

Near Eastern Studies

The Department of Near Eastern Studies offers programs in four main areas: Egyptology, Assyriology, Northwest Semitic Languages and Literatures, including the Hebrew Bible, and Near Eastern Archaeology. A concentration in Ancient Law is also possible. The department approaches Near Eastern civilizations primarily through their own records, and language study is therefore an important part of the curriculum. However, many undergraduate courses require no knowledge of foreign languages and any interested student may take them.

The Faculty

Betsy M. Bryan, Professor, Alexander Badawy Chair in Egyptian Art and Archaeology: Egyptian art and archaeology, Egyptology.

Jerrold S. Cooper, W.W. Spence Professor in Semitic Languages: Assyriology.

Richard Jasnow, Professor: Egyptology.

Theodore J. Lewis, Blum-Iwry Professor (Chair): Hebrew Bible, Northwest Semitic philology and religion.

P. Kyle McCarter Jr., Professor, William Foxwell Albright Chair in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies: Hebrew Bible, Northwest Semitic philology.

Glenn M. Schwartz, Professor, Whiting Professorship of Archaeology: Near Eastern archaeology.

Raymond Westbrook, Professor: ancient and biblical law, Assyriology.

Adjunct, Emeritus

Vivian Braun, Lecturer: modern Hebrew..

Hans Goedicke, Professor Emeritus.

Ann Gunter, Adjunct Associate Professor: Near Eastern art history.

Georg Krotkoff, Professor Emeritus.

Susan McCarter, Adjunct Assistant Professor: prehistory.

Ellen Robbins, Lecturer.

Melinda Zeder, Adjunct Professor: Near Eastern archaeology.

Facilities

The university's Milton S. Eisenhower Library contains an outstanding collection of books and journals in the branches of Near Eastern studies pursued by the department. The Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum has a collection of Near Eastern antiquities, including excellent study collections of Egyptian artifacts and Palestinian pot-

tery. The Baltimore-Washington area is especially rich in library and museum facilities. Of special interest to students of the Near East are the Walters Art Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Library of Congress.

Undergraduate Programs

The ancient Near East is where history begins. It is where the first crops were sown, the first towns built, and where writing was first invented. The origins of Western culture are to be found in its great civilizations, from the three great monotheistic religions—Christianity, Islam, and Judaism—to everyday aspects of our life that we take for granted, such as the alphabet and marking time by hours and minutes. The Near Eastern studies major can be the focal point of a broad liberal arts education, as well as a basis for graduate study. An undergraduate major can specialize in one of the four main areas mentioned above or in the civilizations of the ancient Near East in general. The student can also major in ancient history, in conjunction with courses in other departments.

Requirements for the B.A. Degree

(See also General Requirements for Departmental Majors, page 47.)

All students majoring in Near Eastern studies must take two years of one Near Eastern language and at least six additional courses. Four of these should be from the Ancient Near Eastern Cycle (130.300-303) or be equivalent courses tailored to the student's individual interests and needs in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. The student and adviser will devise a program tailored to the student's interests and needs and may concentrate in history, language, archaeology, or law.

Students intending to continue at graduate level should acquire a reading knowledge of German or French or both. Qualified undergraduates may be admitted to 600-level courses. The department regularly offers Freshman Seminar courses that introduce various aspects of Near Eastern studies. These courses are particularly important for students who wish to consider Near Eastern studies as their major.

Ancient Law Minor

The minor is a combined program of the Classics and Near Eastern Studies departments. The minimum requirement is 18 credits, all in courses at 300-level or higher. The distribution requirement

is three survey courses in ancient law, two survey courses in ancient history/civilization, and one course in an aspect of modern law or legal theory (e.g., Constitutional Law, Law and Psychology, Philosophy of Law).

For students interested in learning an ancient language, an alternative configuration is possible: two semesters of a language (Akkadian, Biblical Hebrew, Egyptian, Greek, or Latin), three courses in ancient law, and one course in ancient history/civilization.

