NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS

314 Hall of Graduate Studies, 203.432.2944
http://nelc.yale.edu
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Chair
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Lecturers Karen Foster, Christina Geisen, Agnete Lassen, Miriam Müller, Kathryn Slanski

Senior Lector II Shiri Goren

Senior Lectors I Sarab al-Ani, Muhammad Aziz, Jonas Elbousty, Dina Roginsky, Farkhondeh Shayesteh

Lectors Ozgen Felek, Orit Yeret

FIELDS OF STUDY
Fields include Arabic and Islamic studies (also with interdisciplinary minor), Graeco-Arabic studies, Assyriology, and Egyptology.

SPECIAL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS
Applicants should state their specific field of study and intended specialization. Evidence of a reading knowledge of both French and German is required of all Ph.D. students. Proficiency in one of these languages is normally prerequisite for admission, and deficiency in the second language must be rectified before admission to a second year of study. Proficiency will be certified by passing a departmental examination upon registration at Yale. Ph.D. students admitted with only one of the two required languages or who fail the departmental examination are expected to enroll in an appropriate full-year course given by the French or German department at Yale. Completion of such a course with a grade of A or B will be accepted as fulfilling the proficiency requirement in either language; exceptions, for instance, for native speakers of French or German, may be made by the department upon recommendation of the director of graduate studies (DGS). For students in the M.A. program, evidence of a reading knowledge of either French or German is sufficient.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

Course Work
The department normally requires three full years of course work, four year courses or eight term courses per year being considered a full load. This may be reduced to two years in cases of exceptional background in Near Eastern languages. Normal progress in course work is considered to be consistent achievement of grades of High Pass or better, and at least four term courses or two year courses with Honors per year.

Of the twenty-four required courses for graduate study, at least eighteen should be taken within the department, usually within the student’s primary field of study. Courses taken outside of the department should be clearly related to the student’s primary field or constitute a coherent second field. For students who take no courses outside of the department, minimum competence in a second field within NELC is required, defined as follows: at least two terms of a Near Eastern language to be evaluated either by examination or a course grade of High Pass or better, or at least two terms of nonlanguage courses outside the area of specialization.

Advanced standing In rare cases, upon presenting evidence of successful completion of graduate courses at other universities or at Yale prior to their matriculation in the Ph.D. program, students with significant prior knowledge in their primary fields of study may apply for a waiver of up to eight courses toward the twenty-four required for candidacy. The faculty adviser and the DGS will normally present such applications to the faculty of the department, with a recommendation, no later than the end of the second year.

Interdisciplinary minor In Arabic-Islamic Studies, up to eight courses taken in one outside department and inclusion of that department’s subject in the comprehensive exams constitute an interdisciplinary track.

Committees
While doing course work, students are mentored by a faculty adviser from their field and by the DGS. Students writing dissertations may, if they so wish, be mentored by a committee headed by a primary adviser from NELC (not necessarily the faculty adviser from the course work years) and staffed with one, two, or more additional members, from either inside or outside the department, depending on the student’s specific needs. Committees are to be approved by the DGS. Interested students are encouraged to seek out suitable and willing faculty to serve on their advisory committees.
Special Language and Course Requirements

Course work should be planned to meet two departmental general standards: core languages for the primary fields of study, and minimum competence in a secondary field. The core languages in each of the major fields of study are as follows: Arabic and Islamic Studies: Arabic, Persian (Farsi) or Syriac or Greek; Assyriology: Sumerian and Akkadian; Egyptology: Egyptian and at least four terms of Demotic or Coptic. Minimum competence in a secondary field of study is defined as follows: at least two terms of a Near Eastern language to be evaluated either by examination or with a course grade of High Pass or better, or at least two terms of nonlanguage courses outside the area of specialization. A minimum grade of High Pass in these courses will be considered successful fulfillment of this requirement.

