[MMES Foundational Course](#)

HIST 106 Dumplings, Bows and Fermented Milk: The Silk Roads in 10 Objects

Taught by: Aguirre Mandujano
Activity: (Freshman) Seminar
[Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement](#)

HIST 148 Warriors, Concubines & Converts: the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East & Europe

For almost six hundred years, the Ottomans ruled most of the Balkans and the Middle East. From their bases in Anatolia, Ottoman armies advanced into the Balkans, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq, constantly challenging the borders of neighboring European and Islamic empires. By the end of the seventeenth century, Constantinople, Jerusalem, Cairo, Baghdad, Sarajevo, Budapest, and nearly Vienna came under Ottoman rule. As the empire expanded into Europe and the Middle East, the balance of imperial power shifted from warriors to converts, concubines, and intellectuals. This course

examines the expansion of the Ottoman sultanate from a local principality into a sprawling empire with a sophisticated bureaucracy; it also investigates the social, cultural, and intellectual developments that accompanied the long arc of the empire's rise and fall. By the end of the course, students will be able to identify and discuss major currents of change in the Ottoman Empire and the Middle East. The student will have a better understanding of the roles of power, ideology, diplomacy, and gender in the construction of empire and a refined appreciation for diverse techniques of historical analysis.

For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector

Taught by: Aguirre-Mandujano

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: NELC 148

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

HIST 166 Arab/Israeli Conflict in Literature and Film

This course will explore the origins, the history and, most importantly, the literary and cinematic art of the struggle that has endured for a century over the region that some call the Holy Land, some call Eretz Israel and others call Palestine. We will also consider religious motivations and interpretations that have inspired many involved in this conflict as well as the political consequences of world wars that contributed so greatly to the reconfiguration of the Middle East after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and after the revelations of the Holocaust in Western Europe. While we will rely on a textbook for historical grounding. The most significant material we will use to learn this history will be films, novels, and short stories. Can the arts lead us to a different understanding of the lives lived through what seems like unending crisis?

Taught by: Troutt-Powell

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: CIMS 166, NELC 137

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

HIST 188 Civilizations at Odds? The United States and the Middle East

Foe or friend, Satan or saint - America has often been depicted in the Middle East either as a benevolent superpower or an ill-meaning enemy. In America, too, stereotypes of the Middle East abound as the home of terrorists, falafels, and fanatics. This undergraduate lecture course will explore the relationship between the United States and the Middle East by moving beyond such facile stereotypes. Our goal is to understand why a century of interaction has done little to foster greater understanding between these two societies. By reading novels, memoirs, and historical accounts, we will examine the origins of this cultural and diplomatic encounter in the twentieth century. The readings will shed light on America's political and economic involvement in the Middle East after the Second World War. We will consider the impact of oil diplomacy on U.S.-Middle East relations, as well as the role of ideology and religion, in our effort to comprehend the current challenges that face these societies.

Taught by: Kashani-Sabet

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: NELC 188

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

HIST 232 Israel and Iran

Taught by: Kashani-Sabet

Activity: Seminar

Cross Listed: HIST 232

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

HIST 275 Faces of Jihad in African Islam

This course is designed to provide the students with a broad understanding of the history of Islam in Africa. The focus will be mostly on West Africa, but we will also look at developments in other regions of the continent. We will explore Islam not only as religious practice but also as ideology and an instrument of social change. We will examine the process of islamization in Africa and the different uses of Jihad. Topics include prophetic jihad, jihad of the pen and the different varieties of jihad of the sword throughout the history in Islam in sub-Saharan Africa.

Taught by: Babou
One-term course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: AFRC 274
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

HIST 306 Gunpowder, Art and Diplomacy: Islamic Empires in the Early Modern World

In the sixteenth century, the political landscape of the Middle East, Central Asia, and India changed with the expansion and consolidation of new Islamic empires. Gunpowder had transformed the modes of warfare. Diplomacy followed new rules and forms of legitimation. The widespread use of Persian, Arabic and Turkish languages across the region allowed for an interconnected world of scholars, merchants, and diplomats. And each imperial court, those of the Ottomans, the Safavids, and the Mughals, found innovative and original forms of expression in art and literature. The expansion of these Islamic empires, each of them military giants and behemoths of bureaucracy, marked a new phase in world history. The course is divided in four sections. The first section introduces the student to major debates about the so-called gunpowder empires of the Islamic world as well as to comparative approaches to study them. The second section focuses on the transformations of modes of warfare and military organization. The third section considers the cultural history and artistic production of the imperial courts of the Ottomans, the Mughals, and the Safavids. The fourth and final section investigates the social histories of these empires, their subjects, and the configuration of a world both connected and divided by commerce, expansion, and diplomacy.

Taught by: Aguirre-Mandujano
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: NELC 306
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

HIST 370 North Africa: History, Culture, Society

This interdisciplinary seminar aims to introduce students to the countries of North Africa, with a focus on the Maghreb and Libya (1830-present). It

does so while examining the region's close economic and cultural connections to sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Readings will include histories, political analyses, anthropological studies, and novels, and will cover a wide range of topics such as colonial and postcolonial experiences, developments in Islamic thought and practice, and labor migration. This class is intended for juniors, seniors, and graduate students.

Taught by: Sharkey
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 332, AFRC 632, NELC 332, NELC 632
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

HIST 371 Africa and the Mid-East

This seminar will explore the historical relationship between these two regions from the early modern age to the present. We will examine the history of trade, particularly the slave trade, and its cultural and political legacy. We will compare the experiences of European imperialism--how the scramble for Africa dovetailed with the last decades of the Ottoman Empire--with an eye to how this shaped nationalist movements in both regions. The course will also explore the decades of independence with a special eye towards pan-Africanism and pan-Arabism. We will also study the ramifications of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the relationship between African and Middle-Eastern countries, from Uganda to Ethiopia, from OPEC to Darfur. The course will pay close attention to migrations through the regions, whether forced or economic or religious. Whenever possible we will explore, through film and literature, how people in Africa and the Middle East see their connections, and their differences.

Taught by: Troutt-Powell
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 372, NELC 334
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

International Relations

INTR 290 Topics in International Relations

Topics in International Relations focuses on specialized issues, practical or applied approaches, policy and other topics of contemporary relevance in modern study of international relations. These are experimental or occasionally offered classes. Past topics have included US Foreign Policy and the Arab Spring, the Iraq Wars, Secret Intelligence & American Democracy, Counterintelligence, Homeland Security, the US & South Asia Cold War and New Alignments, and Think Tanks and Global Governance.

One-term course offered either term

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

(Prior Approval from MEC Required for MMES Credit)

Jewish Studies

JWST 041 Israel in Middle East

This introductory level course will offer an in-depth look at Israeli history and society, and how it relates to the Middle East through varying lenses. We will consider such topics as the rise of Jewish, Palestinian, and Arab nationalisms in the context of changing imperial control over Palestine/Israel (from Ottoman to British), and the emergence of the Middle East in its current borders; Conflict and conflict-resolution in Israel, Palestine, and the Middle East; Israel's Palestinian minority, Jewish immigrants to Israel from the Middle East, food and music culture in Israel, and their connection to the Middle East; or the place of the Middle East in Israeli literature and film. We will use cutting edge research from several disciplines, as well as literature, film, audio, and photographic evidence. Students will leave the class with a firm grasp of Israeli history and society, and will be widely familiar with the different narratives, viewpoints, and complexities concerning Israel and its position in the Middle East. Prior knowledge of Israeli or Middle Eastern history is not required.

Course usually taught in Fall term

Also Offered As: JWST 041

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences

Requirement

JWST 051 Elementary Modern Hebrew I

An introduction to the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in modern Hebrew. This course assumes no previous knowledge of Hebrew.

For BA Students: Language Course

Two terms. student may enter either term.

Also Offered As: [HEBR 051](#), [HEBR 651](#)

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

JWST 052 Elementary Modern Hebrew II

A continuation of [HEBR 051](#), First Year Modern Hebrew, which assumes basic skills of reading and speaking and the use of the present tense. Open to all students who have completed one semester of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

For BA Students: Language Course

Two terms. student may enter either term.

Also Offered As: [HEBR 052](#), [HEBR 652](#)

Prerequisite: [HEBR 051](#) or permission of instructor

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

JWST 053 Intermediate Modern Hebrew III

Development of the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in modern Hebrew on an intermediate level. Open to all students who have completed two semesters of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

For BA Students: Language Course

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: [HEBR 053](#), [HEBR 653](#)

Prerequisites: [HEBR 052](#) or permission of the instructor.

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

JWST 054 Intermediate Modern Hebrew IV

This course constitutes the final semester of Intermediate Modern Hebrew. Hence, one of the

main goals of the course is to prepare the students for the proficiency exam in Hebrew. Emphasis will be placed on grammar skills and ability to read literary texts. Open to all students who have completed three semesters of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

For BA Students: Last Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: [HEBR 054](#), [HEBR 654](#)
Prerequisites: [HEBR 053](#) or permission of instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

JWST 059 Advanced Modern Hebrew: Conversation & Writing

After four semesters of language study, it's time to enter the vibrant world of contemporary Israeli culture. In this course students read some of the best plays, poems, short stories, and journalism published in Israel today. They also watch and analyze some of Israel's most popular films, TV programs, and videos. Themes include Jewish-Arab relations, the founding of the State, family ties and intergenerational conflict, war and society, and the recent dynamic changes in Israel society. [HEBR 054](#) or permission of instructor. Since the content of this course may change from year to year, students may take it more than once (but only once for credit).

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Engel
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: [HEBR 059](#), [HEBR 552](#)
Prerequisite: [HEBR 054](#) or permission of instructor
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

JWST 122 Religions of the West

This course surveys the intertwined histories of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will focus on the shared stories which connect these three traditions, and the ways in which communities distinguished themselves in such shared spaces. We will mostly survey literature, but will also address material culture and ritual practice, to seek answers to the following questions: How do myths emerge? What do stories do? What is the relationship between

religion and myth-making? What is scripture, and what is its function in creating religious communities? How do communities remember and forget the past? Through which lenses and with which tools do we define "the West"?