The minor is directed by Professor Raymond Westbrook (Near Eastern Studies): rwestb@jhu.edu.

Graduate Program

The graduate program, the oldest of its kind in the nation, is designed to train professional scholars and teachers in the above-mentioned areas. The courses listed below may be modified in particular years to suit the needs of students currently in residence. Reading and private study under the direction of the faculty are considered as important as work in class. The seminars allow small groups of students and faculty to engage in close study of special problems. As the program is intended to lead to the Ph.D., students are admitted as candidates for the M.A. only in unusual cases.

Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree

Students working full time toward the Ph.D. may expect to do three to four years of course work, after which comprehensive examinations must be written before work on the dissertation begins.

The examinations cover a student's major and minor fields of concentration. After passing these examinations, the student, in consultation with the faculty, prepares a dissertation proposal for faculty consideration and then proceeds to write the dissertation.

An ability to read scholarly French and German is necessary, and an examination in one of these must be passed within the first semester of residence at Hopkins. The examination in the other may be delayed not more than one year. Some command of Greek and Latin is necessary to pursue biblical studies.

Financial Aid

The department awards most students admitted to the Ph.D. program who are in need of financial aid a basic annual fellowship covering full tuition and a full stipend for living expenses for up to five years. For some of this period, the department's support may take the form of a teaching assistantship. In addition, the period of support may be extended by the various competitive awards available to advanced students within the university. When appropriate, the department will award travel stipends for graduate students to participate in archaeological excavations in the Near East or visit collections in this country and abroad.

For further information on graduate study in Near Eastern Studies, visit the departmental Web site at www.jhu.edu/neareast.

Undergraduate Courses

The courses in Near Eastern civilizations listed below are open to all students in the university, as are the elementary language courses. Admission to advanced language courses requires approval by the instructor. Not all listed courses are offered in a given academic year.

Near Eastern Civilizations

130.101 (H) Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations

This course will review important issues in ancient Near Eastern history and culture from the Neolithic era to the Persian period, ca. 9000-330 B.C. Included will be an examination of some of the most momentous changes in human history: the Neolithic agricultural revolution; the emergence of cities, states, and writing; and the formation of vast multiethnic empires. Such cultures as Sumer and Akkad, Egypt, the Hittites, the Bronze and Iron Age societies of Syria-Palestine, and the empires of Assyria, Babylonia, and Persia will be discussed.
Schwartz 3 credits

130.102 (H,S) Introduction to Human Prehistory: From Neanderthals to the Neolithic

Emphasizing theories about human biological and cultural development, this course consists of an in-depth survey of Neanderthal morphology and culture, a brief discussion of evolutionary theory and our fossil ancestors, and concludes with an exploration of the mechanisms and results of the shift from hunting and gathering to farming.
S. McCarter 3 credits

130.110 (H,S) Introduction to Archaeology

An introduction to archaeology and to archaeological method and theory, exploring how archaeologists excavate, analyze, and interpret ancient remains in order to reconstruct how ancient societies functioned. Specific examples from a variety of archaeological projects in different parts of the world will be used to illustrate techniques and principles discussed.
Schwartz, S. McCarter 3 credits

130.115 (H,S) Introduction to Near Eastern Archaeology

The archaeology of ancient Near Eastern societies from Neolithic times until the Hellenistic period. Includes ancient Iraq, Iran, Syria, Anatolia, and the Holy Land.
Schwartz 3 credits

130.135 (H) Ancient Egyptian Civilization

Introduction to the monuments and culture of Egypt from 3500 B.C. to 100 A.D. From pyramids at Giza to Hellenistic Alexandria, this course surveys in slide illustrated lectures the remains of one of the world's greatest early cultures.
Bryan 3 credits

130.140 (H) Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

A critical and historical survey of the books of the Hebrew Bible (=Old Testament) giving primary attention to the religious ideas they contain and the ancient contexts in which they were composed. Topics include the Academic Study of Religion, Canaanite and Israelite Religion, Patriarchal Religion, the Exodus and Moses, Covenant, Tribalism and Monarchy, the Ideology of Kingship, Prophecy, Priestly Sources, Psalms, Wisdom Literature, and Apocalyptic Thought.