In Arabic and Islamic Studies, the minimum competence can be extended to an interdisciplinary course of study in a minor field. Minors may include six to eight term courses in the following departments and programs: Anthropology, Classics, Comparative Literature, French, German, History, History of Science and Medicine, Italian, Judaic Studies, Linguistics, Medieval Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, Sociology, Spanish and Portuguese, or others, by permission of the DGS. Students in all programs of the department will be expected to declare their choice of a secondary language or area, or a minor field, by their third term of study.

Training in Teaching

NELC students normally acquire four terms of teaching experience, between their second and fourth years in residence. Once faculty have determined the courses that they plan to teach in the upcoming academic year, they will inform the DGS of courses that may require Teaching Fellows. The DGS will compile a list of these courses and circulate it among NELC graduate students who have completed the first year of study. Students may then inform the DGS of those courses for which they would prefer to serve as Teaching Fellows. The faculty members in charge, in consultation with the DGS, will subsequently choose the Teaching Fellows for their courses.

Examinations and the Dissertation

The comprehensive examination is normally taken at the end of the third year of study or no later than the beginning of the fourth year of study. When advanced standing has been granted, the comprehensive examination could be taken at the end of the second year. Comprehensive examinations normally include three written and one oral examination including language, literature, history, and other topics to be determined by the DGS in consultation with the student and the relevant faculty. Comprehensive examinations may be based in part on reading lists of primary core texts and secondary literature compiled well in advance by the student and the relevant faculty. Primary texts and secondary literature studied by the students during their years of course work may also become topics of the examination. For language examinations, texts that the student has not seen may also be included. In the case of the program in Arabic and Islamic Studies with an interdisciplinary minor, the written portion will consist of two language examinations and one subject in the minor field, and the oral of two subjects in Arabic studies and one in the minor field. The written examinations will be set by the individual faculty members responsible for particular areas of study, but the oral portion will be conducted by the full staff of the department. The dissertation proposal is normally submitted one month following the completion of the qualifying examination.

In their final term of course work, students may, with the permission of the DGS and the instructor, enroll in a Directed Readings course related to the general field of the prospective dissertation topic. Course work should include preparation of a comprehensive, annotated bibliography for the prospective topic and exploration of some aspects of the topic in a research paper. Students availing themselves of this option should also present some of their work at the NELC Roundtable.

The dissertation prospectus may comprise up to thirty pages, excluding the bibliography. A two-page summary of the prospectus will normally be circulated among and voted upon by the faculty, though the full prospectus will be available for consideration.

Successful completion of the comprehensive examination and submission of an acceptable prospectus will qualify the student for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. After completion of the dissertation, the candidate may receive a final examination concerned primarily with the defense of the thesis.

ARCHAIA GRADUATE QUALIFICATION

Students can participate in the Yale Program for the Study of Ancient and Premodern Cultures and Societies (Archaia) and receive a graduate qualification by fulfilling the necessary requirements. For further information, see Archaia, under Non-Degree-Granting Programs, Councils, and Research Institutes.

MASTER’S DEGREES

M.Phil. See Degree Requirements under Policies and Regulations.

Terminal Master’s Degree Program Applicants who do not enroll in the Ph.D. program may pursue a Master of Arts degree. Students enrolled in the M.A. program should complete a minimum of twelve term courses with at least two term grades of Honors and an average of High Pass in the remaining courses, and will be required to submit a master’s thesis no later than April 1 of the fourth term of study. No financial aid is available. Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program are also eligible for this degree by meeting the same requirements. Because of the thesis requirement, the Graduate School procedure of automatic petitions for the M.A. degree is not available to students in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.
COURSES

AKKD 500a, Elementary Akkadian I  Benjamin Scruton
Introduction to the language of ancient Babylonia and its cuneiform writing system, with exercises in reading, translation, and composition.

AKKD 501b, Elementary Akkadian II  Benjamin Scruton
Introduction to the language of ancient Babylonia and its cuneiform writing system, with exercises in reading, translation, and composition.

