NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS

Director of undergraduate studies: Jonas Elbousty (jonas.elbousty@yale.edu), Arnold Hall, 304 Elm Street, Room B41A, 432-2944; nelsc.yale.edu

The major in Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations is an interdisciplinary liberal arts major. Students acquire language proficiency and skills in critical analysis in order to study the long-lived and rich civilizations of the Near East, ranging from ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, to the medieval Near East and classical Islam, to modern cultures represented by modern Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish.

The Near East is studied for its own intrinsic literary, historic, and artistic interest, as well as its cultural and historical legacies, while also providing new ways of understanding developments and challenges in the modern world. Majors go on to careers in government, foreign service, law, medicine, education, and academic research. The major also provides an excellent basis for graduate study.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

The major for the Class of 2020 With the approval of the director of undergraduate studies (DUS), the following changes to the requirements of the major may be fulfilled by students who declared their major under previous requirements.

The major for the Class of 2021 and subsequent classes The Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations major has two tracks from which students may choose. In track A, students focus in depth on a particular language, civilization, period, or region. In track B, students focus on Near Eastern languages and civilizations more broadly and comparatively.

Twelve term courses in the department, or their equivalent, are required for the major, including the senior essay course. There are no prerequisites. Students develop coherent programs of study in one of two tracks:

Track A, Language and Civilization (depth) offers students a rigorous and intellectually coherent foundation in line with their own specific interests. Through in-depth study of Near Eastern languages and texts in their original languages, richly contextualized through study of literature, religion, visual arts, archaeology, political and social history, students focus on the ancient Near East, the classical Near East, medieval Islam, or modern Hebrew language and culture. Requirements include: six term courses of one or two Near Eastern languages; one NELC Foundations course; four electives, chosen in consultation with the DUS and assigned faculty adviser; and the senior essay.

Track B, Languages, Civilization, and Culture (breadth) provides students the opportunity to study the Near East in its historical and cultural breadth, and to explore its rich and long-lived civilizations and cultures. This flexible program allows students to take a range of classes and to design their course of study in line with their interests. Areas of interest include languages, literature, history, religion, art and archaeology, and philosophy. Requirements include four term courses of one or more languages; two NELC Foundations courses; and five electives, including one on the ancient Near East, one on the medieval Near East, and one on the modern Middle East, chosen in consultation with the DUS and assigned faculty adviser; and the senior essay.

All students are also encouraged to take related courses in other departments and programs, such as Anthropology, Archaeology, Classics, History, History of Art, History of Science, Medicine & Public Health, Judaic Studies, Literature, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. Such courses, including college seminars, will routinely be accepted for credit toward the major if they deal with Near Eastern topics, at the discretion of the assigned faculty adviser and the DUS.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT

The senior essay is a research paper of at least thirty pages prepared under the supervision of a departmental faculty member. It may be written under the rubric of NELC 492 and/or 493, or as an extended seminar paper in a departmental seminar course, in which case the instructor serves as the essay adviser. The topic and a prospectus signed by an adviser are to be submitted to the DUS by the end of the fourth week of classes in either term of the senior year. The particular subject matter and theoretical approach of the essay are decided by the student after consultation with the faculty adviser.

In cases in which students demonstrably need more time for an extended research paper, the senior essay may be approved as a yearlong course after consultation with the adviser and the DUS. Only those students who have advanced language skills and whose project is considered to be of exceptional promise are eligible. The requirements for the two-term essay are the same as for the one-term essay, except that the essay should be at least sixty pages.

ADVISING

All course schedules must be discussed with the assigned faculty adviser and approved by the DUS.

Languages currently offered by the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations include Akkadian, Arabic, Armenian, Egyptian, Hebrew, Ottoman Turkish, Persian, Syriac, and Turkish. Students who take a foreign language during a term, year, or summer abroad must complete a departmental placement examination after they return to Yale; there are no exceptions to this requirement.

