

AS.130-134 (NEAR EASTERN STUDIES)

Courses

AS.130

AS.130.101. Ancient Middle Eastern Civilizations. 3 Credits.

Review of important issues in ancient Near Eastern history and culture from the Neolithic era to the Persian period. Included will be an examination of the Neolithic agricultural revolution, the emergence of cities, states and writing, and formation of empires. Cultures such as Sumer and Akkad, Egypt, the Hittites, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Persians will be discussed.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.119. Medicine in Ancient Egypt. 3 Credits.

A survey of medicine and medical practice in Egypt and, to a lesser extent, the ancient Near East in general. The abundant sources range from magical spells to surprisingly "scientific" treatises and handbooks. Readings are selected from translations of primary sources in the writings of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Israel. Topics will 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.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.124. Texts, Tablets, and Tweets: The Sociolinguistics of Writing. 3 Credits.

This course examines the evolution of writing and the relationship between speech and writing in ancient and modern societies. We will examine the ways in which orthography, scripts, and the visual components inherent to written language (e.g., scripts, fonts, emoticons, diacritics etc.) are used to create and/or project certain social identities in these new written spaces. A primary aim of this course is to generate discussion regarding the ways in which writing in all of its forms—at the institutional, group, and individual level, in official documents, in emails, texts, tweets, and graffiti, using standardized and non-standard orthographies, in both regulated and unregulated spaces—can be a social and often political act of identity. The writing assignments for the course will encourage you to consider the ways in which writing can be harnessed to express social identities. You will work as a group to develop your own writing system and present it to the class. This will hone your creative and critical thinking skills and give you practice collaborating on a project. You will also research and conduct an original analysis on a corpus of writing.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.126. Gods and Monsters in Ancient Egypt. 3 Credits.

A basic introduction to Egyptian Religion, with a special focus on the nature of the gods and how humans interact with them. We will devote particular time to the Book of the Dead and to the "magical" aspects of religion designed for protective purposes.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.136. History of Hasidism. 3 Credits.

Although it appears to be a relic of pre-modern Judaism, Hasidism is a phenomenon of the modern era of Jewish history. This course surveys the political and social history of the Hasidic movement over the course of the last three centuries. Students will also explore basic features of Hasidic culture and thought in their historical development. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.140. Hebrew Bible / Old Testament. 3 Credits.

The Bible is arguably the most read and yet most misinterpreted book of all time, one of the most influential and yet most misapplied work of literature. The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is Scripture to Jews and Christians yet also a rich collection of literature w/ numerous literary genres that has been highly influential on secular Western culture. At its core, it is our most important literary source that (when wed with archaeology) helps us to understand the people and culture of Iron Age Israel and Judah. This is an introductory course surveying 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, Ancient Creation Accounts, Ancestral Religion, The Exodus and Moses, Covenant, Tribalism and Monarchy, The Ideology of Kingship, Prophecy, Priestly Sources, Psalms, Wisdom Literature, and Apocalyptic Thought.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.152. After Babylon: Mesopotamia from Athens to Anime. 3 Credits.

This course is an exploration of how ancient Mesopotamian art, literature, history, and culture have been transmitted from the fall of Babylon in 539 BCE to the present day and the ways in which they have been adapted and transformed along the way. While all aspects of ancient Mesopotamia will be under discussion, the course will principally focus on the narratives of Gilgamesh, Semiramis/Shammuramat, and Sardanapalus/Assurbanipal. After briefly introducing ancient Mesopotamia, we will see how the region and its history are portrayed in biblical, Classical, Quranic, and medieval sources. From there we will discuss the "rediscovery" of Mesopotamia and the decipherment of cuneiform. The latter half of the course will then be devoted to Mesopotamia in 20th and 21st century popular culture.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.153. A (Virtual) Visit to the Louvre Museum: Introduction to the Material Culture of Ancient Egypt. 3 Credits.

This course will present the Egyptological collections of the musée du Louvre in Paris, room by room, as in a real visit. From the Predynastic period, in the 4th millennium BC, to Roman time, the iconic "masterpieces" of this world-renowned art museum, as well as its little-known artifacts, will allow us to explore the history and material culture of ancient Egypt. We will also learn to observe, describe and analyze archaeological objects, in a global manner and without establishing a hierarchy between them, while questioning their place in the museum and its particular language. The objective will be to go beyond the objects themselves and answer, in fine, the following questions: What do these objects tell us about the men and women who produced them, exchanged them, used them, and lived among them in antiquity? What do they also reveal about those who discovered them in Egypt, several millennia later, about those who collected them and sometimes traded them, and what does this say about the relations between Egypt and the Western countries over time? The courses will be complemented by one visit to the JHAM and one visit to the Walters Art Museum; Dr. Aude Semat, curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York) will also give a lecture about the Egyptian Collections at the MET.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.154. Giving Birth and Coming to Life in Ancient Egypt: The Tree and the Fruit. 3 Credits.