For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Durmaz
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: [RELS 002](#)
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement

JWST 141 The Israeli Soul: Religion and Psychology in Modern Israel

This course aims to introduce what it means to be an Israeli today by exploring how Israeli identity relates to politics, religion, violence and trauma. Taught by an anthropologist, the course is focused on being Israeli not as a national identity but as a psychological experience, and aims to illumine the religious, cultural, social and political forces that are shaping that experience.

Taught by: Friedman-Peleg
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: [RELS 141](#)
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement

JWST 154 Modern Hebrew Literature and Film in Translation: Autobiography

This course examines cinematic and literary portrayals of childhood. While Israeli works constitute more than half of the course's material, European film and fiction play comparative roles. Many of the works are placed, and therefore discussed, against a backdrop of national or historical conflicts. Nonetheless, private traumas (such as madness, abuse, or loss) or an adult's longing for an idealized time are often the central foci of the stories. These issues and the nature of individual and collective memory will be discussed from a psychological point of view. Additionally, the course analyzes how film, poetry and prose use their respective languages to reconstruct the image of childhood; it discusses the authors and directors

struggle to penetrate the psyche of a child and to retrieve fragments of past events.

For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector

Taught by: Gold

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: [CIMS 159](#), [COML 282](#), [NELC 159](#)

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

JWST 248 Arab Israeli Relations

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: [PSCI 251](#)

Activity: Recitation

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

JWST 270 Middle Eastern Jews in Israel

This undergraduate seminar offers an in-depth look at the history of Middle Eastern and North African Jews, focusing in particular on their place in Israeli society and culture. It will begin with a historical background on the Jewish communities in Ottoman Palestine, and in the larger Ottoman Empire, Iran, and Morocco. We will then proceed to consider the engagement of these Jewish communities with Zionism, and with other conflicting forces, such as European colonialism, Arab nationalism, and Cosmopolitanism. We will learn about Jewish immigration from the region to Palestine/Israel in the period between 1880 to 1948, and about their exodus/expulsion post-1948. We will then explore in depth their settlement in Israel: governmental policies towards Jewish immigrants from the Islamic World, especially between the 1950s and the 1970s; their integration in Israeli society; identity politics in Israel (or: the "invention" of "Mizrahim"); Mizrahi political action; Mizrahi music, film, literature, and food culture; and Mizrahi attitudes towards Arabs, both within and outside Israel. Students will leave the class with a firm grasp of the social and cultural history of Middle Eastern Jews in Israel, and the issues facing third-generation Mizrahim in Israel today. Students will also be introduced to basic methods of inquiry in history, sociology, anthropology, and cultural studies. Students will engage with a mix of scholarly research, readings in original documents, film, literature, music, and some

material and visual artifacts.

Also Offered As: [NELC 260](#)

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

JWST 359 Seminar in Modern Hebrew Literature

This course introduces students to selections from the best literary works written in Hebrew over the last hundred years in a relaxed seminar environment. The goal of the course is to develop skills in critical reading of literature in general, and to examine how Hebrew authors grapple with crucial questions of human existence and national identity. Topics include: Hebrew classics and their modern "descendants," autobiography in poetry and fiction, the conflict between literary generations, and others. Because the content of this course changes from year to year, students may take it for credit more than once. This course is conducted in Hebrew and all readings are in Hebrew. Grading is based primarily on participation and students' literary understanding.

For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector

Taught by: Gold

Course usually offered in spring term

Also Offered As: [COML 359](#), [JWST 659](#), [NELC 359](#), [NELC 659](#)

Prerequisites: Hebrew 059 or the equivalent, per instructor's evaluation

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

Music

MUSC 053 Music in Troubled Places

In this class, we go beyond the headlines to discuss the history and cultures of peoples who have had to endure terrible suffering, particularly through ethnic conflict and civil war. We will focus on a curious phenomenon: populations typically defined as separate from one another (e.g., Israelis and Palestinians) often have a history of shared or related cultural practices, of which music is a prime

example. We will survey a number of current and recent conflict zones and use music as a way to deepen our understanding of the identities and relationships between the peoples involved including through a consideration of my own fieldwork in Sri Lanka. Querying the very definitions of music, trouble, and place, the course then broadens out to consider how musicians have been affected by and/or responded to important global problems like slavery, sexual violence, climate change and other ecological disasters, like Hurricane Katrina. Regions to be considered in our lectures and/or readings include: Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria (including Kurdish musics), Israel-Palestine, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Myanmar/Burma, Uganda, Sierra Leone, North and South Korea, the Marshall Islands, Cambodia, Mexico, and the United States.

Taught by: Sykes

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: ANTH 053, NELC 054

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

NELC 031 History of the Middle East Since 1800

A survey of the modern Middle East with special emphasis on the experiences of ordinary men and women as articulated in biographies, novels, and regional case studies. Issues covered include the collapse of empires and the rise of a new state system following WWI, and the roots and consequences of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Iranian revolution and the U.S.-Iraq War. Themes include: the colonial encounter with Europe and the emergence of nationalist movements, the relationship between state and society, economic development and international relations, and religion and cultural identity.

For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector

Taught by: Kashani-Sabet/Troutt-Powell

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: HIST 081

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 034 Israel in the Middle East

This introductory level course will offer an in-depth look at Israeli history and society, and how it relates to the Middle East through varying lenses. We will consider such topics as the rise of Jewish, Palestinian, and Arab nationalisms in the context of changing imperial control over Palestine/Israel (from Ottoman to British), and the emergence of the Middle East in its current borders; Conflict and conflict-resolution in Israel, Palestine, and the Middle East; Israel's Palestinian minority, Jewish immigrants to Israel from the Middle East, food and music culture in Israel, and their connection to the Middle East; or the place of the Middle East in Israeli literature and film. We will use cutting edge research from several disciplines, as well as literature, film, audio, and photographic evidence. Students will leave the class with a firm grasp of Israeli history and society, and will be widely familiar with the different narratives, viewpoints, and complexities concerning Israel and its position in the Middle East. Prior knowledge of Israeli or Middle Eastern history is not required.

Course usually taught in Fall term

Also Offered As: JWST 041

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 036 The Middle East through Many Lenses

This freshman seminar introduces the contemporary Middle East by drawing upon cutting-edge studies written from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. These include history, political science, and anthropology, as well as studies of mass media, sexuality, religion, urban life, and the environment. We will spend the first few weeks of the semester surveying major trends in modern Middle Eastern history. We will spend subsequent weeks intensively discussing assigned readings along with documentary films that we will watch in class. The semester will leave students with both a foundation in Middle Eastern studies and a sense of current directions in the field.

Taught by: Sharkey H

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: CIMS 036

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement

NELC 054 Music in Troubled Places

In this class, we go beyond the headlines to discuss the history and cultures of peoples who have had to endure terrible suffering, particularly through ethnic conflict and civil war. We will focus on a curious phenomenon: populations typically defined as separate from one another (e.g., Israelis and Palestinians) often have a history of shared or related cultural practices, of which music is a prime example. We will survey a number of current and recent conflict zones and use music as a way to deepen our understanding of the identities and relationships between the peoples involved including through a consideration of my own fieldwork in Sri Lanka. Querying the very definitions of music, trouble, and place, the course then broadens out to consider how musicians have been affected by and/or responded to important global problems like slavery, sexual violence, climate change and other ecological disasters, like Hurricane Katrina. Regions to be considered in our lectures and/or readings include: Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria (including Kurdish musics), Israel-Palestine, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Myanmar/Burma, Uganda, Sierra Leone, North and South Korea, the Marshall Islands, Cambodia, Mexico, and the United States.

Taught by: Sykes

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: ANTH 053, MUSC 053

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement

NELC 102 Introduction to the Middle East

This is the second half of the Near East sequence. This course surveys Islamic civilization from circa 600 (the rise of Islam) to the start of the modern era and concentrates on political, social, and cultural trends. Although the emphasis will be on Middle Eastern societies, we will occasionally consider developments in other parts of the world, such as sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and Spain, where Islamic civilization was or has been influential. Our goal is to understand the shared features that have distinguished Islamic civilization as well as the variety of experiences that have endowed it with so much diversity.

For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector

Taught by: Cobb, Sharkey

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: HIST 023

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: Fulfills Cross-Cultural Analysis

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 111 Water in the Middle East Throughout History

Water scarcity is one of the most important problems facing much of the Middle East and North Africa today. These are arid regions, but human and natural systems have interacted to determine relative water scarcity and abundance at different times and places. This course examines the distribution of water resources throughout the Middle East and the archaeology and anthropology of water exploitation and management over the last 9000 years, looking at continuities and changes through time. Students will learn to make basic digital maps representing Middle Eastern hydro-geography and arguments about modern and historic water resources in the region. The class will cooperatively play an "irrigation management game" designed to familiarize personnel involved in the operation of irrigation schemes with the logistical and social issues involved in water management. We will engage with a variety of media, including academic readings, popular journalism, films, satellite imagery, and digital maps, in our quest to explore whether or not the past can inform present efforts to better manage modern water resources. The course is structured in units focused on each of the major hydro-environmental zones of the Middle East: the river valleys of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Levant, the internal basins of western Central Asia and the Levant, the deserts of Arabia and North Africa, highland zones in Yemen and Iran, and coastal marsh areas along the Persian Gulf. We will examine irrigation systems, water supply systems, and ways of life surrounding water sources known from ethnographic studies, history, and archaeological excavations. These data will allow us to engage with debates in Middle Eastern anthropology, including those concerning the relationship between water and political power, the environment in which the world's earliest cities arose, and the relevance of "lessons of the past" for

present and potential future water crises and "water wars." In our final weeks, we will discuss archaeology and historical anthropology's contribution to conceptions of water "sustainability" and examine attempts to revive traditional/ancient technologies and attitudes about water.