AKKD 545a, Neo-Babylonian and Late Babylonian Historical and Archival Texts  Eckart Frahm
Study and interpretation of royal inscriptions, chronicles, letters, and contracts from seventh- to second-century B.C.E. Babylonia.

AKKD 546b, Mythological and Ritual Texts from Ancient Mesopotamia  Eckart Frahm
A survey of mythological and ritual texts from ancient Mesopotamia.

ARBC 500a, Elementary Modern Standard Arabic I  Staff
A two-term course for students who have no previous background in Arabic. Students learn the Arabic alphabet, basic vocabulary and expression, and basic grammatical structures and concepts, and concentrate on developing listening and speaking skills. The course aims at developing the following skills: reading to extract the gist of written Modern Standard Arabic texts; speaking with increased ease, good pronunciation, sound grammatical forms, and correct usage; writing to respond to simple daily life issues; forming and recognizing grammatically correct Modern Standard Arabic.

ARBC 501b, Elementary Modern Standard Arabic II  Staff
A two-term course for students who have no previous background in Arabic. Students learn the Arabic alphabet, basic vocabulary and expression, and basic grammatical structures and concepts, and concentrate on developing listening and speaking skills. The course aims at developing the following skills: reading to extract the gist of written Modern Standard Arabic texts; speaking with increased ease, good pronunciation, sound grammatical forms, and correct usage; writing to respond to simple daily life issues; forming and recognizing grammatically correct Modern Standard Arabic.

ARBC 502a, Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I  Muhammad Aziz
A two-term course for students with previous background in Arabic. It is designed to improve proficiency in aural and written comprehension as well as in speaking and writing skills. The course aims to develop the following skills: reading to extract the gist as well as key details of written Modern Standard Arabic texts on a variety of academic, social, cultural, economic, and political topics; speaking with greater fluency and enhanced engagement in conversations on a variety of topics; mastering writing, easily forming and recognizing grammatically correct Arabic sentences. Prerequisite: ARBC 501 or successful completion of a placement test.

ARBC 503b, Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic II  Muhammad Aziz
A two-term course for students with previous background in Arabic. It is designed to improve proficiency in aural and written comprehension as well as in speaking and writing skills. The course aims to develop the following skills: reading to extract the gist as well as key details of written Modern Standard Arabic texts on a variety of academic, social, cultural, economic, and political topics; speaking with greater fluency and enhanced engagement in conversations on a variety of topics; mastering writing, easily forming and recognizing grammatically correct Arabic sentences. Prerequisite: ARBC 501 or successful completion of a placement test.

ARBC 504a, Advanced Modern Standard Arabic I  Jonas Elbousty
Focus on improving the listening, writing, and speaking skills of students who already have a substantial background in the study of modern standard Arabic. Prerequisite: ARBC 503 or permission of the instructor.

ARBC 505b, Advanced Modern Standard Arabic II  Jonas Elbousty
Focus on improving the listening, writing, and speaking skills of students who already have a substantial background in the study of modern standard Arabic. Prerequisite: ARBC 503 or permission of the instructor.

ARBC 510b, Intermediate Classical Arabic II  Staff
Introduction to classical Arabic, with emphasis on analytical reading skills, grammar, and prose composition. Readings from the Qur’an, Islamic theology, and literature and history of the Middle East, as well as Jewish and Christian religious texts in Arabic.

ARBC 530a or b, Arabic Seminar  Staff
Study and interpretation of classical Arabic texts for advanced students. Prerequisite: ARBC 510 or permission of the instructor.

ARBC 567a, Modern Arab Writers  Muhammad Aziz
Study of novels and poetry written by modern Arab writers, including Taha Hussein, Zaid Dammaj, Hoda Barakat, Nizar Qabbani, al-Maqilil, and Mostaghanimi. Prerequisite: ARBC 504 or permission of the instructor.