Lewis, McCarter 3 credits

130.300 (H,W) History of Ancient Mesopotamia (Sumer, Babylonia, Assyria)

Staff 3 credits

130.301-302 (H) History of Ancient Syria-Palestine, including Ancient Israel

A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Canaan, including ancient Israel.

McCarter 3 credits

130.304 (H) Art of the Ancient Near East

Surveys the history and development of art and architecture in Mesopotamia, Syria, Anatolia, and Iran, from about 6000 B.C. to the end of the Persian empire in 331 B.C. Emphasis is on understanding works of art in their social, religious, and political setting.

Gunter 3 credits

130.305 (H,S) Law in the Ancient World

A survey of the legal systems of the ancient Near East and of preclassical Greece and Rome from the earliest known records until the fifth century B.C. Comparison with modern legal concepts.

Westbrook 3 credits

130.306 (H,S) The Origins of Diplomacy

An examination of the early history of diplomacy, through the records of the ancient Near East between the third and first millennium B.C. The course will survey the background to ancient international relations—conceptions of sovereignty and imperialism, attitudes toward war and peace, the force of international law and treaties, and the role of diplomats and negotiation. Selected diplomatic exchanges will be analyzed, using original documents in translation.

Westbrook 3 credits

130.307 (H,W) Writing Systems of the World

An investigation of the phenomenon of writing, the circumstances of its invention, and its development and spread. The course examines various nonalphabetic (Cuneiform, Egyptian, Minoan, Mayan, Chinese) and alphabetic (Semitic, Greek, Latin, Indian, Korean) systems of writing, and theories of the origin of the alphabet. The differences between writing and other semiotic systems are explored.

Staff 3 credits

130.308 (H,W) Creation: Man, the Gods, and the Cosmos in Ancient Myth

Beginning with ancient Near Eastern myths relating the creation of human beings, the gods, and the cosmos, the course explores various theories of myth, compares the Near Eastern materials to ancient Greek accounts, and examines appropriate Asian and "primitive mythologies."

Staff 3 credits

130.310 (H,W) The Origins of Literature in Ancient Mesopotamia

Starting with the invention of writing around 3000 B.C., the course explores the early literary forms of the Sumerians, and the subsequent development of these forms by the Babylonians and Assyrians. Special attention is paid to the origin and development of the epic, culminating in the great Epic of Gilgamesh, but considerable time is also given to the vast mythological and historical literature, and such diverse genres as love poetry, proverbs, humorous dialogues, omens, and legal and medical texts. All readings are in English translation.

Staff 3 credits

130.311 (H,W) Gilgamesh: The World's First Epic Hero

An examination of the development of both the character of Gilgamesh and the composition of epic narrative in ancient Mesopotamia, beginning with the earliest Sumerian Gilgamesh stories of the third millennium B.C. The bulk of the course will consist of a close reading in English of the Akkadian *Gilgamesh* epic, focusing on its concerns with homosocial bonding, human sexuality, and mortality. Some attention will be paid to the influence of *Gilgamesh* on Greek epic, and the reception of *Gilgamesh* in the modern world since its recovery in the late 19th century.

Staff 3 credits

130.312 (H) Ancient Medicine

A study of medicine in the ancient Near Eastern and Aegean worlds, including an examination of the *practices* of medicine in these ancient societies but with primary emphasis given to *ideas* about health and disease. Readings are selected from primary sources in the writings of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel, Greece, and Rome. Topics treated include the sources of our knowledge; the nature of medical practitioners, medical treatment, and surgery; beliefs about disease and the etiology of illness; concepts of contagion and ritual purity. Special attention is given to Hippocratic medicine, the synthesis of Galen, and the rise of humoralism.