Well-qualified students who have acquired the requisite background in undergraduate courses may, with the permission of the instructor, the DUS, and the director of graduate studies, be admitted to graduate courses where no suitable undergraduate courses exist.
REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Prerequisites  None

Number of courses  12 term courses (incl senior essay)

Distribution of courses  Language and Civilization track A (depth) — 6 term courses of up to 2 Near Eastern language courses; 1 Foundations course; and 4 electives, with DUS consultation; Languages, Civilization, and Culture track B (breadth) — 4 term courses of 1 or more Near Eastern language courses; 2 Foundations courses; 5 electives to include 1 ancient, 1 medieval, and 1 modern course, with DUS consultation

Senior requirement  Senior essay in NELC 492 and/or 493 or in dept seminar

CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED LANGUAGE STUDY

The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations offers a Certificate of Advanced Language Study in Arabic and Hebrew. A certificate adviser, typically the director of undergraduate studies (DUS), advises students on the certification process and certifies to the University Registrar’s Office that students have completed the stated requirements before the end of eight terms of study. The Certificate of Advanced Language Study, once certified, is listed on student transcripts.

REQUIREMENTS

Students seeking to earn the certificate are required to take four courses beyond the L4 level in their chosen language, at least two of which must be Yale courses designated as L5. All courses must be taken for a letter grade, and students must achieve a grade of B or above. With the approval of the adviser, one advanced non-L5 Yale course, conducted in the target language, such as an independent study course, a graduate seminar, or an advanced seminar may count toward certification requirements.

The certificate adviser may allow one “language across the curriculum” (LxC) course, which ordinarily is an advanced seminar with an additional weekly discussion section in the target language, to count toward the certification requirements. The certificate adviser may also approve the substitution of up to two credits earned during study abroad and taught in the target language to count toward the certificate requirements. If the adviser approves courses taken outside of Yale for inclusion in the certificate requirements, students must take the necessary steps to ensure those courses appear on their transcript.

Hebrew specific requirements  The two required L5 courses must be modern Hebrew courses that include a speaking component.

Credit/D/Fail  No courses taken Credit/D/Fail may be counted toward the requirements of the certificate.

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS

Professors  John Darnell, Benjamin Foster, Eckart Frahm, Dimitri Gutas (Emeritus), Bentley Layton (Emeritus), Shawkat Toorawa, Kevin Van Bladel, Harvey Weiss

Senior Lectors and Senior Lecturers  Sarab Al Ani, Muhammad Aziz, Jonas Elbousty, Shiri Goren, Dina Roginsky, Farkhondeh Shayesteh, Kathryn Slanski

Lectors and Lecturers  Julien Cooper, Ozgen Felek, Christina Geisen, Agnete Lassen, Selim Tiraykiol, Klaus Wagensonner, Orit Yeret

First-Year Seminars

* NELC 001b / AFST 001b / ARCG 001b, Egypt and Northeast Africa: A Multidisciplinary Approach  John Darnell
  An introduction to Egyptology, examining approximately 10,000 years of Nile Valley cultural records and 3,000 years of Egyptian history. The course presents an overview of the historical and archaeological study of Egypt and her southern neighbor Nubia. Various original written and visual sources are used, including the collections of the Peabody Museum and the Yale Art Gallery, with some material accessible in the classroom. Students gain a basic understanding of the hieroglyphic script and the Ancient Egyptian language, and are able to read some inscriptions in museum visits at the end of the course. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  WR, HU

* NELC 004b, Earliest Literature of the Ancient World  Benjamin Foster
  Selections from ancient Near Eastern literature, such as myths and epics, stories, fables, letters, magic spells, and poetry, with emphasis on themes that resonate with a modern reader: memory, entertainment, success, love, heroism, violence, suffering, redemption, devotion, faith, sexuality, anxiety, humor, wonder, cynicism, and going to school. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  HU