ARBC 849a, Directed Readings: Arabic  Shawkat Toorawa

EGYP 500a, Introduction to Classical Hieroglyphic Egyptian I  Christina Geisen
A two-term introduction to the language of ancient pharaonic Egypt (Middle Egyptian) and its hieroglyphic writing system, with short historical, literary, and religious texts. Grammatical analysis with exercises in reading, translation, and composition.
EGYP 501b, Introduction to Classical Hieroglyphic Egyptian II  Christina Geisen
A two-term introduction to the language of ancient pharaonic Egypt (Middle Egyptian) and its hieroglyphic writing system, with short historical, literary, and religious texts. Grammatical analysis with exercises in reading, translation, and composition.

EGYP 510a, Elementary Biblical Coptic I  Thomas Schmidt
The native Egyptian language in the Roman and Byzantine periods. Thorough grounding in grammar and vocabulary of the Sahidic dialect as a basis for reading biblical, monastic, and Gnostic texts. Credit only on completion of EGYP 520.

EGYP 520b, Elementary Biblical Coptic II  Thomas Schmidt
Continuation of EGYP 510. Prerequisite: EGYP 510.

EGYP 522b, Ancient Egyptian Hieratic Texts  Christina Geisen
An introduction to the hieratic script mainly used for everyday documents. The course also considers Old and Late Egyptian texts.

EGYP 577a, Egyptian Rock Inscriptions  John Darnell

EGYP 579a, Directed Readings: Egyptology  John Darnell

HEBR 500a, Elementary Modern Hebrew I  Staff
A two-term introduction to the language of contemporary Israel, both spoken and written. Fundamentals of grammar; extensive practice in speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension under the guidance of a native speaker. No previous knowledge required. Successful completion of the fall term required to enroll in the spring term.

HEBR 501b, Elementary Modern Hebrew II  Orit Yeret
A two-term introduction to the language of contemporary Israel, both spoken and written. Fundamentals of grammar; extensive practice in speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension under the guidance of a native speaker. No previous knowledge required. Successful completion of the fall term required to enroll in the spring term.

HEBR 502a, Intermediate Modern Hebrew I  Staff
A two-term review and continuation of grammatical study leading to a deeper comprehension of style and usage. Focus on selected readings, writing, comprehension, and speaking skills. Prerequisite: HEBR 501 or equivalent.

HEBR 503b, Intermediate Modern Hebrew II  Dina Roginsky
A two-term review and continuation of grammatical study leading to a deeper comprehension of style and usage. Focus on selected readings, writing, comprehension, and speaking skills. Prerequisite: HEBR 502 or equivalent.

HEBR 506b, Dynamics of Israeli Culture  Shiri Goren
The course explores contemporary controversies of Israeli society by examining recent cultural production such as novelistic writing, films, poetry, newspaper articles, new media, advertisement, and television shows. Discussions include migration and the construction of the Sabra character; ethnicity and race: the emergence of Mizrahi voice; women in Israeli society; private and collective memory; minority discourse: Druze, Russian Jews; Israeli masculinity and queer culture. Conducted in Hebrew. Prerequisite: HEBR 502 or permission of the instructor.

HEBR 510a, Conversational Hebrew: Israeli Media  Shiri Goren
An advanced Hebrew course for students interested in practicing and enhancing conversational skills. The course aims to improve the four language skills while stressing listening comprehension and various forms of discussions including practical situations, online interactions, and content analysis. Prerequisite: HEBR 502 or permission of the instructor.

HEBR 513a, Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I  Matthew Glassman
A two-term review and continuation of instruction in grammar and vocabulary, supplemented by readings from the Bible. Prerequisite: HEBR 510 or equivalent.

HEBR 514b, Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II  Staff
Continuation of HEBR 513.