Childbirth is an event that is highly cultural, and is accompanied by gestures and beliefs that say a lot about the society in which they can be observed. This class will be based on Ancient Egyptian texts (translated), images and objects related to beliefs and practices surrounding pregnancy, birth-giving and the first moments of human life. We will discover the Egyptian views on procreation, the objects, the spells and the formulas used to protect pregnancy and childbirth – one of the most dangerous moments in a woman's life –, the divine entities invoked, the reactions caused by non-ordinary births (for example, twins), and the purification rites that punctuate the post-partum period. Finally, we will see that the first biological birth is a model on which many beliefs about life after death are based. Several guest researchers will present birth and childbirth in other ancient societies in order to broaden the discussion and establish comparisons.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.170. Diplomacy and Conflict in the Ancient Middle East. 3 Credits.

The Middle East is home to the invention of agriculture, cities, and writing. It is also in the Middle East that we find evidence of humanity's earliest diplomatic activity in, for instance, the actual letters sent by ancient kings to one another, the treaties drawn up after their conflicts, and the inscriptions that commemorate their conquests. In this course, we examine texts such as these to explore questions such as: How do we characterize the international system of the ancient Middle East? Does this system change over the approximately two millennia for which we have documentation? Is it better to approach ancient diplomacy through present-day eyes or in the context of ancient world-views? Is an understanding of diplomacy in the ancient Middle East relevant to our understanding of modern international relations? All texts read in translation.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.177. World Prehistory: An Anthropological Perspective. 3 Credits.

How and why did our nomadic hunting and gathering ancestors become farmers? What led agricultural societies to build cities, develop writing, religious institutions, wage war, and trade for exotic goods? This course surveys prehistory and ancient history from the origins of human culture to the emergence civilization. Although prehistory and ancient history yield evidence of tremendous cultural diversity this course emphasizes common elements of past human experience, culture, and culture change. These include the origins of modern humans and their adjustment to a variety of post-ice age environments, shifts from hunting and gathering to agricultural lifeways, and the initial development of the world's earliest cities and civilizations.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.130.202. Ancient Mythology. 3 Credits.

This course explores the mythology of the ancient Near East from the invention of writing in Sumer in 3000 B.C. until the conquest of Alexander the Great near the end of the first millennium B.C. Mythological texts from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Anatolia, the Levant, and the Bible will be read from a comparative perspective. 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.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.203. Archaeology of Africa: From Human Origins to the Emergence of Civilizations. 3 Credits.

This course examines Africa's ancient past from the emergence of biologically modern humans, ancient hunter-gatherers, the earliest animal herding and farming populations, to cities and civilizations. While Egypt plays an undeniably central role in world history, this course concentrates in particular on ancient geographies other than Egypt.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.214. The Origins of Civilization: A Cross-Cultural Perspective. 3 Credits.

One of the most significant transformations in human history was the "urban revolution" in which cities, writing, and social classes formed for the first time. In this course, we compare five areas where this development occurred: China, Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, Egypt, and Mesoamerica (Mexico/Guatemala/Honduras/Belize). In each region, we review the physical setting, the archaeological and textual evidence, and the theories advanced to explain the rise (and eventual collapse) of these complex societies.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.130.216. History of the Jews in Pre-Modern Times, from the Middle Ages to 1789. 3 Credits.

A broad survey of the significant political and cultural dynamics of Jewish history in the Medieval, Early-Modern, and Modern Eras.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.223. Ancient Revolutions: The Archaeology of Culture Change. 3 Credits.

The last 250,000 years have seen many moments that could be referred to as “revolutions” in art, technology, or other aspects of human society. The “Human Revolution” of the Upper Paleolithic saw the birth of artistic ability and symbolic thinking in hominids. We call the transition from hunting and gathering to settled agriculture the “Neolithic Revolution,” while the “Urban Revolution” gave us complex societies and urban life. Times of dynamic change gave rise to important aspects of our shared behavioral and societal identity. They have become the subject not only of much archaeological investigation, but also of popular discourse about the human past. This class will explore famous cultural “revolutions” by looking at the causes and consequences of these important changes. We will evaluate the archaeological evidence, and through it interrogate the term “revolution” itself. What do we mean when we speak of “revolutions?” Are there other ways to think of past social and technological change, and when, if ever, do we truly see “revolutions” in the human condition in the ancient past?

Area: Humanities

AS.130.245. The Archaeology of Gender in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean. 3 Credits.

How do art historians and archaeologists recover and study genders and sexualities of ancient people? This writing-intensive seminar looks at texts and objects from ancient Egypt, Assyria, and Greece through the lens of gender and sexuality studies. Beyond exploring concepts of gender in the ancient Eastern Mediterranean, students will also consider how modern scholars have approached, recovered, and written about ancient gender identities. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

AS.130.246. Writing History in the Ancient Mediterranean World. 3 Credits.