McCarter 3 credits

130.314 (Q) Math, Science, and Technology in the Ancient Near East

Course will focus on the origins of writing systems, mathematics, and astronomy in ancient Mesopotamia, as well as metallurgy, medicine, agriculture, and architecture.
Robbins 3 credits

130.322 (H) Law, Ethics, and Wisdom in Ancient Egypt

Many legal texts survive from ancient Egypt, such as contracts, mortgages, court records, and law codes. There is also a very vigorous tradition of wisdom literature composed by scribal sages, offering ethical and practical guidelines for the conduct of a person's life. In this course, we will read in translation literary texts as well as selected legal documents from the Old Kingdom through the Roman Period (ca. 2500 B.C.-200 A.D.). The goal will be to achieve an understanding of the central concepts of Egyptian law, ethics, and wisdom, and a broad familiarity with the primary evidence for these subjects.
Jasnow 3 credits

130.323 (H) History of Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt

This lecture course is a survey of the history, society, and culture of Graeco-Roman Egypt. We will concentrate on Ptolemaic Egypt (ca. 332-30 B.C.), but will also devote some time to Roman Egypt, especially to the subjects of the decline of paganism and spread of Christianity in Egypt.
Jasnow 3 credits

130.325 (H) Women in Ancient Egypt

A survey of literature and monuments which illustrate the roles of women in Egyptian society. One major focus is the legal status of women through all periods of ancient Egypt (3000 B.C.-100 A.D.). Included are the few women who ruled Egypt as pharaoh, as well as those whose position as priestesses made them nearly as powerful as the king.
Bryan 3 credits

130.326 (H) Egyptian Religion and Mythology

A survey of the Egyptian religion, including the national temple cults, personal pieties, and funerary cults. Sources for the various myths of creation and destruction will be read, along with documents relating to temple rituals.
Jasnow 3 credits

130.327 (H) Ancient Egyptian Painting

An investigation of the principles of representation and techniques of execution in Egyptian painting, ca. 2500 B.C.-100 B.C. Emphasis will be on an understanding of the cultural uses of painting as an art form and on how artisans were organized to create for the state and for individual patrons. A major part of the grade will be based on a visual discussion of a painted monument by each student.
Bryan 3 credits

130.328 (H) Ancient Egypt within Africa

Recent excavation and research have shed light on several ancient cultures of the Nile and its tributaries. We will look at the available archaeological and textual (all Egyptian) evidence for these societies and their interac-

tions with Egypt between 3500 and 300 B.C. We will also discuss research aims and methods employed now and in the past in Egypt and the Sudan.

Bryan 3 credits

130.329 (H) Ancient Egyptian Art

A survey of Egyptian art as seen in the temples, tombs, funerary, and minor arts of Egypt between 3000 and 100 B.C. Slide lectures will provide a survey of art from the pyramids to Augustus Caesar and will focus on such topics as the principles of Egyptian art; can the term *art* apply to early Egypt? How were artisans trained and what techniques and materials were utilized in their work?

Bryan 3 credits

130.333 (H) Egypt in the Amarna Period

This course surveys the history, art, society, and religion of the period between the reign of Amenhotep III and Tutankhamun, ca. 1400-1320 B.C., a time when a sweeping change in religious notions came to the forefront. Akhenaten, attributed with bringing a type of monotheism to Egypt, dominated the era, but such important other figures as Nefertiti, Horemheb, Ay, and "Tut" were also part of the landscape.

Bryan 3 credits

130.340-341 (H,S) The History of the Religion of Israel

A study of the origins of ancient Israelite religion, its emergence from and continuities with ancient West Semitic religion and culture. Students will be exposed to comparative and historical approaches for reconstructing this time period including the utilization of new sources of knowledge (e.g., Syro-Palestinian archaeology and epigraphy; neighboring ancient Near Eastern religions).
Lewis, McCarter 3 credits

130.343 (H) The Dead Sea Scrolls in English

A survey of the manuscripts found at Qumran and other sites near the Dead Sea.