For BA Students: Humanities and Social Sciences

Taught by: Hammer

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: ANTH 110

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 118 Iranian Cinema: Gender, Politics and Religion

This seminar explores Iranian culture, society, history and politics through the medium of film. We will examine a variety of cinematic works that represent the social, political, economic and cultural circumstances of contemporary Iran, as well as the diaspora. Along the way, we will discuss issues pertaining to gender, religion, nationalism, ethnicity, and the role of cinema in Iranian society and beyond. Discussions topics will also include the place of the Iranian diaspora in cinema, as well as the transnational production, distribution, and consumption of Iranian cinema. Films will include those by internationally acclaimed filmmakers, such as Rakhshan Bani-Etemad, Asghar Farhadi, Bahman Ghobadi, Abbas Kiarostami, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Dariush Mehrjui, Tahmineh Milani, Jafar Panahi, Marjane Satrapi and others. All films will be subtitled in English. No prior knowledge is required.

Taught by: Entezari

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: CIMS 118, COML 120, GSWS 118, NELC 618

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

NELC 130 Introduction to the Qur'an

The goal of this course is to provide students with a general introduction to the holy scripture of the religion of Islam, the Qur'an. In particular, students will become familiar with various aspects of Qur'anic content and style, the significance of the Qur'an in

Islamic tradition and religious practice, scholarly debates about the history of its text, and contemporary interpretations of it. Through close readings of a wide range of passages and short research assignments, students will gain first-hand knowledge of the Qur'an's treatment of prophecy, law, the Biblical tradition, and many other topics. No previous background in Islamic studies or Arabic language is required for this course.

For BA Students: Humanities and Social Sciences

Taught by: Lowry

Course usually offered in Fall term during odd-numbered years

Also Offered As: RELS 140

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

NELC 133 Penn/Philadelphia/and the Middle East

This seminar explores the historic engagement of the University of Pennsylvania and its faculty, students, and graduates in the Near and Middle East. It does so while drawing on archives, rare books and manuscripts, and artifacts that are now preserved in the University Archives, the Penn Museum, and the Penn Libraries. Together we will consider how, beginning in the late nineteenth century, Penn scholars engaged in archaeological expeditions to celebrated sites like Ur (in what is now Iraq) and Memphis (in Egypt) and how some of these efforts influenced the late Ottoman Empire's policies towards antiquities and museums. We will examine how Penn's curriculum changed over time to accommodate Semitics, including the study of languages and biblical traditions, in light of or in spite of historic tensions at the university between secular and religious learning. We will assess how Penn responded to changing American popular attitudes and U.S. foreign policy concerns relative to the Middle East, including during the Cold War and post-2001 (post-9/11) eras. Finally, we will trace the stories or biographies of some individual objects in Penn collections in order to appreciate the university's roles in collecting, preserving, analyzing, and disseminating knowledge about the region's deep cultural heritage. Ultimately, by investigating and writing.

Taught by: Sharkey

Course not offered every year

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 136 Introduction to Islam

This course is an introduction to Islam as a religion as it exists in societies of the past as well as the present. It explores the many ways in which Muslims have interpreted and put into practice the prophetic message of Muhammad through historical and social analyses of varying theological, philosophical, legal, political, mystical and literary writings, as well as through visual art and music. The aim of the course is to develop a framework for explaining the sources and symbols through which specific experiences and understandings have been signified as Islamic, both by Muslims and by other peoples with whom they have come into contact, with particular emphasis given to issues of gender, religious violence and changes in beliefs and behaviors which have special relevance for contemporary society.

Taught by: Elias

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: RELS 143, SAST 139

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 148 Warriors, Concubines & Converts: the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East & Europe

For almost six hundred years, the Ottomans ruled most of the Balkans and the Middle East. From their bases in Anatolia, Ottoman armies advanced into the Balkans, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq, constantly challenging the borders of neighboring European and Islamic empires. By the end of the seventeenth century, Constantinople, Jerusalem, Cairo, Baghdad, Sarajevo, Budapest, and nearly Vienna came under Ottoman rule. As the empire expanded into Europe and the Middle East, the balance of imperial power shifted from warriors to converts, concubines, and intellectuals. This course examines the expansion of the Ottoman sultanate from a local principality into a sprawling empire with a sophisticated bureaucracy; it also investigates the social, cultural, and intellectual developments that accompanied the long arc of the empire's rise and fall. By the end of the course, students will be able to identify and discuss major currents of change in the

Ottoman Empire and the Middle East. The student will have a better understanding of the roles of power, ideology, diplomacy, and gender in the construction of empire and a refined appreciation for diverse techniques of historical analysis.

For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector

Taught by: Aguirre-Mandujano

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: HIST 148

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 201 Modern Middle Eastern Literature in Translation

The Middle East boasts a rich tapestry of cultures that have developed a vibrant body of modern literature that is often overlooked in media coverage of the region. While each of the modern literary traditions that will be surveyed in this introductory course-Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and Turkish-will be analyzed with an appreciation of the cultural context unique to each body of literature, this course will also attempt to bridge these diverse traditions by analyzing common themes-such as modernity, social values, the individual and national identity-as reflected in the genres of poetry, the novel and the short story. This course is in seminar format to encourage lively discussion and is team-taught by four professors whose expertise in modern Middle Eastern literature serves to create a deeper understanding and aesthetic appreciation of each literary tradition. In addition to honing students' literary analysis skills, the course will enable students to become more adept at discussing the social and political forces that are reflected in Middle Eastern literature, explore important themes and actively engage in reading new Middle Eastern works on their own in translation. All readings are in English.

For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector

Taught by: Allen/Gold

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: COML 212

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: Fulfills Cross-Cultural Analysis

Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement

NELC 216 Introduction to Persian Poetic Tradition

This course introduces some of the major genres and themes of the millennium-old Persian poetic tradition from ancient to modern Iran. Epic and romance, love and mysticism, wine and drunkenness, wisdom and madness, body and mind, sin and temptation are some of the key themes that will be explored through a close reading of poems in this course. The course suits undergraduate students of all disciplines, as it requires no prior knowledge of or familiarity with the Persian language or the canon of Persian literature. All teaching materials are available in English translation. Students are expected to attend seminars and take part in discussions

Taught by: Shams

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: NELC 516

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

[Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement](#)

NELC 217 Introduction to Persian Fiction

This seminar is a comprehensive survey course that explores the development of various themes and genres in Persian fiction from the late 19th century to the present. We will start with Persian travelogues, then move on to surrealist and social realist novels of the 20th century, and finish with magical realist fictions of the 21st century. Encounters with the West, war, crime, occupation, resistance, migration, and exile are among the key themes that will be read and discussed throughout this course. All works will be in translation.

Taught by: Shams

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: NELC 517

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

[Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement](#)

NELC 218 Media and Culture in Contemporary Iran

This course is an introduction to the major cultural themes and trends of contemporary Iran. Through the lens of press, cinema, literature and drama, the course will examine the ways in which contemporary Iranian society has been subject to rapid change and transformation over the past century. This class is

designed for both junior and senior students who are keen to better understand the cultural context of Iran as one of the most influential and significant countries in the Middle East.

Taught by: Shams

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: NELC 518

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

[Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement](#)

NELC 231 Modern Arabic Literature

This course is a study of modern Arabic literary forms in the context of the major political and social changes which shaped Arab history in the first half of the twentieth century. The aim of the course is to introduce students to key samples of modern Arabic literature which trace major social and political developments in Arab society. Each time the class will be offered with a focus on one of the literary genres which emerged or flourished in the twentieth century: the free verse poem, the prose-poem, drama, the novel, and the short story. We will study each of these emergent genres against the socio-political backdrop which informed it. All readings will be in English translations. The class will also draw attention to the politics of translation as a reading and representational lens.

For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector

Taught by: Fakhreddine

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: COML 246, NELC 631

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

[Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement](#)

NELC 235 Food in the Islamic Middle East: History, Memory, Identity

In the tenth century, a scholar named Ibn Sayyar al-Warraaq produced an Arabic manuscript called Kitab al-Tabikh (The Book of Cooking). This volume, which compiled and discussed the recipes of eighth- and ninth-century Islamic rulers (caliphs) and their courts in Iraq, represents the oldest known surviving cookbook of the Arab-Islamic world. Many more such cookbooks followed; in their day they represented an important literary genre among cultured elites. As one food historian recently noted, there are more cookbooks in Arabic from before

1400 than in the rest of the world's languages put together. Ibn Sanyars cookbook can help us to think about the historical and cultural dynamics of food. In this class, we will focus on the Middle East across the sweep of the Islamic era, into the modern period, and until the present day, although many of the readings will consider the study of food in other places (including the contemporary United States) for comparative insights. The class will use the historical study of food and foodways as a lens for examining subjects that relate to a wide array of fields and interests. These subjects include economics, agricultural and environmental studies, anthropology, literature, religion, and public health. With regard to the modern era, the course will pay close attention to the consequences of food for shaping memories and identities including religious, ethnic, national, and gender-based identities particularly among people who have dispersed or otherwise migrated. It will also focus considerably on the politics of food, that is, on the place of food in power relations. Among the questions we will debate are these: How does food reflect, shape, or inform history? By approaching the study of Middle Eastern cultures through food, what new or different things can we see? What is the field of food studies, and what can it offer to scholars? What is food writing as a literary form, and what methodological and conceptual challenges face those who undertake it?

Taught by: Sharkey
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 238 Introduction to Islamic Law

This course will introduce students to classical Islamic law, the all-embracing sacred law of Islam. Among the world's various legal systems, Islamic law may be the most widely misunderstood and even misrepresented; certainly, misconceptions about it abound. Islamic law is, however, the amazing product of a rich, fascinating and diverse cultural and intellectual tradition. Most of the readings in this course will be taken from primary sources in translation. Areas covered will include criminal law, family law, law in the Quran, gender and sexuality, the modern application of Islamic law, Islamic government and other selected topics.

