

# Near Eastern Studies

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**College of Letters and Science** (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

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**Department Website: Near Eastern Studies** (<http://neareastern.berkeley.edu>)

## Related Course Descriptions:

**Arabic courses** (<http://bulletin.berkeley.edu/archive/2013-14/courses/arabic>)

**Cuneiform courses** (<http://bulletin.berkeley.edu/archive/2013-14/courses/cuneif>)

**Egyptian courses** (<http://bulletin.berkeley.edu/archive/2013-14/courses/egypt>)

**Hebrew courses** (<http://bulletin.berkeley.edu/archive/2013-14/courses/hebrew>)

**Iranian courses** (<http://bulletin.berkeley.edu/archive/2013-14/courses/iranian>)

**Persian courses** (<http://bulletin.berkeley.edu/archive/2013-14/courses/persian>)

**Semitic courses** (<http://bulletin.berkeley.edu/archive/2013-14/courses/semitic>)

**Turkish courses** (<http://bulletin.berkeley.edu/archive/2013-14/courses/turkish>)

## Overview

Instruction in the Department of Near Eastern Studies is concerned with the languages, literatures, and civilizations of the ancient, medieval, and modern Near East. The department offers specialized training in archaeology, art history, Assyriology, Egyptology, Iranian studies, Judaic and Islamic studies, comparative Semitics, Turkish, Hebrew, Arabic, and Persian. For students in other disciplines, the department provides a wide variety of courses to supplement such related fields as anthropology, linguistics, art history, history, political science, comparative literature, and folklore. Lecture courses offered by the department present a comprehensive body of information on past and present Near Eastern civilizations. Many of the courses taught in the department are restricted to a small number of students and thus afford an opportunity for close interaction with the instructing staff.

For a description of interdisciplinary graduate programs in which the department participates, please see the Graduate Education (<http://catalog.berkeley.edu/education.html>) section of this Bulletin.

Cooperative arrangements between the University and the nearby Graduate Theological Union enable students in the department to use the extensive library holdings of the Union and supplement their programs with selected courses in Palestinian archaeology, Biblical studies, and Semitic epigraphy and philology.

## The Majors

**Note:** NES 10 is required for all majors in the department. All courses used to meet upper division major requirements must be at least three units and taken for a letter grade.

### The Major in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures

Major guidelines for each discipline are available in the departmental office. With the consent of the department, portions of the requirements may be fulfilled by related courses in other departments.

- **Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian:** *Required:* the elementary courses in the language, or their equivalents. It is recommended that these be taken beginning in the freshman year.

The major requires NES 10 and 24-28 units in upper division language and literature courses (taught in the language) and upper division NES courses (taught in English).

- **Egyptology:** The major requires NES 10 and 30 units in upper division language and lecture courses.

### The Major in Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern Art and Archaeology

- **Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archaeology:** NES 10 and 15 are required. NES 18, 25 and Anthropology 2 are recommended. Students must complete eight upper division courses from a list of courses in the department office. If, and only if, the courses listed are not available during the students' junior and senior years, the students may select any language or lecture course in the field of ancient Near Eastern Studies with the approval of the undergraduate adviser.
- **Egyptian Art and Archaeology:** This emphasis requires that students take NES 10, 18, 102A-102B, and Egyptian 100A-100B, 101A-101B. NES 15 and Anthropology 2 are highly recommended. In addition, students must take two upper division courses from a list available in the department office. Some background in French, German, and/or Arabic is recommended.

### The Major in Near Eastern Civilizations

- **Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations:** This emphasis requires NES 10; one course from NES 15, 18, 25, or 34; and eight upper division courses from a list available in the department office. Up to two courses on the list for Islamic Civilizations may be substituted with the approval of the NES department undergraduate adviser.
- **Islamic Civilizations:** NES 10 is required. NES C26 and C92 are recommended. Students must complete nine upper division courses in the areas of Religion, History and Culture, Arts and Literature, and Near Eastern languages, from a list available in the department office. Up to two courses on the list for Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations may be substituted with the approval of the NES department undergraduate adviser.

## Honors Program

With the consent of the undergraduate adviser, a student with an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 or higher and a GPA of 3.51 or higher in courses completed in the major may apply for admission to the honors program. The requirements of this program include the completion of the honors thesis during the student's senior year. For a complete description of the program, please inquire at the department office.