McCarter 3 credits

130.350 (H) Issues in the Archaeology of the Near East

Selected problems are reviewed within a time span ranging from the Neolithic to the Hellenistic period. The focus is on the reasons for societal change (and societal stasis), with particular reference to transformations in social organization, economy, and ideology.

Schwartz 3 credits

130.351 (H,S) The Emergence of Civilization: A Cross-Cultural Examination

A comparative study of the origins of urban, literate civilizations in five culture areas: Mesopotamia, China, the Indus Valley, Egypt, and Mesoamerica. For each area, we will review the physical setting, the archaeological and textual evidence for the development of states and urban civilization, and theories advanced to explain the rise (and eventual collapse) of these complex societies.

Schwartz 3 credits

130.372 (H) Prophetic Literature of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

A survey of the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) as it is understood in its ancient Near Eastern cultural and historical context. Freshmen admitted with permission.

Lewis 3 credits

130.375 (H,S) Everyday Law in Biblical Israel

The Hebrew Bible contains not only religious rules but also many laws on mundane matters such as property and inheritance, marriage and divorce, contracts, injury and damage, and legal procedure. We will examine these laws from the viewpoint of a legal historian and try to reconstruct the legal system of biblical society.

Westbrook 3 credits

Near Eastern Languages**130.400-401 Introduction to Middle Egyptian**

(see 133.600-601 for the description)

Staff 3 credits

130.440-441 Elementary Biblical Hebrew

Survey of grammar and reading of simple texts. (Credit given only on completion of both semesters.) May not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

Staff 3 credits

130.442-443 (H) Reading of Hebrew Prose

Reading of Biblical Hebrew prose, especially from the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings.

Staff 3 credits

130.444-445 (H) Reading of Hebrew Poetry

An advanced course with readings from the Psalms, Proverbs, and poetical portions of the prophets.

McCarter, Lewis 3 credits

130.450-451 Elementary Modern Hebrew

Credit given only on completion of both semesters. May not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

Braun 3 credits

130.452-453 (H) Intermediate Modern Hebrew

Braun 3 credits

130.454-455 (H) Advanced Modern Hebrew

Braun 3 credits

130.500-501 Reading and Research

Staff 3 credits

Graduate Courses

Undergraduates may take these courses only with permission of the instructor.

General**130.650 Seminar in Near Eastern Religion**

Topic varies.

Staff

131.600-601 Seminar in Near Eastern History

A three-year history cycle required of all graduate students and forming the core of our graduate program. One year each will be devoted to Egyptian history, Mesopotamian history, and Syro-Palestinian history.

Staff

131.634-635 Seminar in Near Eastern Archaeology

Topic varies but can include the archaeology of Mesopotamia, Syria, or Palestine, or thematic discussions (e.g., on ideology, state collapse, etc.).

Schwartz

131.640 Seminar in Near Eastern Art

Gunter

131.800-801 Independent Reading and Research**131.848-849 Dissertation Research****Assyriology****132.600-601 Elementary Akkadian**

Undergraduates admitted to this course earn 4.5 credits per semester.

Staff

132.610-611 Old Babylonian Letters

Westbrook

132.620-621 Legal and Administrative Texts

Westbrook

132.630-631 Literary and Religious Texts

Staff

132.640-641 Historical Texts

Staff

132.644-645 Treaties and Diplomacy

Westbrook

132.650-651 Peripheral Akkadian

Includes texts from Amarna, Emar, Ugarit, Boghazkoi, Nuzi, Alalakh, and Elam.