* NELC 026b / ARCG 031b / CLCV 059b / EVST 030b / HIST 020b, Rivers and Civilization  Harvey Weiss
  The appearance of the earliest cities along the Nile and Euphrates in the fourth millennium B.C. Settlements along the rivers, the origins of agriculture, the production and extraction of agricultural surpluses, and the generation of class structures and political hierarchies. How and why these processes occurred along the banks of these rivers; consequent societal collapses and their relation to abrupt climate changes. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  HU, SO
Foundations Courses

NELC 128a / HUMS 128a, From Gilgamesh to Persepolis: Introduction to Near Eastern Literatures  Kathryn Slanski
This lecture course is an introduction to Near Eastern civilization through its rich and diverse literary cultures. We read and discuss ancient works, such as the Epic of Gilgamesh, Genesis, and "The Song of Songs," medieval works, such as A Thousand and One Nights, selections from the Qur'an, and Shah-name: The Book of Kings, and modern works of Israeli, Turkish, and Iranian novelists and Palestinian poets. Students complement classroom studies with visits to the Yale Babylonian Collection and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, as well as with film screenings and guest speakers. Students also learn fundamentals of Near Eastern writing systems, and consider questions of tradition, translation, and transmission. All readings are in translation.  WR, HU

History and Civilization Courses

NELC 109a / ARCG 244a / RLST 245a, The Age of Akhenaton  John Darnell
Study of the period of the Egyptian pharaoh Akhenaton (reigned 1353–1336 B.C.E.), often termed the Amarna Revolution, from historical, literary, religious, artistic, and archaeological perspectives. Consideration of the wider Egyptian, ancient Near Eastern, African, and Mediterranean contexts. Examination of the international diplomacy, solar theology, and artistic developments of the period. Reading of primary source material in translation.  HU

NELC 115a, The Bible in Its Ancient Near Eastern Setting  Eckart Frahm
History of the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian empires of the first millennium B.C.E.; how their rise and fall influenced the politics, religion, and literary traditions of biblical Israel. Topics include the role of prophecy and (divine) law, political and religious justifications of violence, the birth of monotheism, and the historical reliability of the Hebrew Bible.  HU

NELC 201a / ENGL 191a / HUMS 206a / LITR 318a, The Arabian Nights, Then and Now  Shawkat Toorawa and Ayesha Ramachandran
Exploration of Arabian Nights, a classic of world literature. Topics include antecedents, themes and later prose, and graphic and film adaptations.  HU

* NELC 232a / JDST 256a / MMES 236a / RLST 400a, The Dead Sea Scrolls: The Damascus Document  Steven Fraade
Study of the Damascus Document, one of the most important of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Attention to the document’s place in the history of biblical interpretation and ancient Jewish law; the nature and rhetorical function of its textual practices, both narrative and legal; and its relation to the central sectarian writings of the Qumran community. Prerequisite: reading proficiency in ancient Hebrew.  L5, HU