## The Minors

In each of the language minor programs, Option A is open to students with little or no background in the language. Option B is for students

who have completed the equivalent of two years of university-level coursework in the language. Students may pursue the major in Ancient Near Eastern archaeology and art history and a minor in one of the department's language programs, even though both are administered by the Department of Near Eastern Studies; students may *not* pursue a major in one of the Near Eastern Studies languages and a minor in another. Students may pursue the major in Near Eastern languages and literatures and a minor in Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern civilizations. For lists of courses which may be taken to fulfill the minor course requirements, please inquire at the department office.

**The Minor in Arabic, Option A:** *Required courses:* Arabic 20A-20B (in addition to Arabic 1A-1B). *Five upper division courses:* Arabic 100A; two one-semester literature courses (in Arabic); two one-semester courses in Arabic culture/history.

**The Minor in Arabic, Option B:** *Required courses:* *Seven upper division courses:* five one-semester courses in Arabic language or literature (in Arabic); two one-semester courses in Arabic culture/history.

**The Minor in Hebrew, Option A:** *Required courses:* Hebrew 20A-20B (in addition to Hebrew 1A-1B). *Five upper division courses:* Hebrew 100A-100B, Hebrew 104A-104B; a one-semester course in Hebrew culture/history.

**The Minor in Hebrew, Option B:** *Required courses:* *Seven upper division courses:* five one-semester courses in Hebrew language or literature (in Hebrew); two one-semester courses in Hebrew culture/history.

**The Minor in Persian, Option A:** *Required courses:* Persian 1A-1B. *Five upper division courses:* Persian 100A-100B; Persian 101A-101B; a one-semester course in Persian culture/history.

**The Minor in Persian, Option B:** *Required courses:* *Seven upper division courses:* five one-semester courses in Persian literature (in Persian); two one-semester courses in Persian culture/history.

**The Minor in Turkish, Option A:** *Required courses:* Turkish 1A-1B. *Five upper division courses:* Turkish 100A-100B; Turkish 101A-101B or Turkish 102A-102B; a one-semester course in Turkish culture/history.

**The Minor in Turkish, Option B:** *Required courses:* *Seven upper division courses:* five one-semester courses in Turkish literature (in Turkish); two one-semester courses in Turkish culture/history.

**The Minor in Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern Civilizations:** *Required courses:* NES 15 or 18, and five semesters of upper division courses chosen from a list available at the department office. NES 25 and 34 are recommended.

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## Graduate Programs

Graduate programs leading to the MA and PhD degrees are offered in the following languages and literatures: Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian. The same degrees are also offered in the following fields of Near Eastern Studies: archaeology, art history, cuneiform, Biblical and Judaic studies, Old Iranian studies, comparative Semitics, Egyptology, and Islamic studies.

## Graduate Degrees

Applicants for graduate study should have fulfilled the equivalent of the departmental requirements for the BA in their proposed area of study. The department encourages its own graduate students to take advantage

of courses in other departments which are relevant to their disciplines and fields of study. Upon approval by the graduate adviser, such courses may be recognized as fulfilling portions of the departmental coursework requirements for graduate degrees.

## The MA Degree

The MA is obtained according to the Graduate Division's Plan II. A complete description of Graduate Division requirements for this degree is found in the Graduate Education section of this catalog. In addition to the requirements outlined for Plan II, students must pass a reading examination in either French or German (another language may be substituted on approval of the major adviser).

Plan II requires at least 24 units of coursework. For students in the language programs, at least 12 of their 24 units must be in 200-series courses in the major and three semesters of work in a Near Eastern language other than the student's major language. For students in archaeology and art history programs with a Near Eastern emphasis, at least 12 of the 24 units must be in 200-series courses and three semesters must be drawn from NES 220A-220B and 223A-223B. For students in archaeology and art history programs with an Egyptian emphasis, at least 12 of the 24 units must be in 200-series courses, and the required 24 units must include two semesters of work in the ancient Egyptian language beyond the second-year level. The 12 200-series units must be from seminar courses (one 200-level Egyptian language course may count toward the seminar requirement). Two scholarly papers written independently or in connection with coursework will also be required. Written comprehensive examinations are required of all students to test working knowledge of pertinent languages; general knowledge of the history and civilization of area of emphasis; knowledge of other subjects suggested by the student's degree committee.