HEBR 516a, Israeli Popular Music  Dina Roginsky
Changes in the development of popular music in Israel explored as representations of changing Israeli society and culture. The interaction of music and cultural identity; the role of modern popular music in representing, shaping, challenging, and criticizing social conventions; songs of commemoration and heroism; popular representation of the Holocaust; Mizrahi and Arab music; feminism, sexuality, and gender; class and musical consumption; criticism, protest, and globalization. Prerequisite: HEBR 502 or equivalent.

HEBR 563b / JDST 695b, From Biblical to Modern Hebrew  Dina Roginsky
This course aims to support students who have reading knowledge of Biblical Hebrew but cannot read or converse in Modern Hebrew. The course concentrates on reading and aims at enabling students to use Modern Hebrew for research purposes. The texts chosen are tailored to students’ particular areas of interest. Prerequisite: two years of Biblical or Modern Hebrew studies, or permission of the instructor. Conducted in English.
MESO 506b, Selected Mesopotamian Texts: Bilingual Texts  Eckart Frahm

MESO 577a, Sumerian School Dialogues: The Eduba through the Eyes of the Old Babylonian Literati  Klaus Wagensonner
An investigation of scribal apprenticeship as vividly reflected in Sumerian literary texts, in particular the so-called school dialogues. Dialogues and diatribes are fairly but unjustifiably underrepresented in modern scholarship. The course takes examples from primary sources in the Yale Babylonian Collection and other collections.

NELC 518a, Assyria: The First Near Eastern Empire (Seminar)  Eckart Frahm
Survey of the history and culture of ancient Assyria, with a focus on its imperial phase in the first millennium B.C.E. Assyria’s aggressive foreign policy; the role of the military; Assyrian royal ideology, religion, literature, art, and court life; Assyria’s impact on the Bible; Assyria’s image in classical sources. Readings from primary sources in translation.

NELC 531b / ANTH 531b / ARCQ 518b / CLSS 815b / CPLT 547b / HIST 520b / JDST 632b / RLST 803b, Slavery, Dependency, and Genocide in the Ancient and Premodern World  Noel Lenski and Benedict Kiernan
Covers the subject of class and ethnic repression from the third millennium B.C.E. to the mid-second millennium C.E. Analyzes textual, epigraphic, and iconographic sources for slavery, dependency, and genocide in Assyrian, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Han, Germanic, Angkorian, Vietnamese, Burmese, Malay, Mayan, and Aztec cultures.

NELC 547a, Survey of Mesopotamian and Akkadian Literature  Benjamin Foster
Introduction to Sumerian and Akkadian literature, in translation, from their beginnings through the Hellenistic period.

NELC 548a / MDVL 580a, Ancient and Medieval Astronomy: From Babylonian to Greek to Arabic to Latin  Kevin Van Bladel
Astronomy was one of the seven classical liberal arts. This course introduces the history and methods of classical astronomy as practiced by ancient and medieval astronomers of Assyria and Babylonia, Greece, Rome, and Persia; and by medieval scholars in Latin, Arabic, and Sanskrit, down to the time of Copernicus and Kepler.

NELC 549b / MDVL 581b, Reading Classical Arabic Scholarship  Kevin Van Bladel
This course studies a tenth-century overview of the sciences in classical Arabic and meaningful excerpts of additional texts representing each science covered. Students acquire a large vocabulary of scholarly and technical terms of art as used in classical Arabic, facilitating further research in traditional Arabic scholarship.

NELC 556a / CPLT 654a, Classics: The Arabic-Islamic World  Shawkat Toorawa
Survey of the literary tradition of the Arabic-Islamic world (West Asia, North Africa, and Muslim Spain). Prose and poetry from the Qur’an to the Arabian Nights; attention to the interdependence of the works and their cultural setting, the agendas authors pursued, and the characters they portrayed.

NELC 562a / CLSS 607a / LING 513a, Indo-European Linguistics  Kevin Van Bladel
An introduction to the inner workings and prehistory of the Indo-European languages both as a language family and in individual branches. It is a course in historical linguistics devoted to the best understood of language families, Indo-European. The emphasis is on using the theoretical framework obtained by this knowledge, especially through practical applications for readers of ancient languages such as Greek, Latin, Hittite, Sanskrit, Avestan, and Middle Persian.