Taught by: Lowry
Course usually offered in Fall term during even-numbered years
Also Offered As: RELS 248
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 239 Migration and the Middle East

This reading-and discussion-intensive seminar examines the phenomenon of migration into, out of, within, and across the Middle East and North Africa. We will focus on the period from the late nineteenth century to the present, and will emphasize the cultural (rather than economic) consequences of migration. Along the way we will trace connections between the Middle East and other regions-- notably the Americas, sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, the Caucasus, and Western Europe. Readings are interdisciplinary and include works of history, anthropology, sociology, medical research, literature, political science, geography, and human rights advocacy. As students develop final projects on topics of their choice, we will spend time throughout the semester discussing tactics for research and writing.

Taught by: Sharkey
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ASAM 239, NELC 539, SAST 269
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 260 Middle Eastern Jews in Israel

This undergraduate seminar offers an in-depth look at the history of Middle Eastern and North African Jews, focusing in particular on their place in Israeli society and culture. It will begin with a historical background on the Jewish communities in Ottoman Palestine, and in the larger Ottoman Empire, Iran, and Morocco. We will then proceed to consider the engagement of these Jewish communities with Zionism, and with other conflicting forces, such as European colonialism, Arab nationalism, and Cosmopolitanism. We will learn about Jewish immigration from the region to Palestine/Israel in the period between 1880 to 1948, and about their

exodus/expulsion post-1948. We will then explore in depth their settlement in Israel: governmental policies towards Jewish immigrants from the Islamic World, especially between the 1950s and the 1970s; their integration in Israeli society; identity politics in Israel (or: the "invention" of "Mizrahim"); Mizrahi political action; Mizrahi music, film, literature, and food culture; and Mizrahi attitudes towards Arabs, both within and outside Israel. Students will leave the class with a firm grasp of the social and cultural history of Middle Eastern Jews in Israel, and the issues facing third-generation Mizrahim in Israel today. Students will also be introduced to basic methods of inquiry in history, sociology, anthropology, and cultural studies. Students will engage with a mix of scholarly research, readings in original documents, film, literature, music, and some material and visual artifacts.

Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: JWST 270
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 281 Topics In Anthropology and the Modern World

This course relates anthropological models and methods to current problems in the Modern World. The overall objective is to show how the research findings and analytical concepts of anthropology may be used to illuminate and explain events as they have unfolded in the recent news and in the course of the semester. Each edition of the course will focus on a particular country or region that has been in the news.

Taught by: Spooner

Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: ANTH 100, ANTH 654, NELC 681, SAST 161
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Social Sciences Requirement
(Prior Approval from MEC Required for MMES Credit)

NELC 282 Israel and Iran

Taught by: Kashani-Sabet
Activity: Seminar

Cross Listed: HIST 232

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 290 Faces of Love: Gender, Sexuality and the Erotic in Persian Literature

Beloved, Lover and Love are three concepts that dominate the semantic field of eroticism in Persian literature and mysticism. The interrelation among these concepts makes it almost impossible to treat any one of the concepts separately. Moreover, there exists various faces and shades of love in the works of classical and modern Persian literature that challenges the conventional heteronormative assumptions about the sexual and romantic relationships between the lover and the beloved. A sharp contrast exists between the treatment of homosexuality and 'queerness' in Islamic law, on the one hand and its reflection in Persian literature, particularly poetry (the chief vehicle of Persian literary expression), on the other. This course introduces and explores different faces of love, eroticism and homoeroticism in the Persian literary tradition from the dawn of dawn of the Persian poetry in the ninth century all through to the twenty-first century. It offers a comprehensive study of representations and productions of heteronormativity, sexual orientation and gender roles with particular reference to the notion of love, lover and beloved in Persian literature.

Taught by: Shams

Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: COML 275, COML 574, GSWS 275, GSWS 575, NELC 574

Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

Notes: No prior knowledge of Persian is required as all literary works will be available in English translation. Students are expected to attend seminars and take part in discussions. Please note that this syllabus is subject to change.

NELC 306 Gunpowder, Art and Diplomacy: Islamic Empires in the Early Modern World

In the sixteenth century, the political landscape of the Middle East, Central Asia, and India changed with the expansion and consolidation of new Islamic

empires. Gunpowder had transformed the modes of warfare. Diplomacy followed new rules and forms of legitimation. The widespread use of Persian, Arabic and Turkish languages across the region allowed for an interconnected world of scholars, merchants, and diplomats. And each imperial court, those of the Ottomans, the Safavids, and the Mughals, found innovative and original forms of expression in art and literature. The expansion of these Islamic empires, each of them military giants and behemoths of bureaucracy, marked a new phase in world history. The course is divided in four sections. The first section introduces the student to major debates about the so-called gunpowder empires of the Islamic world as well as to comparative approaches to study them. The second section focuses on the transformations of modes of warfare and military organization. The third section considers the cultural history and artistic production of the imperial courts of the Ottomans, the Mughals, and the Safavids. The fourth and final section investigates the social histories of these empires, their subjects, and the configuration of a world both connected and divided by commerce, expansion, and diplomacy.

Taught by: Aguirre-Mandujano
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: HIST 306
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 325 Who Owns the Past? Archaeology and Politics in the Middle East

This course explores the role of cultural heritage and archaeological discoveries in the politics of the Middle East from the nineteenth century to the recent aftermath of the Arab Spring. We will explore how modern Middle East populations relate to their pasts and how archaeology and cultural heritage have been employed to support particular political and social agendas, including colonialism, nationalism, imperialism, and the construction of ethnic-religious identities. Although it was first introduced to the Middle East as a colonial enterprise by European powers, archaeology became a pivotal tool for local populations of the Middle East to construct new histories and identities during the post-World War I period of intensive nation-building after the dissolution of the Ottoman

Empire. To understand this process, we will first look at the nineteenth-century establishment of archaeology by institutions like the Penn Museum. Then we will move on to individual case studies in Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Iran, and the republics of former Soviet Transcaucasia to look at the role of archaeology and cultural heritage in the formation of these countries as modern nation-states with a shared identity among citizens. We will conclude with an examination of the recent impact of the Islamic State on material heritage in Syria and Iraq, the changing attitudes of Middle Eastern countries toward foreign museums, and the role of UNESCO in defining Middle Eastern sites of world heritage. The course will also include field trips to the Penn Museum.

For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Hammer
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ANTH 325
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 330 The University, the Museum, and the Middle East

This seminar explores how two kinds of institutions - the research university and the museum - developed in the United States as American scholars and philanthropists and the U.S. government engaged with the wider world. We will take the involvement of the University of Pennsylvania and the Penn Museum in the Middle East as a test case for this history, while focusing on the period from the late nineteenth century to the present. We will approach questions in transnational intellectual, cultural, and political history through the lens of Penn's Middle Eastern engagements. For example, how did the university and its museum contribute to the construction of the Middle East as a zone of U.S. diplomatic intervention? How have American scholarly traditions shaped academic fields of inquiry including "Semitics" (a term used a century ago to suggest the study of biblical languages and traditions), "Oriental Studies" (a now-passe and politically loaded term suggesting connections to American traditions of Orientalist thought), "Islamic Studies", and "Egyptology"? How did Penn's archaeological expeditions to celebrated sites like Ur in the late nineteenth century influence the late

Ottoman Empire's policies towards antiquities and museums? How did Penn's broader expeditions in the twentieth century, to Egypt, Iran, and elsewhere, shape nationalist imaginations in the United States and in Middle Eastern countries, while also informing international antiquities policies? Finally, how have institutions like Penn and the Penn Museum responded to changing American popular attitudes and U.S. foreign policy concerns relative to the Middle East, during the Cold War and post-2001 ("post-9/11") eras, and most recently, amid civil strife in Syria and Iraq? This seminar offers students an opportunity to consult Penn's phenomenal collections of Middle East-related materials as they pursue end-of-semester research. These collections include artifacts (museum objects), archival records (such as documents, drawings, and photographs), and rare books and manuscripts from the Penn Museum and Penn Libraries.

Taught by: Sharkey
Course usually offered in Spring term during odd-numbered years
Also Offered As: NELC 530
Prerequisite: Middle Eastern history survey
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 332 North Africa: History, Culture, Society

This interdisciplinary seminar aims to introduce students to the countries of North Africa, with a focus on the Maghreb and Libya (1830-present). It does so while examining the region's close economic and cultural connections to sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Readings will include histories, political analyses, anthropological studies, and novels, and will cover a wide range of topics such as colonial and postcolonial experiences, developments in Islamic thought and practice, and labor migration. This class is intended for juniors, seniors, and graduate students.

Taught by: Sharkey
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 332, AFRC 632, HIST 370, NELC 632
Prerequisites: A university-level survey course in Middle Eastern, African, or Mediterranean history.
Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit
Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 334 Africa and the Mid-East

Taught by: Troutt Powell
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 372, HIST 371
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 335 Muslims, Christians, and Jews in the Middle East: Historical Perspectives

A reading- and discussion-intensive seminar that addresses several recurring questions with regard to the Middle East and North Africa. How have Islam, Judaism, and Christianity influenced each other in these regions historically? How have Jews, Christians, and Muslims fared as religious minorities? To what extent have communal relations been characterized by harmony and cooperation, or by strife and discord, and how have these relations changed in different contexts over time? To what extent and under what circumstances have members of these communities converted, intermarried, formed business alliances, and adopted or developed similar customs? How has the emergence of the modern nation-state system affected communal relations as well as the legal or social status of religious minorities in particular countries? How important has religion been as one variable in social identity (along with sect, ethnicity, class, gender, etc.), and to what extent has religious identity figured into regional conflicts and wars? The focus of the class will be on the modern period (c. 1800-present) although we will read about some relevant trends in the early and middle Islamic periods as well. Students will also pursue individually tailored research to produce final papers. Prior background in Islamic studies and Middle Eastern history is required. Middle Eastern history is required. This class is intended for juniors, seniors, and graduate students.