## The PhD Degree

Students must have completed an appropriate MA program to be eligible for the PhD program. Admission to candidacy for the PhD degree depends on successful completion of the following requirements:

1. PhD coursework
2. Reading examinations in French and German (proficiency in a European or other modern language germane to the student's field of emphasis may be substituted on approval of the graduate adviser and the student's advisory committee)
3. Proficiency in one or two Near Eastern languages, as required for the student's field of study (For language majors, proficiency will be tested through the written preliminary examinations, which will cover at least two Near Eastern languages. For Egyptian archaeology and art history majors, proficiency will be tested through a written examination in Egyptian and/or Coptic which must be completed and passed no later than the semester before the student's qualifying examination. Archaeology and art history student's (except those in Egyptian archaeology) who have not completed a minimum of two years of coursework in an ancient or modern Near Eastern language must pass a proficiency examination in an ancient or modern Near Eastern language before taking the preliminary examinations.)
4. Fieldwork (for art history and archaeology majors)
5. Written preliminary examination and the oral qualifying examination
6. A prospectus of the dissertation approved by the student's proposed PhD dissertation committee

After admission to candidacy, the student is to fulfill the requirements for the dissertation as outlined in the Graduate Education (<http://>

[bulletin.berkeley.edu/archive/2013-14/graduateeducation](http://bulletin.berkeley.edu/archive/2013-14/graduateeducation)) section of this Bulletin.

For further information on the graduate programs, please refer to the following page ([http://nes.berkeley.edu/graduate\\_study.html](http://nes.berkeley.edu/graduate_study.html)) .

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## Special Programs

### The Graduate Program in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology

This program is available to students with backgrounds in ancient history and archaeology. The ancient studies faculty of the Department of Near Eastern Studies are faculty for this program. See the AHMA (<http://bulletin.berkeley.edu/archive/2013-14/departmentsandsubjects/ancienthistoryandmediterraneanarchaeology>) section in this Bulletin (<http://bulletin.berkeley.edu/archive/2013-14/departmentsandsubjects/ancienthistoryandmediterraneanarchaeology>) for a full description of this program.

### NE STUD R1A Reading and Composition in Near Eastern Studies 4 Units

**Department:** Near Eastern Studies

**Course level:** Undergraduate

**Terms course may be offered:** Fall, spring and summer

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Hours and format:** 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of conference per week. 8 hours of lecture/conference per week for 6 weeks. 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of conference per week. 8 hours of lecture/conference per week for 6 weeks.

**Prerequisites:** UC Entry Level Writing Requirement or UC Analytical Writing Placement Exam. 1A is prerequisite to 1B.

Expository writing based on analysis of selected texts or literatures in translation or writings interpreting the material culture of the ancient Near or modern Middle East. Specific topics vary with instructor. R1A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and R1B satisfies the second half.

Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

### NE STUD R1B Reading and Composition in Near Eastern Studies 4 Units

**Department:** Near Eastern Studies

**Course level:** Undergraduate

**Terms course may be offered:** Fall, spring and summer

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Hours and format:** 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of conference per week. 8 hours of lecture/conference per week for 6 weeks. 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of conference per week. 8 hours of lecture/conference per week for 6 weeks.

**Prerequisites:** UC Entry Level Writing Requirement or UC Analytical Writing Placement Exam. 1A is a prerequisite to 1B.

Expository writing based on analysis of selected texts or literatures in translation or writings interpreting the material culture of the ancient Near or modern Middle East. Specific topics vary with instructor. R1A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and R1B satisfies the second half.

Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

### NE STUD 10 Introduction to the Near East 4 Units

**Department:** Near Eastern Studies

**Course level:** Undergraduate

**Terms course may be offered:** Fall, spring and summer

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Hours and format:** 10 hours of lecture/discussion per week for 6 weeks. The background and present status of the ethnic and religious groups in the Arab states, Turkey, Israel, and Iran.

### NE STUD 15 Introduction to Near Eastern Art and Archaeology 4 Units

**Department:** Near Eastern Studies

**Course level:** Undergraduate

**Terms course may be offered:** Fall, spring and summer

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Hours and format:** 3 hours of Lecture and 1 hour of Discussion per week for 15 weeks. 8 hours of Lecture and 2 hours of Discussion per week for 6 weeks.

The ancient Near East (present-day Iran, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, and Turkey) is considered the cradle of civilization. Here in Mesopotamia and its neighboring regions, the first cities arose, writing was invented, armies forged the earliest empires, and complex religious beliefs were expressed in art and architecture. This course surveys the major archaeological sites and monuments from the earliest settlements to the conquest of the Near East by Alexander the Great in 330 BCE.

Instructor: Feldman

### NE STUD N16 Introduction to Islamic Art 4 Units

**Department:** Near Eastern Studies