NELC 574a, Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I  Eric Reymond
This course focuses on the reading of biblical texts but also offers a review of the elementary grammar of Biblical Hebrew and the introduction of more complicated grammatical concerns. More specifically, the first term focuses on prose texts and reviews the morphology of verbs and nouns as well as basic components of Hebrew syntax; the second term introduces students to Biblical Hebrew poetry while continuing the study and review of Hebrew morphology and syntax. In addition, the form and function of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS) are introduced.

NELC 575b, Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II  Eric Reymond
This course focuses on the reading of biblical texts but also offers a review of the elementary grammar of Biblical Hebrew and the introduction of more complicated grammatical concerns. More specifically, the first term focuses on prose texts and reviews the morphology of verbs and nouns as well as basic components of Hebrew syntax; the second term introduces students to Biblical Hebrew poetry while continuing the study and review of Hebrew morphology and syntax. In addition, the form and function of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS) are introduced.

* NELC 582a, Death and Burial in Ancient Egypt  Salima Ikram
Study of the funerary practices and beliefs of ancient Egypt from the Old Kingdom to the Graeco-Roman period, with a strong section devoted to animals. Topics include the process of mumification and the spells used during the operation; development of coffins, sarcophagi, amulets, canopic jars, canopic chests, shabtis, and other tomb furnishings; the evolution and decoration of the tomb, both royal and private; and religious rituals associated with funerals, the afterlife, and the mortuary cult.

* NELC 583a, Food and Drink in Ancient Egypt  Salima Ikram
Investigation of how food helped shape the culture, economy, and history of ancient Egypt and the role of different foods in various social and religious settings. Consideration of the types of food eaten by various levels of society; the raw materials that could have been used as food; the domestication of plants and animals, farming techniques, irrigation, land use, and tools; and methods of cooking and preserving foods.
NELC 588b / ANTH 773b / ARCG 773b, Abrupt Climate Change and Societal Collapse  Harvey Weiss
Collapse documented in the archaeological and early historical records of the Old and New Worlds, including Mesopotamia, Mesoamerica, the Andes, and Europe. Analysis of politicoeconomic vulnerabilities, resiliencies, and adaptations in the face of abrupt climate change, anthropogenic environmental degradation, resource depletion, "barbarian" incursions, or class conflict.

NELC 605a, Global Environmental History  Harvey Weiss

NELC 606a, Agriculture: Origins, Evolution, Crises  Harvey Weiss
Analysis of the societal and environmental drivers and effects of plant and animal domestication, the intensification of agroproduction, and the crises of agroproduction: land degradation, societal collapses, sociopolitical transformation, sustainability, and biodiversity.

NELC 607a, Mesopotamian History: First Millennium  Benjamin Foster
A survey of Mesopotamian history in the first millennium.

NELC 609b, Peripheral Akkadian: Emar Texts  Kevin Van Bladel

NELC 703b / JDST 721b / RLST 751b, Introduction to Judaism in the Ancient World: From Temple to Talmud  Steven Fraade
The emergence of classical Judaism in its historical setting. Jews and Hellenization; varieties of early Judaism; apocalyptic and postapocalyptic responses to suffering and catastrophe; worship and atonement without sacrificial cult; interpretations of scriptures; law and life; the rabbis; the synagogue; faith in reason; Sabbath and festivals; history and its redemption.

NELC 706b / RLST 719b, Problems in Early Islamic History  Travis Zadeh
An examination of questions and problems in the origins and development of Islamic history as explored by modern scholarship. Particular focus is placed on early source material.

NELC 850a, Introduction to Arabic and Islamic Studies  Dimitri Gutas
Comprehensive survey of the various subjects treated in Arabic and Islamic studies, with representative readings from each. Detailed investigation into the methods and techniques of scholarship in the field, with emphasis on acquiring familiarity with the bibliographical and other research tools.