* NELC 241b / HUMS 212b / JDST 347b / LITR 400b / RLST 236b, Mystical Poetry of Judaism and Islam  Staff
Poetry and song run through the heart of both Judaism and Islam, and so-called mystical verse plays a vital role within both traditions. This class looks at key works from both of these bodies of verse, on their own terms and in relation to one another. It also examines the cultural and historical matrices that gave rise to the poetry. Subjects range from alphabets of creation, the poetry of ascent, wine poetry, and the divine nature of the beloved to negative theology, interacting planes of macrocosm and microcosm, antimessianic breakthrough, and, above all, poetry’s power to bring about critical transformations of consciousness. Readings are drawn from the Bible, Hebrew visionary poetry of Late Antiquity (Poems of the Palaces, Book of Creation), pre- and early-Islamic material, the Qur'an, the Arabized Hebrew of two major Andalusian poets, Solomon Ibn Gabirol and Judah HaLevi, the syncretic Sufism of Ibn al-'Arabi and of the great Persian poets Rumi and Hafez, the extensive Kabbalistic tradition that developed in 13th-century Spain and 16th-century Palestine, the hybrid liturgy of the Muslim-Jewish Donmeh of Salonika (and their Turkish precursors), Ghalib's Urdu ghazals, Kabir's Bhakti-Persian poets Rumi and Hafez, the extensive Kabbalistic tradition that developed in 13th-century Spain and 16th-century Palestine, and the divine nature of the beloved to negative theology, interacting planes of macrocosm and microcosm, antimessianic breakthrough, and, above all, poetry’s power to bring about critical transformations of consciousness. Readings are drawn from the Bible, Hebrew visionary poetry of Late Antiquity (Poems of the Palaces, Book of Creation), pre- and early-Islamic material, the Qur'an, the Arabized Hebrew of two major Andalusian poets, Solomon Ibn Gabirol and Judah HaLevi, the syncretic Sufism of Ibn al-'Arabi and of the great Persian poets Rumi and Hafez, the extensive Kabbalistic tradition that developed in 13th-century Spain and 16th-century Palestine, the hybrid liturgy of the Muslim-Jewish Donmeh of Salonika (and their Turkish precursors), Ghalib's Urdu ghazals, Kabir's Bhakti-influenced vernacular Hindi poetry, and secular transformations of this mystical material into the modern era. All work is read in English translation. Material in the original languages is available to interested students.  HU

* NELC 271b / ARCG 217b, From Africa to Arabia: Worlds of the Ancient Red Sea  Julien Cooper
This course introduces students to the diverse and unique worlds of the ancient Red Sea, from Ancient Egypt, the Kingdoms of South Arabia, ancient Ethiopia, and the myriad nomadic peoples who dwelt on its shores. The focus of the course is how the specific geography of the Red Sea shaped the history of trade and politics in the region, juxtaposed with much better researched ancient maritime spaces in the Mediterranean. Students learn about many ancient cultures and empires not commonly encountered in history courses, as well as how this frequently ignored space acted as one of the most important trading corridors in the ancient world.  HU

* NELC 272b / ARCG 210b, Ancient African Empires: Aksum & Kush  Julien Cooper
This course is an introduction to the long history of two of Africa's most ancient civilizations, that of Kush (Nubia) and Aksum (Ethiopia). The course traces the history of Sudan and Ethiopia from the foundations of Kushite culture (c. 2000 BCE) and the Kingdom of D'emat (c. 800 BCE), chronicling the apogees of these civilizations until the eclipse of these cultures at the hands of the burgeoning Arab-Islamic caliphate and internal rivalries in the early Medieval Period. Lectures weave through the narratives of these Northeast African empires, introducing students to the multi-ethnic complexities of the Sudanese and Ethiopian worlds, their history, religions, and complex geographies. Students gain an appreciation for the history of Africa, a world seldom treated in university courses, being outside the parameters of 'classical civilizations' of the Mediterranean, the Near East, China, and India and also beyond the southern frontiers of Pharaonic Egypt. Particular focus is also taken on the reception and legacy of Kushite and Ethiopian civilization in modernity. A myriad of Archaeological, textual, epigraphic, numismatic, and other sources is used to visually convey the history of these African kingdoms.  HU
* NELC 321b / ANTH 492b / ARCG 492b, Imaging Ancient Worlds  John Darnell, Roderick McIntosh, Agnete Lassen, and Klaus Wagensoner
The interpretation of epigraphic and archaeological material within the broader context of landscape, by means of creating a virtual model to reconstruct the sensory experiences of the ancient peoples who created those sites. Use of new technologies in computer graphics, including 3D imaging, to support current research in archaeology and anthropology.