Taught by: Sharkey
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HIST 479, JWST 335, NELC 535, RELS 311

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 336 Nationalism and Communal Identity in the Middle East

This seminar views the phenomenon of nationalism as it affected the modern Middle East in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Together we will consider the diverse components of nationalism, including religion, language, territorial loyalty, and ethnicity, and test the thesis that nations are "imagined communities" built on "invented traditions." At the same time, we will examine other forms of communal identity that transcend national borders or flourish on more localized scales. This class approaches nationalism and communal identity as complex products of cultural, political, and social forces, and places Middle Eastern experiences within a global context. Students must take a survey of modern Middle Eastern history or politics before enrolling in this class. This class is intended for juniors, seniors, and graduate students.

Taught by: Sharkey

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: NELC 536

Prerequisites: NELC 102 or other relevant introductory courses on the Middle East.

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

NELC 434 Arabic Literature and Literary Theory

This course will explore different critical approaches to the interpretation and analysis of Arabic literature from pre-Islamic poetry to the modern novel and prose-poem. The course will draw on western and Arabic literary criticism to explore the role of critical theory not only in understanding and contextualizing literature but also in forming literary genres and attitudes. Among these approaches are: Meta-poetry and inter-Arts theory, Genre theory, Myth and Archetype, Poetics and Rhetoric, and Performance theory. This course is taught in translation.

Taught by: Fakhreddine

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: COML 353, COML 505

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

NELC 437 Islamic Intellectual Tradition

This comprehensive survey of the traditions of rational thought in classical Islamic culture is distinguished by its attempt to contextualize and localize the history of what is best described as philosophy in Islam, including not only the Islamic products of the Hellenistic mode of thought but also religious and linguistic sciences whose methodology is philosophical. The course examines the influence of these different disciplines upon each other, and the process of the Islamic "aspecting" of the Greek intellectual legacy. The readings thus include not only the works of Hellenized philosophers (falasifa) of Islam, but also those of theologians (mutakallimun), legists (fiqh scholars), and grammarians (nahw/lugha scholars). No prerequisites. Additional advanced-level assignments can be given for graduate credit.

Taught by: Lowry

Course not offered every year

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

Persian

PERS 011 Elementary Persian I

This course is designed to help you start learning Persian and to give you the necessary tools to continue your study of Persian. This course introduces the Persian alphabet alongside grammar and vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on actively using the language for interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. The four language skills (i.e., listening, speaking, reading and writing) as well as pronunciation and culture are integrated into the curriculum. There is no prerequisite.

For BA Students: Language Course

Taught by: Entezari

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: PERS 611

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 012 Elementary Persian II

This course is designed to help you build upon what you have learned in Elementary Persian I. Emphasis is placed on using the language for interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. Therefore use of English is restricted. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing- as well as culture, vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation-are integrated into the course. Students must either have successfully completed PERS-011, or take the departmental exam.

For BA Students: Language Course

Taught by: Entezari

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: PERS 612

Prerequisite: PERS 011 or equivalent

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 013 Intermediate Persian I

This course is conducted in Persian and designed to help you continue expanding upon what you have learned in Elementary Persian II (PERS-012). In this course, we will begin to address a broader variety of cultural topics in order to increase your proficiency in linguistic as well as cultural terms. Emphasis is placed on actively using the language for interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. Therefore use of English is restricted. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are integrated into the course, as are culture, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Students must either have successfully completed PERS-012 or take the departmental placement exam.

For BA Students: Language Course

Taught by: Entezari

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: PERS 613

Prerequisite: PERS 012 or equivalent

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 014 Intermediate Persian II

In this course, we will continue to address a broader variety of cultural topics in order to increase your proficiency in linguistic as well as cultural terms.

Emphasis is placed on actively using Persian for interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. Therefore use of English is restricted. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are integrated into the course, as are culture, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Students must either have successfully completed PERS-013, or take the departmental placement exam.

For BA Students: Last Language Course

Taught by: Entezari

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: PERS 614

Prerequisite: PERS 013 or equivalent

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 015 Advanced Persian I

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: PERS 615

Prerequisite: PERS 014 or PERS 018 or equivalent

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 016 Advanced Persian II

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: PERS 616

Prerequisite: PERS015 or equivalent

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 017 Persian for Heritage Speakers I

A course designed to teach the reading and writing of standard modern Persian to those with a competency in spoken Persian. The course will focus on the lexical and syntactic differences between written and spoken Persian, and the problems of Persian spelling.

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: PERS 617

Prerequisites: Fluency in spoken Persian.

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 018 Persian for Heritage Speakers II

A course designed to develop greater skills in

reading and writing standard modern Persian for those with a competency in spoken Persian. The course will focus on the lexical and syntactic differences between written and spoken Persian, and the problems of Persian spelling.

One-term course offered either term

Prerequisites: PERS 017 or permission of the instructor.

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

PERS 019 Advanced Persian in the Media

This course is designed for advanced students of Persian interested in contemporary Persian media from Iran as well as Afghanistan and abroad, who wish to gain a deeper understanding of contemporary Persian-speaking societies and politics. Students will advance their skills in reading and listening, as well as in writing and speaking.

Course usually offered in Spring term

Prerequisites: PERS 016 or permission of the instructor.

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center.

Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement

PERS 040 Introduction to Sorani Kurdish

Introduction to Sorani Kurdish is an introductory-level course designed to help you start learning Sorani Kurdish and to give you the necessary tools to continue your study of Kurdish language. This course introduces the Kurdish alphabet (Arabic script) alongside grammar and vocabulary. Toward the end of the semester, the course will also involve some Kurdish classical and modern poetry. Emphasis is placed on actively using the language for interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. The four language skills (i.e., listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as well as pronunciation and culture are integrated into the curriculum. There is no prerequisite.

Taught by: Salih

Also Offered As: PERS 640

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 111 Beginning Pashtu I

Reading, writing, basic grammar and elemental speaking.

For BA Students: Language Course

Taught by: Santry

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: SAST 405

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 112 Beginning Pashtu II

Reading, writing, basic grammar and elemental speaking.

For BA Students: Language Course

Taught by: Santry

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: SAST 406

Prerequisites: For second semester, completion of the first semester.

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: This is a two-semester course.

PERS 113 Intermediate Pashtu

A wide variety of reading genres, writing, and oral expression.

For BA Students: Language Course

Taught by: Santry

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: SAST 425

Prerequisites: Beg. Pashtu, or permission by instructor.

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 114 Intermediate Pashtu Part II

Beg. Pashto, or permission of the instructor. A wide variety of reading genres, writing, and oral expression

For BA Students: Last Language Course

Taught by: Santry

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: PERS 514, SAST 426

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: Offered through Penn Language Center. This is a two-semester course

PERS 320 Persian Culture, Literature and Film for Advanced Learners I

Taught by: Shams
Also Offered As: PERS 620
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PERS 514 Intermediate Pashtu Part II

For BA Students: Last Language Course
Taught by: Santry
Course is two terms. Students must enter first term.
Also Offered As: PERS 114, SAST 426
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through Penn Language Center. This is a two-semester course.

PERS 611 Elementary Persian I

This course is designed to help you start learning Persian and to give you the necessary tools to continue your study of Persian. This course introduces the Persian alphabet alongside grammar and vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on actively using the language for interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. The four language skills (i.e., listening, speaking, reading and writing) as well as pronunciation and culture are integrated into the curriculum. There is no prerequisite.

For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Entezari
Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: PERS 011
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PERS 612 Elementary Persian II

This course is designed to help you build upon what you have learned in Elementary Persian I. Emphasis is placed on using the language for interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. Therefore, use of English is restricted. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing- as well as culture, vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation-are integrated into the course. Students must either have successfully completed PERS-611, or take the departmental exam.

For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Entezari
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: PERS 012
Prerequisite: PERS 611
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PERS 613 Intermediate Persian I

This course is conducted in Persian and designed to help you continue expanding upon what you have learned in Elementary Persian II (PERS-012). In this course, we will begin to address a broader variety of cultural topics in order to increase your proficiency in linguistic as well as cultural terms. Emphasis is placed on actively using the language for interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. Therefore use of English is restricted. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are integrated into the course, as are culture, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Students must either have successfully completed PERS-612 or take the departmental placement exam.

For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Entezari
Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: PERS 013
Prerequisite: PERS 612
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PERS 614 Intermediate Persian II

In this course, we will continue to address a broader variety of cultural topics in order to increase your proficiency in linguistic as well as cultural terms. Emphasis is placed on actively using Persian for interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. Therefore, use of English is restricted. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are integrated into the course, as are culture, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Students must either have successfully completed PERS-613, or take the departmental placement exam.

For BA Students: Last Language Course
Taught by: Entezari
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: PERS 014
Prerequisite: PERS 613
Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 615 Advanced Persian I

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: PERS 015

Prerequisite: PERS 614

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 616 Advanced Persian II

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: PERS 016

Prerequisite: PERS 615

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 617 Persian for Heritage Speakers I

An intensive, one-semester course designed to teach the reading and writing of standard Tehran Persian to those with a speaking knowledge of that language. In recent years there has been an increasing demand from Persian-speaking Iranian-American students for formal instruction in Persian. While many of these students have some degree of spoken fluency in Persian, they are often unable to read or write it. Their speaking ability makes it difficult to integrate them into first- or second-year classes of students who have started with no knowledge of Persian. If these Persian-speaking students could be brought to at least a second-year level of reading and writing, they could then be enrolled in more advanced courses in Persian where they would be more or less at the same level as other students. The course will focus on the lexical and syntactic differences between written and spoken Persian, and the problems of Persian spelling.