PERS 500a, Elementary Persian I  Farkhondeh Shayesteh
A two-term introduction to modern Persian with emphasis on all four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The objective is to allow students to develop the foundational knowledge necessary for further language study. Designed for nonnative speakers.

PERS 501b, Elementary Persian II  Farkhondeh Shayesteh
A two-term introduction to modern Persian with emphasis on all four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The objective is to allow students to develop the foundational knowledge necessary for further language study. Designed for nonnative speakers.

PERS 502a, Intermediate Persian I  Farkhondeh Shayesteh
This two-term course is a continuation of PERS 501 with emphasis on expanding vocabulary and understanding of more complex grammatical forms and syntax. Designed for nonnative speakers. Prerequisite: PERS 501 or permission of the instructor.

PERS 503b, Intermediate Persian II  Farkhondeh Shayesteh
This two-term course is a continuation of PERS 501 with emphasis on expanding vocabulary and understanding of more complex grammatical forms and syntax. Designed for nonnative speakers. Prerequisite: PERS 501 or permission of the instructor.

PERS 561b, Persian Culture and Media  Farkhondeh Shayesteh
Advanced study of Persian grammar, vocabulary, and culture through the use of authentic Persian media. Examination of daily media reports on cultural, political, historical, and sporting events in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and other Persian-speaking regions. Designed for nonnative speakers. Prerequisite: PERS 140 or permission of instructor.

* PERS 562a, Cinema of Iran, Past and Present  Farkhondeh Shayesteh
A thematic survey of Iranian cinema, past and present. Prominent Iranian directors such as Kiarostami, Beyzai, Panahi, Banietemad, and Farhadi are explored through discussion and in-class viewing of clips from assigned films. Students enhance their awareness of Persian culture through Iranian films while advancing their language skills. 15

SMTC 520b / RLST 840b, Intermediate Ugaritic: Mythological Texts  Jimmy Daccache
This course completes the introduction to the Ugaritic language. Students read and analyze texts in the major genres of Ugaritic literature, with special emphasis on mythological texts.

SMTC 523a / RLST 826a, Intermediate Syriac I  Jimmy Daccache
This two-term course is a continuation of SMTC 521. Reading and analysis of Syriac texts from various genres and time periods. Prerequisite: SMTC 521 or knowledge of Syriac.

SMTC 524b / RLST 827b, Intermediate Syriac II  Jimmy Daccache
This two-term course is a continuation of SMTC 521. Reading and analysis of Syriac texts from various genres and time periods. Prerequisite: SMTC 521 or knowledge of Syriac.
SMTC 534a, Introduction to Babylonian Aramaic  Elitzur Bar-Asher
An introduction to the language of the Jewish Babylonian Aramaic. This course covers the grammar of this dialect followed by reading of texts of different genres. In addition this class introduces some of the major philological aspects for approaching Talmudic texts.

SMTC 535b / JDST 672b, Readings in Babylonian Aramaic Texts  Elitzur Bar-Asher
This course builds on SMTC 534. We read different texts from all sources of Jewish Babylonian Aramaic, with concentration on a variety of linguistic topics.

SMTC 545a / RLST 835a, Northwest Semitic Inscriptions: Aramaic  Jimmy Daccache
This course is designed to familiarize students with Aramaic epigraphy from the first millennium B.C.E. The Aramaic grammar is illustrated through early monumental inscriptions on stone from Anatolia and the abundant papyri of the Persian period from Egypt.

SMTC 836b / RLST 836b, Northwest Semitic Inscriptions: Hebrew and Moabite  Jimmy Daccache
The aim of this course is to provide students with an overview of the Hebrew epigraphy from the first millennium B.C.E., including inscriptions on stone, jars, and ostraca. The second part of the term is devoted to the study of Moabite monumental inscriptions and seal inscriptions.