* NELC 381a / JDST 391a / RLST 407a, Midrash Seminar: Sifre Shofetim  Steven Fraade
Close study of the earliest rabbinic commentary to the Book of Deuteronomy, focusing on its interpretations of laws dealing with the responsibilities of courts and public figures: judges, kings, priests, and prophets. Particular attention is paid to the interrelation of rabbinic legal rhetoric and the hermeneutics of scriptural commentary, with comparisons to other corpora of ancient Jewish and non-Jewish laws. Prerequisite: reading fluency in ancient Hebrew.

* NELC 473b / ANTH 473b / ARCG 473b / EVST 473b, Climate Change, Societal Collapse, and Resilience  Harvey Weiss
The coincidence of societal collapses throughout history with decadal and century-scale abrupt climate change events. Challenges to anthropological and historical paradigms of cultural adaptation and resilience. Examination of archaeological and historical records and high-resolution sets of paleoclimate proxies.

Languages and Literatures

AKKADIAN
Students wishing to study Akkadian should consult the director of undergraduate studies.

ARABIC

ARBC 110a, Elementary Modern Standard Arabic I  Muhammad Aziz
Development of a basic knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic. Emphasis on grammatical analysis, vocabulary acquisition, and the growth of skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing.  L1  1½ Course cr

ARBC 120b, Elementary Modern Standard Arabic II  Staff
Continuation of ARBC 110. Prerequisite: ARBC 110 or requisite score on a placement test.  L2 RP  1½ Course cr

* ARBC 130a, Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I  Sarab Al Ani
Intensive review of grammar; readings from contemporary and classical Arab authors with emphasis on serial reading of unwoveled Arabic texts, prose composition, and formal conversation. Prerequisite: ARBC 120 or requisite score on a placement test.  L3 RP  1½ Course cr

ARBC 136a, Intermediate Classical Arabic I  Kevin Butts
Introduction to classical Arabic, with emphasis on grammar to improve analytical reading skills. Readings include Qur’anic passages, literary material in both poetry and prose, biographical entries, and religious texts. Prerequisite: ARBC 120 or permission of instructor. May be taken concurrently with ARBC 130 or 150.  L3 RP

ARBC 140b, Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic II  Staff
Continuation of ARBC 130. Prerequisite: ARBC 130 or requisite score on a placement test.  L4 RP  1½ Course cr

ARBC 146b, Intermediate Classical Arabic II  Shawkat Toorawa
Continuation of ARBC 136. Prerequisite: ARBC 136 or permission of instructor. May be taken concurrently with ARBC 140 or 151.  L4 RP

* ARBC 150a, Advanced Modern Standard Arabic I  Staff
Further development of listening, writing, and speaking skills. For students who already have a substantial background in Modern Standard Arabic. Prerequisite: ARBC 140 or requisite score on a placement test.  L5 RP

* ARBC 151b, Advanced Modern Standard Arabic II  Sarab Al Ani
Continuation of ARBC 150. Prerequisite: ARBC 150 or requisite score on a placement test.  L5 RP

* ARBC 162a / MMES 262a, Modern Arabic Political Thought  Sarab Al Ani
Works by influential Arab thinkers, leaders, and politicians who represent liberal nationalism, Arab nationalism, Islamism, and critiques of contemporary Arab society. Ways in which the authors use language both to portray their beliefs and to shape new social concepts in the Arab world. Prerequisite: ARBC 151 or equivalent, or with permission of the instructor.  L5 RP

* ARBC 176b / MMES 178b, Languages in Dialogue: Arabic and Hebrew  Sarab Al Ani
Arabic and Hebrew are closely related as sister Semitic languages. They have a great degree of grammatical, morphological, and lexical similarity. Historically, Arabic and Hebrew have been in cultural contact, especially in medieval Spain, the Middle East, and North Africa – as evidenced by the Judeo-Arabic languages. Arabic is the native tongue of about 20% of the population that resides in Israel, yet lack of communication exists today between Hebrew speakers and Arabic speakers. This L5 advanced Arabic class explores cultural and linguistic contacts between the two languages as well as parallel aspects between the communities. Additionally, students benefit from regular meetings with a corresponding L5 Hebrew class, which discusses similar topics. The shared meetings enable Arabic learners and Hebrew learners to participate together in one class, to bring to light the similarities between the two sister languages and to explore key social
issues based on mutual respect while focusing on cultural and linguistic aspects of the material. L5 in Arabic, or equivalent (placement test). L5

