NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS

Humanities Quadrangle, 203.432.2944
http://nelc.yale.edu
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Chair
Nadine Moeller

Director of Graduate Studies
Kevin van Bladel

Professors  John Darnell, Benjamin Foster, Eckart Frahm, Nadine Moeller, Shawkat Toorawa, Kevin van Bladel, Harvey Weiss

Senior Lecturers and Senior Lectors  Sarab Al Ani, Muhammad Aziz, Gojko Barjamovic, Jonas Elbousty, Shiri Goren, Randa Muhammed, Dina Roginsky, Farkhondeh Shayesteh, Kathryn Slanski, Orit Yeret

Lecturers and Lectors  Ozgen Felek, Agnete Lassen, Gregory Marouard, Jane Mikkelson, Vincent Morel, Klaus Wagensongner, M. Ezgi Yalcin

FIELDS OF STUDY
Fields include Arabic Humanities, Assyriology, the Classical Near East, and Egyptology.

SPECIAL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS
Applicants should state their specific field of study and intended specialization. Evidence of reading knowledge of both French and German is required of all Ph.D. students. Proficiency in one of these languages is normally a prerequisite for admission and is demonstrated by passing a departmental examination upon registration at Yale. Proficiency in the second language must be achieved before admission to the second year of study. 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 course given by the French or German department at Yale (or the equivalent elsewhere, with the approval of the director of graduate studies [DGS]). 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 DGS. For students in the M.A. program, evidence of reading knowledge of either French or German is sufficient.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE
Coursework
The department normally requires that students take a minimum of twenty to twenty-three courses over three years. The minimum number depends on the area of specialization as follows: Arabic Humanities and Egyptology, twenty courses; Assyriology and Classical Near East, twenty-three courses. For all students, this
normally means five semesters of full course load (four courses per semester) followed by a sixth semester of reduced course load in preparation for the qualifying examinations. 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 yearlong courses with Honors per year. Students entering the program with an M.A. may ask that up to three graduate courses they took before arrival at Yale be counted toward the course requirement. If the request is approved by their adviser and the DGS, they can meet the requirement within two and a half years.

Of the required courses for graduate study, at least three quarters 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.

Committees

While doing coursework, 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 Humanities**  Arabic and one other Near Eastern language, typically Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish.

**Assyriology**  Sumerian and Akkadian.

**Classical Near East**  Arabic and at least two of the following: Armenian, Aramaic (Babylonian or Syriac), Coptic, Greek, Hebrew, Middle Persian, New Persian, or Sanskrit.

**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 Humanities, 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 such departments and programs as Comparative Literature, French, History, History of Science and Medicine, Italian Studies, Judaic Studies, Linguistics,
Medieval Studies, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Spanish and Portuguese, or others as applicable.

Students in all four fields 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. Teaching Fellow assignments will be made by the DGS in consultation with the relevant faculty and will, whenever possible, take student preferences into account.

Examinations and the Dissertation

The qualifying 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. Students meeting the course requirement after five semesters may take the qualifying examination at the end of the fall term of their third year. Qualifying 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. Qualifying examinations may be based in part on reading lists of primary core texts and secondary literature compiled in advance by the student and the relevant faculty. Primary texts and secondary literature from course work may also be topics of the examination. For language examinations, unseen texts may also be included. In the case of the program in Arabic Humanities, for students electing to do a minor, the written portion will consist of two language examinations and one subject in the minor field, and the oral will consist of two subjects in Arabic studies and one in the minor field. Written examinations are set by the individual faculty members responsible for particular areas of study, but the oral portion may be conducted by the full staff of the department. The dissertation proposal is normally submitted one month after completing the qualifying examination.

In their final term of course work, students may, with the permission of the DGS and the relevant faculty, enroll in a directed readings course related to the general field of the prospective dissertation topic. Coursework should include preparation of a comprehensive, annotated bibliography for the prospective topic and exploration of selected aspects of the topic in a research paper. Students availing themselves of this option may 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 The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations occasionally admits students to pursue a terminal M.A. degree. No financial aid is available. Students enrolled in the M.A. program must complete a minimum of twelve term courses, with an average of High Pass and at least two grades of Honors.

Students in the Ph.D. program who leave the program prior to completion of the doctoral degree may be eligible to receive the terminal M.A. degree upon completion of a minimum of twelve courses, with an average of High Pass and at least two grades of Honors. Automatic petition for the M.A. degree is not available to students in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.