Westbrook

132.660 Old Akkadian

Staff

132.670-671 Assyrian Dialects

Staff

132.680-681 Neo-Babylonian
Westbrook

132.690-691 Divination and Ritual Texts
Staff

132.700-701 Elementary Sumerian
Staff

132.710-711 Advanced Sumerian
Staff

132.720-721 Sumerian Legal Texts
Westbrook

132.752 Elementary Hittite
Westbrook

132.753 Advanced Hittite
Westbrook

132.800-801 Mesopotamian Seminar
Research and discussion on topics of current interest.
Schwartz, Westbrook

Egyptology and Coptic

133.600-601 Introduction to Middle Egyptian (Hieroglyphs)
Introduction to the grammar and writing system of the classical language of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (ca. 2011–1700 B.C.).
Jasnow

133.610-611 Middle Egyptian Texts
Bryan, Jasnow

133.620-621 Hieratic
Jasnow

133.630-631 Old Egyptian
Bryan

133.640-641 Late Egyptian
Jasnow

133.645 Seminar in Egyptian Law
Staff

133.646-647 Demotic
Jasnow

133.648-649 Coptic
Jasnow

133.656 Advanced Demotic
Jasnow

133.670-671 Seminar in Historical Research
Staff

133.700-701 Survey of Egyptian Archaeological Sites
Research and reading on a variety of sites characteristic of Egyptian periods and provincial cultures. Intended

to cover the dynastic period and nomes of Egypt in two semesters.
Bryan

133.720-721 Egyptian Art of the Old through Middle Kingdoms
Bryan

133.724-725 Egyptian Art of the Second Intermediate Period and the New Kingdom
Bryan

133.730 Egyptian Art of the Third Intermediate and Late Periods
Bryan

133.735 Egyptian Art of the Ptolemaic and Roman Periods
Bryan

133.750-751 Seminar in Egyptian Art and Archaeology
Bryan

Northwest Semitic Languages

134.602 Wisdom Literature of the Hebrew Bible
A study of the Hebrew text of Qohelet and/or the Book of Proverbs.
Lewis

134.604 The Book of Job
Reading the Hebrew text of the book of Job with attention to philology, textual criticism, and various aspects of interpretation.
Lewis

134.608 The Book of Ezekiel
A rapid reading course aimed at increasing proficiency in reading the Hebrew text of the book of Ezekiel. Various aspects of translation and interpretation will be studied (e.g., grammar, textual criticism, philology) including literary, historical, and theological questions.
Lewis

134.610-611 Historical Hebrew Grammar
Phonology and morphology of Biblical Hebrew.
McCarter

134.620-621 Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible
An introduction to the ancient witnesses of the biblical text and the principles of textual criticism.
McCarter

134.630-631 Qumran (Dead Sea) Texts
McCarter

134.640 Seminar in Biblical Law
Westbrook

134.644 Persian Period Texts from the Hebrew Bible
Readings taken from Second Isaiah, Ezra, Nehemiah, I-II Chronicles, Haggai, Zechariah, etc.
Lewis

134.650-651 Seminar in Hebrew or Northwest Semitic

Subject announced each year.

Lewis, McCarter

134.652 Seminar in Ancient Israelite Religion

Topics include history of scholarship, methodology, representations of deity, the aniconic tradition, solar Yahwism, sacred space, blood rituals, passover, royal cult, family religion, divination, prophecy, incantations, etc.

Lewis

134.700-701 Northwest Semitic Epigraphy

Introduction to epigraphic method and paleography; study of Phoenician, Hebrew, and Aramaic inscriptions.

Lewis, McCarter

134.720-721 Ugaritic

A year-long course studying Ugaritic language and literature. The first semester will focus on grammar and translating a representative selection of mythological texts.

The second semester will concentrate on ritual texts. The course will also be epigraphic in nature using both conventional and digital techniques.

Lewis

134.740-741 Biblical Aramaic

Grammar and reading of Daniel and Ezra, and as time permits, extrabiblical texts in Imperial Aramaic.

Lewis, McCarter

134.744 Survey of Aramaic Texts

Lewis, McCarter

134.780-781 Biblical Criticism Seminar

Research and discussion on the history of scholarship of the field as well as on topics of current interest.

Lewis, McCarter