**ARBC 193a, Moroccan Arabic**  Jonas Elbousty
A basic course in the Moroccan dialect of Arabic. Principles of grammar and syntax; foundations for conversation and listening comprehension. Prerequisite: ARBC 130 or equivalent. RP

**ARMENIAN**

**ARMN 450a, Classical Armenian I**  Kayla Dang
This is an introduction to Classical Armenian, an ancient literary language used from the fifth century onward. Students cover all the essential grammar in one term and begin reading texts. L1

**ARMN 451b, Classical Armenian II**  Kayla Dang
Introduction to reading Classical Armenian texts from a variety of genres for students who have acquired the basics of Classical Armenian grammar. Prerequisite: NELC 450 or permission of instructor. L2

**EGYPTIAN**

**EGYP 110a, Introduction to Classical Hieroglyphic Egyptian I**  Gaelle Chantrain
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. L1

**EGYP 117a, Elementary Biblical Coptic I**  Kavya Bhat
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 127. L1 RP

**EGYP 120b, Introduction to Classical Hieroglyphic Egyptian II**  Gaelle Chantrain
Continuation of EGYP 110. Prerequisite: EGYP 110. L2 RP

**EGYP 127b, Elementary Biblical Coptic II**  Stephen Davis
Continued study of 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. Prerequisite: EGYP 117. L2 RP

* **EGYP 128a / AFST 128a / ARCG 128a / NELC 129a / RLST 251a, Magic and Ritual in Ancient Egypt and the Near East**  John Darnell
Introduction to ancient Egyptian magic and rituals with an overview on the use of magic and discussion of the different rituals and festivals attested in Ancient Egypt and the Near East. HU

* **EGYP 131a, Intermediate Egyptian: Literary Texts**  John Darnell
Close reading of Middle Egyptian literary texts; introduction to the hieratic (cursive) Egyptian script. Readings include the Middle Kingdom stories of Sinuhe and the Eloquent Peasant and excerpts from Wisdom Literature. Prerequisite: EGYP 120. L3 RP

* **EGYP 135b, Egyptian Coffin Texts**  John Darnell
Readings of the religious texts of Middle Kingdom coffins. Focus on creation accounts, the Shu texts, spells of transformation, and the Book of the Two Ways. Readings in both normalized hieroglyphic transcription and original cursive hieroglyphic writing. Study of coffin panels in the collection of the Yale Art Gallery. Prerequisite: EGYP 120. L3, HU RP

**HEBREW**

**HEBR 110a, Elementary Modern Hebrew I**  Dina Roginsky
Introduction to the language of contemporary Israel, both spoken and written. Fundamentals of grammar; extensive practice in speaking, reading, and writing under the guidance of a native speaker. L1 1½ Course cr

**HEBR 120b, Elementary Modern Hebrew II**  Orit Yeret
Continuation of HEBR 110. Introduction to the language of contemporary Israel, both spoken and written. Fundamentals of grammar; extensive practice in speaking, reading, and writing under the guidance of a native speaker. Prerequisite: HEBR 110 or equivalent. L2 RP 1½ Course cr

* **HEBR 130a, Intermediate Modern Hebrew I**  Shiri Goren
Review and continuation of grammatical study, leading to a deeper understanding of style and usage. Focus on selected readings and on writing, comprehension, and speaking skills. Prerequisite: HEBR 120 or equivalent. L3 RP 1½ Course cr