One-term course offered either term

Also Offered As: PERS 017

Prerequisites: Fluency in spoken Persian.

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

PERS 620 Persian Culture, Literature and Film for Advanced Learners I

Taught by: Shams

Also Offered As: PERS 320

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement

PERS 640 Introduction to Sorani Kurdish

Introduction to Sorani Kurdish is an introductory-level course designed to help you start learning Sorani Kurdish and to give you the necessary tools to continue your study of Kurdish language. This course introduces the Kurdish alphabet (Arabic script) alongside grammar and vocabulary. Toward the end of the semester, the course will also involve some Kurdish classical and modern poetry. Emphasis is placed on actively using the language for interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. The four language skills (i.e., listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as well as pronunciation and culture are integrated into the curriculum. There is no prerequisite.

Also Offered As: PERS 040

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Political Science

PSCI 211 Politics in the Contemporary Middle East

This course is an introduction to the most prominent historical, cultural, institutional, and ideological features of Middle Eastern politics. Typical of the questions we shall address are why processes of modernization and economic change have not produced liberal democracies; why Islamic movements have gained enormous strength in some countries and not others; why conflicts in the region--between Israel and the Arabs, Iran and Iraq, or inside of Lebanon--have been so bitter and protracted; why the era of military coups was brought to an end but transitions to democracy have been difficult to achieve; why Arab unity has been so elusive and yet so insistent a theme; and why oil wealth in the Gulf, in the Arabian Peninsula, and in North Africa, has not produced industrialized or self-sustaining economic growth.

Taught by: Vitalis or Lustick

Course not offered every year

Activity: Recitation

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills MMES Social Sciences Requirement
MMES Foundational Course

PSCI 251 Arab Israeli Relations

In this course the Arab-Israeli dispute from 1948 to the present will serve as a vehicle for understanding how domestic and global political processes interact to shape, contain, or aggravate Middle Eastern wars between states and non-state actors. Particular stress will be placed on understanding how wars affect international politics in states and political organizations and how ideological and structural features of states and organizations find expression in wars and complicate or enable the search for peace. In addition, the key features of the conflict will be interpreted as both a clash between the political interests of national and/or religious groups and as a reflection of global political power struggles. Attention will be given towards the end of the course to alternative ideas about possible resolution of the conflict as well as to the increasingly prominent argument that, in this case, there is no solution.

Taught by: Lustick

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: JWST 248

Activity: Recitation

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills MMES Social Sciences Requirement

PSCI 253 International Politics of the Middle East

This course will focus primarily on episodes of external intervention by the Great Powers in the politics of Middle Eastern states. We shall begin by examining the emergence of the Middle Eastern state system after the disappearance of the Ottoman Empire in the early part of the 20th century. This discussion will provide opportunities to develop key concepts in the study of international politics and will serve as crucial historical background. We shall then turn our attention to the primary concern of the course--a systematic consideration of the motives, operational results, and long-term implications of a number of important examples of intervention by the Great Powers in the Middle East. Among the episodes to be considered will be British policies toward the end of World War I, in Palestine in the 1930s, and, along with the French, in Suez in 1956. Soviet intervention in the first Arab-Israeli war,

in 1948, will be analyzed along with Soviet policies toward Egypt in the early 1970s. American intervention in Iran in 1953 and in the Gulf War in 1991 will also be examined.

Taught by: Lustick

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: JWST 253

Activity: Recitation

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills MMES Social Sciences Requirement
MMES Foundational Course

PSCI 353 Security & Anxiety at International Borders: Turkey & USA in Global Perspective

Borders are increasingly contested in global order, yet function as distinct markers of statehood and sovereignty. How states control their borders physically is an important manifestation of their sovereign rights. In this course, we explore the meaning attached to international borders for two allies in very different regions of the world, Turkey and the United States. We inquire into the role that national territorial and international borders have come to play in their national identities. We will place these two countries in the context of their "neighborhoods" to understand the threats and opportunities seem to attend border spaces. With their extensive coastlines and land boundaries, these states are subject in different ways to external influences. Both have extensive trade relations with the rest of the world, as well as extensive illicit economies along their borders. The United States is "a nation of immigrants" currently questioning the value of immigration. Turkey is host to the largest number of refugees in the world. Each state faces its own version of an ontological crisis, as they decide how to engage, filter or deflect extraterritorial flows and influences. These developments raise intense issues of identities and boundaries - in particular the question of how different societies engage in border protection. This seminar focuses on the comparative experiences of Turkey and the USA in their methods of maintaining borders and dealing with anxiety about uncontrolled transnational flows of products and people across their borders. The seminar explores how security and insecurity are understood, produced, and implemented in the form of border security policies. The comparative study of American and Turkish border control will uncover both similarities in the framing of border policies, but also

distinct differences on how these two countries deal with border security. The international focus will enable students to appreciate the global aspect of border security issues, and research multiple questions on the extent to which what is facing the USA in terms of border security is not unique on its own. This course will be co-taught with a professor and students at Sabanci University. We will overlap with their classroom for roughly half of our three hour seminar meeting, and the professors will co-teach the course. Common readings will be discussed each week, but each Professor will assign additional readings of her choice to complement the common discussions. In the Penn seminar, we will aim to produce a research paper, so in addition to discussing the substantive readings, we will concentrate on formulating interesting research questions, think carefully about how to bring data to bear on specific questions or hypotheses, become familiar with data sources, and discuss research design.

Taught by: Simmons
Course not offered every year
Prerequisite: Instructor permission (students must apply)
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills MMES Social Sciences Requirement

PSCI 389 Transnational Boycotts: BDS in Comparative and Historical Perspective

This seminar will begin by intensively investigating the origins, motives, operation, and controversies surrounding the Palestinian-led “Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions” movement against Israeli policies. We will then shift our focus to other cases. These may include boycotts against China’s treatment of Tibet and Uighurs, the anti-apartheid boycott against South Africa, the American-Irish boycott and divestment campaign targeting discrimination against Catholics in North Ireland, the boycott of British Tea by Americans at the outset of the Revolutionary War, and the Jewish boycotts of Nazi Germany in the 1930s and of France during the Dreyfus trial. Each student will contribute to weekly presentations of findings about different transnational boycott movements and write a research paper using comparison with other transnational boycotts to resolve or put into sharper focus a controversy or question about the contemporary BDS movement.

Taught by: Lustick
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills MMES Social Sciences Requirement

Religious Studies

RELS 140 Intro to the Qur’an

The goal of this course is to provide students with a general introduction to the holy scripture of the religion of Islam, the Qur’an. In particular, students will become familiar with various aspects of Qur’anic content and style, the significance of the Qur’an in Islamic Tradition and religious practice, and scholarly debates about the history of its text. Through close readings of selected passages and short research assignments, students will gain first-hand knowledge of the Qur’an’s treatment of prophecy, the Biblical tradition, and many other topics. No previous background in Islamic Studies or Arabic language is required for this course.

Taught by: Lowry
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Units

Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement

RELS 141 The Israeli Soul: Religion and Psychology in Modern Israel

This course aims to introduce what it means to be an Israeli today by exploring how Israeli identity relates to politics, religion, violence and trauma. Taught by an anthropologist, the course is focused on being Israeli not as a national identity but as a psychological experience, and aims to illumine the religious, cultural, social and political forces that are shaping that experience.

Taught by: Friedman-Peleg
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: JWST 141
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement

RELS 143 Introduction to Islam

This course is an introduction to Islam as a religion as it exists in societies of the past as well as the present. It explores the many ways in which Muslims have interpreted and put into practice the prophetic message of Muhammad through historical and social analyses of varying theological, philosophical, legal, political, mystical and literary writings, as well as through visual art and music. The aim of the course is to develop a framework for explaining the sources and symbols through which specific experiences and understandings have been signified as Islamic, both by Muslims and by other peoples with whom they have come into contact, with particular emphasis given to issues of gender, religious violence and changes in beliefs and behaviors which have special relevance for contemporary society.

Taught by: Elias

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: NELC 136, SAST 139

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

[Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement](#)
[MMES Foundational Course](#)

RELS 189 Islam and the West

How did Muslims and modern South Asia interact with the West? What Islamic idioms, orientations and movements emerged in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries? Was South Asia a prominent global center of Islam? What kinds of Islamic educational institutions developed in modern South Asia? How did Muslims appropriate technologies? What materials were printed by Muslims? Were Muslims part of the British army? What was jihad in modernity? How did Muslim 'modernists' and 'traditionalists' respond to the challenges of colonialism and modernity? What was the nature of Sufism in modern South Asia? What was the nature of political Islam in South Asia? How did some Muslims demand a Muslim State? What was the Partition? How has Muslim history been remembered in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan? This is an introductory course, and aims to introduce students to a facet of the long history of Islam, Muslims, and the West.

Taught by: Sevea

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: SAST 189, SAST 589

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

[Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement](#)

RELS 245 Sufism

This course is a survey of the large complex of Islamic intellectual and social perspectives subsumed under the term Sufism." Sufi philosophies, beliefs, practices, and social organizations have been a major part of the Islamic tradition in all historical periods and Sufism has also served as a primary muse behind Islamic aesthetic expression in poetry, music, and the visual arts. In this course, we will attempt to understand the nature and importance of Sufism by addressing both the world of ideas and socio-cultural practices. We will trace the development of Sufism as a form of Muslim piety linked to key notions in the Quran as well as living practices of venerating the Prophet Muhammad. We will then immerse ourselves in Sufi theoretical writings through a select list of primary sources introducing foundational Sufi concepts concerning the annihilation of oneself in God, and the various stages of the Sufi quest for spiritual union. From there, we will shift to a discussion of the interactions between Sufism and philosophy by looking at the writings of two of the most influential Sufi thinkers, Al-Ghazali and Ibn al-Arabi. We will also study the important role of Sufi poetry through a close reading of a selection of Rumi's works. In our discussion of the social and political dimensions of Sufism, we will explore the relations between Sufi movements and religious and political authority, focusing on antinomianism and patronage in the Ottoman Empire, and on Sufi responses to colonial rule. The last part of the course will look at the roles of Sufis and Sufism in contemporary societies from South Asia to North America.