* **HEBR 137a, Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I**  Emilie Amar-Zifkin
Review and continuation of grammatical study leading to a deeper comprehension of biblical Hebrew style. Focus on extended reading of biblical narrative, poetry, prophecy, and Wisdom texts. Prerequisite: HEBR 127 or equivalent. L3 RP

**HEBR 140b, Intermediate Modern Hebrew II**  Orit Yeret
Continuation of HEBR 130. Review and continuation of grammatical study leading to a deeper comprehension of style and usage. Focus on selected readings and on writing, comprehension, and speaking skills. Prerequisite: HEBR 130 or equivalent. L4 RP

* **HEBR 147b, Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II**  Staff
Continuation of HEBR 137. Prerequisite: HEBR 137 or equivalent. L4 RP
* HEBR 150a / JDST 213a / MMES 150a, Advanced Modern Hebrew: Daily Life in Israel  Orit Yeret
An examination of major controversies in Israeli society. Readings include newspaper editorials and academic articles as well as
documentary and historical material. Advanced grammatical structures are introduced and practiced. Conducted in Hebrew. Prerequisite: HEBR 140 or equivalent.  
1½ Course cr  

* HEBR 158b / JDST 305b / MMES 168b, Contemporary Israeli Society in Film  Shiri Goren
Examination of major themes in Israeli society through film, with emphasis on language study. Topics include migration, gender
and sexuality, Jewish/Israeli identity, and private and collective memory. Readings in Hebrew and English provide a sociohistorical
background and bases for class discussion. HEBR 140 or permission of instructor.  
1½  HU  RP

* HEBR 164b / JDST 417b / MMES 167b, Biblical to Modern Hebrew for Reading Knowledge  Dina Roginsky
Instruction in the linguistic needs of students who have reading knowledge of Biblical Hebrew but cannot read or converse in Modern
Hebrew. Concentration on reading comprehension of Modern Hebrew for research purposes, particularly scholarly texts tailored to
students’ areas of interest. Two years of Biblical or Modern Hebrew studies, or permission of the instructor.  
RP

* HEBR 167a / JDST 402a / MMES 166a, Creative Writing in Hebrew  Orit Yeret
An advanced language course with focus on creative writing and self-expression. Students develop knowledge of modern Hebrew, while
elevating writing skills based on special interests, and in various genres, including short prose, poetry, dramatic writing, and journalism.
Students engage with diverse authentic materials, with emphasis on Israeli literature, culture, and society. Prerequisite: HEBR 140 or
placement exam.  
1½ RP

* HEBR 169b / JDST 403b / MMES 162b, Languages in Dialogue: Hebrew and Arabic  Dina Roginsky
Hebrew and Arabic are closely related as sister Semitic languages. They have a great degree of grammatical, morphological, and lexical
similarity. Historically, Hebrew and Arabic have been in cultural contact, especially in medieval Spain, the Middle East, and North Africa
—as evidenced by the Judeo-Arabic languages. In modern Israel, Arabic is the native tongue of about 20% of its population, yet lack
of communication exists today between Hebrew speakers and Arabic speakers for mainly political reasons. This L5 advanced Hebrew
class explores cultural and linguistic contacts between the two languages and relationships between the communities, including both
Jewish and non-Jewish Arabic speakers and Hebrew speakers. Additionally, students benefit from regular meetings with a parallel L5
Arabic class which discusses similar topics. The shared meetings enable Hebrew learners and Arabic learners to participate together in
one class, to promote social interaction based on mutual respect and to focus on cultural and linguistic aspects of the material. L4 Hebrew
or equivalent (placement test).  
1½

OTTOMAN TURKISH

Students wishing to study Ottoman Turkish should consult the director of undergraduate studies.

PERSIAN

PERS 110a, Elementary Persian I  Farkhondeh Shayesteh
Introduction to modern Persian, with emphasis on all four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.  
1 ½ Course cr  

PERS 120b, Elementary Persian II  Farkhondeh Shayesteh
Continuation of PERS 110, with emphasis on all four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Prerequisite: PERS 110 or
permission of instructor.  
1½  RP  1½ Course cr  

PERS 130a, Intermediate Persian I  Farkhondeh Shayesteh
Continuation of PERS 120, with emphasis on expanding vocabulary and understanding more complex grammatical forms and syntax.
Prerequisite: PERS 120 or permission of instructor.  
1½  RP  1½ Course cr  

PERS 140b, Intermediate Persian II  Farkhondeh Shayesteh
Continuation of PERS 130, with emphasis on expanding vocabulary and understanding more complex grammatical forms and syntax.
Prerequisite: PERS 130 or permission of instructor.  
1½  RP  1½ Course cr  

* PERS 150a, 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.  
1½

SYRIAC

Students wishing to study Syriac should consult the director of undergraduate studies.

TURKISH

TKSH 110a, Elementary Modern Turkish I  Selim Tiryakiol
Integration of basic listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills through a variety of functional, meaningful, and contextual activities.
Students become active users of modern Turkish and gain a deeper understanding of Anatolian culture through lessons based on real-life
situations and authentic materials.  
1 ½ Course cr  

TKSH 120b, Elementary Modern Turkish II  Selim Tiryakiol
Continuation of TKSH 110. Prerequisite: TKSH 110 or permission of instructor.  
1½  1½ Course cr
**TKSH 130a, Intermediate Turkish I**  Selim Tiryakiol

Continued study of modern Turkish, with emphasis on advanced syntax, vocabulary acquisition, and the beginnings of free oral and written expression. Prerequisite: TKSH 120 or permission of instructor.  L3  1½ Course cr

**TKSH 140b, Intermediate Turkish II**  Selim Tiryakiol

Continuation of TKSH 130. Prerequisite: TKSH 130.  L4  1½ Course cr

**Senior Essay**

* NELC 471a, Directed Reading and Research  Shawkat Toorawa

For students who wish to pursue a topic or body of texts not available in the department’s regular curriculum. Approval of the plan of study by both the director of undergraduate studies and a member of the department who agrees to serve as instructor is required. Student and instructor meet regularly throughout the term. The course culminates in either a piece of written work or a final examination.

* NELC 492a and NELC 493b, The Senior Essay  Jonas Elbousty

Preparation of a research paper of at least thirty pages (sixty pages for a two-term essay) under the supervision of a departmental faculty member, in accordance with the following schedule: (1) by the end of the second week of classes of the fall term, students meet with advisers to discuss the topic, approach, sources, and bibliography of the essay. Note: students planning to write the essay in the second term (NELC 493) should also meet with their prospective advisers by this deadline; (2) by the end of the fourth week of classes a prospectus with outline, including an annotated bibliography of materials in one or more Near Eastern languages and of secondary sources, is signed by the adviser and submitted to the director of undergraduate studies. The prospectus should indicate the formal title, scope, and focus of the essay, as well as the proposed research method, including detailed indications of the nature and extent of materials in a Near Eastern language that will be used; (3) at the end of the tenth week of classes (end of February for yearlong essays), a rough draft of the complete essay is submitted to the adviser; (4) two copies of the finished paper must be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies, Rm 314 HGS, by 4 p.m. on the last day of reading period. Failure to comply with the deadline will be penalized by a lower grade. Senior essays will be graded by departmental faculty unless, for exceptional reasons, different arrangements for an outside reader are made in advance with the director of undergraduate studies and the departmental adviser.

**GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COURSES OF INTEREST TO UNDERGRADUATES**

Some Graduate School courses are open to qualified undergraduates with permission of the instructor and of the director of graduate studies. For course descriptions see the Online Course Information Website. (Also see “Courses in the Yale Graduate and Professional Schools” under “Special Arrangements” in the Academic Regulations.)