Taught by: Harris

Course usually offered in Spring term

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

[Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement](#)

RELS 248 Introduction to Islamic Law

This course will introduce students to classical Islamic law, the all-embracing sacred law of Islam. Among the world's various legal systems, Islamic law may be the most widely misunderstood and even misrepresented; certainly, misconceptions about it

abound. Islamic law is, however, the amazing product of a rich, fascinating and diverse cultural and intellectual tradition. Most of the readings in this course will be taken from primary sources in translation. Areas covered will include criminal law, family law, law in the Quran, gender and sexuality, the modern application of Islamic law, Islamic government and other selected topics.

Taught by: Lowry

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: NELC 238

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

RELS 311 Muslims, Christians, and Jews in the Middle East: Historical Perspectives

A reading- and discussion-intensive seminar that addresses several recurring questions with regard to the Middle East and North Africa. How have Islam, Judaism, and Christianity influenced each other in these regions historically? How have Jews, Christians, and Muslims fared as religious minorities? To what extent have communal relations been characterized by harmony and cooperation, or by strife and discord, and how have these relations changed in different contexts over time? To what extent and under what circumstances have members of these communities converted, intermarried, formed business alliances, and adopted or developed similar customs? How has the emergence of the modern nation-state system affected communal relations as well as the legal or social status of religious minorities in particular countries? How important has religion been as one variable in social identity (along with sect, ethnicity, class, gender, etc.), and to what extent has religious identity figured into regional conflicts and wars? The focus of the class will be on the modern period (c. 1800-present) although we will read about some relevant trends in the early and middle Islamic periods as well. Students will also pursue individually tailored research to produce final papers. Prior background in Islamic studies and Middle Eastern History is required. This class is intended for juniors, seniors, and graduate students.

Taught by: Sharkey

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: HIST 479, JWST 335, NELC 335,

NELC 535

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

RELS 643 The Persian Intellectual Tradition

What makes Persian culture distinctive within broader Islamic intellectual history, and what constitutes the historical and geographical boundary of the Persianate intellectual and cultural zone? These questions lie at the center of inquiry in this seminar in which participants will read and discuss a broad range of works from the 11th to the 20th centuries. Readings will include works on philosophy and language, Sufi epic poems, religious and cultural geographies, accounts of natural and manufactured wonders, urban and political histories, as well as other kinds of texts. All readings will be in English for the regular meeting of the seminar; students with a reading knowledge of Persian and an interest in participating in an additional meeting to read the assignments in their original language should register for the higher of the two numbers listed for this course.

Taught by: Elias

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: NELC 713, SAST 633

Prerequisite: prior knowledge of Persian is required

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

RELS 742 Qur'anic Studies

This seminar explores the nature and uses of the Qur'an. It focuses on the practice and theory of Qur'an commentary and interpretation (*safsir* and *ta'wil*). A major portion of the course will involve a close examination of manuscripts of the Qur'an at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Kislak Center at the University of Pennsylvania, concentrating on the relationship between the text and marginalia as well as on the peculiarities of individual manuscripts. The rest of the course will center around reading commentaries on the Qur'an in manuscript as well as print. In addition, we will read and discuss theoretical works on the history and nature of Qur'an commentary, literary criticism and textual analysis, and spend some of the later section of the course discussing issues of

translation and editorial processes involved in popularizing Qur'an commentaries on the internet. READING KNOWLEDGE OF ARABIC IS REQUIRED.

Taught by: Elias

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: NELC 782

Prerequisites: A reading knowledge Arabic required.

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

South Asia Studies

SAST 144 Modern Islam and Poetry

This course focuses on a basic question: How and why a modern poem turns into a narrative device to debate contemporary Islamic discourses? We begin exploring this question by taking note of how a 12th-century Persian poet Rumi became - as described by TIME Magazine - "the best-selling poet in the US today," and then introduces students to poems and various social, cultural and religious moments that were key in the making of modern Islam. Although the course primarily emphasizes the study of poetry produced and circulated among various Muslim communities world-wide, it also covers a diverse set of secondary readings from the field of religious studies, anthropology and literature to outline more clearly the contours of contemporary Islam. Readings begin with internationally famous Rumi and then include poets emerging from Arabic, Persian, Urdu, and several vernacular literary cultures in both Muslim and non-Muslim countries.

Course not offered every year

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

SAST 146 Islam in Modern World

This course key issues facing Muslims in the modern world with an emphasis on gaining an understanding of how Muslims view themselves and the world in which they live. Beginning with a discussion of the impact of colonialism, we will examine Islamic ideas and trends from the late colonial period until the present. Readings include religious, political and literary writings by important Muslim figures and

focus on pressing issues in the Islamic world and beyond: the place of religion in modern national politics; the changing status of women; constructions of sexuality (including masculinity); pressing issues in bioethics; Islam, race and immigration in America; the role of violence; and the manifestations of religion in popular culture.

For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S

Taught by: Elias

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: NELC 184, RELS 146

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

SAST 189 Islam and the West

How did Muslims and modern South Asia interact with the West? What Islamic idioms, orientations and movements emerged in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries? Was South Asia a prominent global center of Islam? What kinds of Islamic educational institutions developed in modern South Asia? How did Muslims appropriate technologies? What materials were printed by Muslims? Were Muslims part of the British army? What was jihad in modernity? How did Muslim 'modernists' and 'traditionalists' respond to the challenges of colonialism and modernity? What was the nature of Sufism in modern South Asia? What was the nature of political Islam in South Asia? How did some Muslims demand a Muslim State? What was the Partition? How has Muslim history been remembered in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan? This is an introductory course, and aims to introduce students to a facet of the long history of Islam, Muslims, and the West.

Taught by: Sevea

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: RELS 189, SAST 589

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

SAST 269 Migration and the Middle East

This reading and discussion-intensive seminar examines the phenomenon of migration into, out of, within, and across the Middle East and North Africa. We will focus on the period from the late nineteenth century to the present, and will emphasize the

cultural (rather than economic) consequences of migration. Along the way we will trace connections between the Middle East and other regions--notably the Americas, sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, the Caucasus, and Western Europe. Readings are interdisciplinary and include works of history, anthropology, sociology, medical research, literature, political science, geography, and human rights advocacy. As students develop final projects on topics of their choice, we will spend time throughout the semester discussing tactics for research and writing.

Taught by: Sharkey

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: ASAM 239, NELC 239, NELC 539

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

Notes: This is a topics course and will vary from year to year.

Fulfills Either MMES Humanities or Social Sciences Requirement

Turkish

TURK 021 Elementary Turkish I

This is a course for beginners who have no previous knowledge of Turkish. Using a communicative approach, Elementary Turkish introduces basic vocabulary and grammar rules and focuses on building language competencies in listening, reading, speaking and writing. By the end of the course, students will be able to participate in simple conversations, to know daily expressions, and will understand simple dialogues in day-to-day context and will be able to count and tell time. Will be able to speak about the events that happened in the past and express plans for the future. Students will also develop writing strategies that will allow them to write simple letters and fill in commonly-used forms.

For BA Students: Language Course

Taught by: Hatiboglu

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: TURK 621

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

TURK 022 Elementary Turkish II

This course is a continuation of TURK 021 and is

designed to strengthen and extend students' listening, speaking, reading and writing competence and to deepen an understanding of Turkish people in Turkey. By the end of this course, students will be able to handle a variety of day to day needs in Turkish-speaking settings and engage in simple conversations. Students can expect to be able to order food and drinks, purchase things, and to be able to be familiar with current social topics. Students will be able to talk about all tenses, present, future, past, past continuous, make comparisons, describe people and things in detail, make travel plans, make reservations in hotels and holiday resorts, write complaint letters. By the end of the course, students will be able to talk about their studies and their plans for the future. Also, students will develop reading strategies that should allow them to understand the general meaning of articles, and short literary texts. Students will learn practical life in Turkey and will explore Turkish culture on the internet.

For BA Students: Language Course

Taught by: Hatiboglu

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: TURK 622

Prerequisites: TURK 021, Elementary Turkish I, or equivalent.

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

TURK 023 Intermediate Turkish I

A continuation of elementary Turkish, with emphasis on grammar and reading. This course is for students who have previous knowledge of Turkish or students who have completed Elementary Turkish I and II. This course is designed to improve students' writing and speaking competence, to increase vocabulary, to deepen grammar usage, and to help develop effective reading and listening strategies in Turkish. Students' Turkish language proficiency and cultural awareness and knowledge will increase by being exposed to authentic materials and coursework.

For BA Students: Language Course

Taught by: Hatiboglu

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: TURK 623

Prerequisites: TURK 022 or equivalent.

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

TURK 024 Intermediate Turkish II

This course expands students writing and speaking competence in Turkish, increases vocabulary, and helps students' practice effective reading and listening strategies. Our in-class discussions are based on role-plays, weekly readings, and news reports from TV and newspapers. Students will communicate through threaded discussions, chat rooms, and Skype. Though the review of grammar will not be the primary focus of the course, students will expand and deepen their knowledge of grammar through specific grammar exercises. Students will have the opportunity to practice and read about the cultural and historical issues and prepare for advanced level Turkish.

For BA Students: Last Language Course
Taught by: Hatiboglu
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: TURK 624
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

TURK 025 Advanced Modern Turkish I

The study of modern Turkish at the advanced level incorporates emphasis on grammar and reading and focuses on business Turkish. Interviews with professionals from different business groups will take place, such as education, medicine, business, law and political science. The study will also place emphasis on conversational fluency and on increased ability for reading and comprehending texts, including newspapers, prose, and Turkish cultural materials.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Hatiboglu
Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: TURK 625
Prerequisites: TURK 024, Intermediate Turkish II
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

TURK 027 Advanced Spoken Turkish and Cinema I

In this course, we will look at differing degrees of interaction between literature and the films it inspires. Discussions of each novel will be followed by screening of the related film, allowing us to

explore themes such as the different forms of banditry (old school vs. organized), honor killings, the use of books in films, and the problems of artistic representation. This course will give students the opportunity to improve significantly on written and spoken discourse strategies and to raise language competence to an academic register. Students will work across the Turkish language, its literary genres, and media as they interpret and analyze cultural, political, and historical moments in Turkish movies. Students will attempt to understand how political shifts over the past 20 years have impacted the current situation and cultural conception, religious and cultural norms, and traditions. Contemporary Turkish authors' books will be analyzed and discussed in this course. We'll have sessions in the Penn Museum related to exhibitions from Turkey and the region.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Hatiboglu
Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: TURK 627
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

TURK 028 Advanced Spoken Turkish and Cinema II

This course offers students the opportunity to improve significantly written and spoken discourse strategies and to raise language competence to the advance level. Students work across media and movies as they interpret and analyze cultural, political and historical moments in Turkish movies. Special attention will be given to the development of an academic discourse style during in-class discussions, threaded discussions, and written compositions. Interviews and discussions will take place in this course. There will be in-class movie screenings, and the course concludes with an in-class presentation of the collaborative creative project.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in Spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

TURK 031 Elementary Uzbek I

Designed to cover beginning college levels of language instruction, Uzbek: An Elementary Textbook provides learners and instructors with a wide selection of materials and task-oriented

activities to facilitate the development of language learning. It offers a thematically organized and integrative approach to the Uzbek language and its culture, including a functional approach to grammar, an emphasis on integrated skills development, and the use of authentic materials such as videos filmed in various regions of Uzbekistan. Uzbek: An Elementary Textbook contains one CD-ROM that includes authentic audio and video materials to accompany the text and integrated, interactive exercises and games, all in Flash format and all of which are keyed to the textbook. It includes a supplementary Cyrillic reader, an extensive glossary, and four-color illustrations and photographs throughout.

Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: TURK 631
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

TURK 032 Elementary Uzbek II

Continuation of TURK 031, Elementary Uzbek I. Designed to cover beginning college levels of language instruction, Uzbek: An Elementary Textbook provides learners and instructors with a wide selection of materials and task-oriented activities to facilitate the development of language learning. It offers a thematically organized and integrative approach to the Uzbek language and its culture, including a functional approach to grammar, an emphasis on integrated skills development, and the use of authentic materials such as videos filmed in various regions of Uzbekistan. Uzbek: An Elementary Textbook contains one CD-ROM that includes authentic audio and video materials to accompany the text and integrated, interactive exercises and games, all in Flash format and all of which are keyed to the textbook. It includes a supplementary Cyrillic reader, an extensive glossary, and four-color illustrations and photographs throughout.

Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: TURK 632
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

TURK 121 Advanced Turkish Culture & Media I

This course is for students who are from all different levels of Turkish knowledge. They are expected to

write and talk about Turkish movies, culture, politics according to their own level and pace. They will talk to Turkish visitors and interview them. Turkish movies will be the part of the course and once a month, students will watch a Turkish movie and analyze it. Discussions will take place and students will write essays about the movie. This course is designed with a technology-rich, project based approach. The materials will go beyond instruction in grammar and vocabulary to support the acquisition of socio-cultural pragmatics and intercultural learning.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Hatiboglu
Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: TURK 521
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
[Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement](#)

TURK 122 Advanced Turkish Culture & Media II

Similar to TURK 212, Advanced Turkish Culture & Media I, students in this course will also gain exposure to social Turkish clubs and have the opportunity to establish their own. They will arrange Turkish tea parties and learn about Turkish cuisine. Turkish daily news and media will be discussed in class. Students will have the chance to interview Turkish businessman, writer, journalists in class and/or Skype or Zoom people in Turkish. Students will present and prepare a drama. Mainly students will create and decide their activities and discussions. and the instructor will just monitor them most of time. They will continue watching Turkish movies and expose to Turkish culture through these films. After each movie, discussions and essay writings will be expected.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Hatiboglu
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: TURK 522
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
[Fulfills MMES Humanities Requirement](#)

TURK 229 Ottoman Turkish I

This course is an introduction to Ottoman Turkish with basic characteristics. Ottoman Turkish through readings in printed selections will be exercised with

different techniques. Students will learn Persian and Arabic effects on Ottoman Turkish. They will be able to read simple texts at the end of this course. General information on Ottoman Turkish will be given to students during this course. This course will be offered one semester during the school year. Not open to auditors.

Taught by: Hatiboglu
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: TURK 629
Prerequisites: Two semesters of Turkish and two semesters of Arabic or Persian OR four semesters of Turkish or equivalent
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

TURK 329 Advanced Readings Ottoman Texts

Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: TURK 729
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

TURK 521 Advanced Turkish Culture & Media I

This course is TURK 121 for graduate students.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Hatiboglu
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: TURK 121
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

TURK 522 Advanced Turkish Culture & Media II

This course is TURK 122 for graduate students.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Hatiboglu
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: TURK 122
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

Fulfils MMES Humanities Requirement

TURK 621 Elementary Turkish I

This course is TURK-021 for graduate students. Introduction to the spoken and written language of

contemporary Turkey.

For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Hatiboglu
Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: TURK 021
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

TURK 622 Elementary Turkish II

This course is TURK 022 for graduate students.

For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Hatiboglu
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: TURK 022
Prerequisites: TURK 621, Elementary Turkish II or equivalent.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

TURK 623 Intermediate Turkish I

This course is TURK 023 for graduate students.

For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Hatiboglu
Course usually offered in Fall term
Also Offered As: TURK 023
Prerequisites: TURK 622, Elementary Turkish II, or equivalent.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

TURK 624 Intermediate Turkish II

This course is TURK 024 for graduate students.

For BA Students: Last Language Course
Taught by: Hatiboglu
Course usually offered in Spring term
Also Offered As: TURK 024
Prerequisites: TURK 623, Intermediate Turkish I or equivalent.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

TURK 625 Advanced Modern Turkish I

The study of modern Turkish at the advanced level; emphasis on grammar and reading, focusing on business Turkish. Interviews with professionals from

different business groups will take place such as education, medicine, business, law, and political science. This course is TURK 025 for graduate students.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course

Taught by: Hatiboglu

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: TURK 025

Prerequisites: TURK 024, Intermediate Turkish II or equivalent

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

TURK 627 Advanced Spoken Turkish and Cinema I

In this course, we will look at differing degrees of interaction between literature and the films it inspires. Discussions of each novel will be followed by screening of the related film, allowing us to explore themes such as the different forms of banditry (old school vs. organized), honor killings, the use of books in films, and the problems of artistic representation. This course will give students the opportunity to improve significantly on written and spoken discourse strategies and to raise language competence to an academic register. Students will work across the Turkish language, its literary genres, and media as they interpret and analyze cultural, political, and historical moments in Turkish movies. Students will attempt to understand how political shifts over the past 20 years have impacted the current situation and cultural conception, religious and cultural norms, and traditions. Contemporary Turkish authors' books will be analyzed and discussed in this course. We'll have sessions in the Penn Museum related to exhibitions from Turkey and the region.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course

Taught by: Hatiboglu

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: TURK 027

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

TURK 629 Ottoman Turkish I

This course is an introduction to Ottoman Turkish with basic characteristics. Ottoman Turkish through readings in printed selections will be exercised with different techniques. Students will learn Persian and

Arabic effects on Ottoman Turkish. They will be able to read simple texts at the end of this course. General information on Ottoman Turkish will be given to students during this course. This course will be offered one semester during the school year.

Taught by: Hatiboglu

Course not offered every year

Also Offered As: TURK 229

Prerequisites: Two semesters of Turkish and two semesters of Arabic or Persian OR four semesters of Turkish or equivalent

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit

TURK 631 Elementary Uzbek I

Designed to cover beginning college levels of language instruction, Uzbek: An Elementary Textbook provides learners and instructors with a wide selection of materials and task-oriented activities to facilitate the development of language learning. It offers a thematically organized and integrative approach to the Uzbek language and its culture, including a functional approach to grammar, an emphasis on integrated skills development, and the use of authentic materials such as videos filmed in various regions of Uzbekistan. Uzbek: An Elementary Textbook contains one CD-ROM that includes authentic audio and video materials to accompany the text and integrated, interactive exercises and games, all in Flash format and all of which are keyed to the textbook. It includes a supplementary Cyrillic reader, an extensive glossary, and four-color illustrations and photographs throughout.

Course usually offered in Fall term

Also Offered As: TURK 031

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

TURK 632 Elementary Uzbek II

Continuation of TURK 631, Elementary Uzbek I. Designed to cover beginning college levels of language instruction, Uzbek: An Elementary Textbook provides learners and instructors with a wide selection of materials and task-oriented activities to facilitate the development of language learning. It offers a thematically organized and integrative approach to the Uzbek language and its culture, including a functional approach to grammar,

an emphasis on integrated skills development, and the use of authentic materials such as videos filmed in various regions of Uzbekistan. Uzbek: An Elementary Textbook contains one CD-ROM that includes authentic audio and video materials to accompany the text and integrated, interactive exercises and games, all in Flash format and all of which are keyed to the textbook. It includes a supplementary Cyrillic reader, an extensive glossary, and four-color illustrations and photographs throughout.

Taught by: Saff

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: TURK 032

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

TURK 634 Intermediate Uzbek II

Course usually offered in Spring term

Also Offered As: TURK 034

Activity: Lecture

1.0 Course Unit

TURK 729 Advanced Readings Ottoman Texts

Also Offered As: TURK 329

Activity: Seminar

1.0 Course Unit