Just what does it mean to “write history”? In this course, we will read a selection of historical texts from ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome, in order to examine how these cultures conceived of, and narrated, their own pasts. A major focus will be how these texts were created in order to understand or control the present. We will also examine how these texts have come down to us, and in what ways this might affect how we use them in constructing our own historical narratives. No prior knowledge of the ancient world necessary; all texts read in English translation.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

AS.130.247. Digging for Legitimacy Archaeology, Museums, and Ideology. 3 Credits.

Archaeology was born out of Western Colonial endeavors into Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas. Large scale excavations conducted by the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States resulted in the removal and transfer of valuable (culturally and monetarily) material culture from local stewards and stakeholders to the West. To this day the discipline of archaeology is still saddled by its colonial past and the Hollywood interpretation of archaeologists as saviors of ancient treasures. Today, most interaction between people and ancient objects is facilitated via the museum. In this course we will explore 19th- 21st century archaeological and museum practices and the role they play in modern narratives of identity and representation in the America and the Middle East. Students will engage with the historical, legal, economic, and ethical implications of archaeology and analyze how political, religious, cultural, and academic institutions have leveraged archaeology and cultural artifacts to reify and legitimize their pursuits and ideologies.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.248. Up the Nile: New Approaches to the History of Egyptology and Nubiology. 3 Credits.

King Tut, Napoleon, Champollion, Ozymandias, Nefertiti: the history of Egyptology is filled with big characters, huge monuments, and glimmering objects. But it is also made up of colonialist practices, looted sites, and forgotten scholarly contributions. “Up the Nile” examines the antiquarian, colonialist, racist, Western-centric, and patriarchal roots of modern Egyptology and Nubiology, and addresses how scholars and enthusiasts alike are continuing to grapple with these lasting legacies and biases. This class investigates how the Egyptians and Nubians thought of their own histories, as well as how other ancient cultures viewed the cultures of the Nile. It moves roughly chronologically, tracing understudied and marginalized voices from the Islamic, Medieval, and Ottoman periods into the 20th and 21st centuries. It examines the origins of scholarship, modern collecting, Egyptomania, and museums, delving into the problems and repercussions that still haunt us today. “Up the Nile” will engage with important and difficult aspects regarding Egyptology’s and Nubiology’s colonialist, racist, and sexist past and present. It asks: who decides who writes history, then and now?

Area: Humanities

AS.130.249. Everything She Says is Done for Her: Exploring the Spheres of Influence of Women in Ancient Egypt. 3 Credits.

How did women move within their gendered spheres of influence in ancient Egyptian society? How do scholars discuss women in the ancient world and what are the spheres influence often allotted to women? How can we investigate the lives of women through the material record? What methodologies are applied by scholars to study women in antiquity? This course seeks to explore these questions and much more. The course will utilize textual and material evidence to examine and deconstruct the economic, social, religious, and political roles of women in ancient Egypt.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.250. Clapping Rivers, Talking Snakes: Nature in the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Middle East. 3 Credits.

How did ancient people relate to their environment—the animals, plants, landscapes, and weather with which they interacted? How have modern binary conceptions of 'nature' and 'culture' or 'human' and 'animal' influenced our interpretation of ancient texts (along with ancient societies)? What is "the zoological gaze?" This course will focus on these questions and more as it investigates conceptions of nature in the texts of the Hebrew Bible, as well as texts and material culture from ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq), and the Levant (modern-day Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, and Jordan). We will interrogate various interpretive lenses, including Posthumanism, Animal Studies, and Metaphor Theory, as we explore themes such as creation, nature and divinity, and animals in rituals, legal texts, and prophecies, among others. No previous familiarity with Hebrew language or the Hebrew Bible is needed.

Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.130.300. History of Ancient Mesopotamia. 3 Credits.

A survey of the history of Sumer, Babylonia, and Assyria.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.301. History of Ancient Syria-Palestine. 3 Credits.

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

Area: Humanities

AS.130.302. History: Ancient Syria-Palestine II. 3 Credits.

A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Canaan, including ancient Israel. Taught with AS.134.661. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.314. Introduction To Middle Egyptian. 3 Credits.

Introduction to the grammar and writing system of the classical language of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (ca. 2055-1650 B.C.). In the second semester, literary texts and royal inscriptions will be read. Course meets with AS.133.600.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.338. The Talmud as Read in the Middle Ages: The Sugya of Kavod HaBriot (Human Dignity). 3 Credits.

In the early Middle Ages the Talmud emerged as the defining document of official Jewish religion and culture, and remained so until the dawn of the Modern Era. Jewish scholars in many different countries, and in a wide variety of cultural contexts, developed certain ways of reading, interpreting, and applying the Talmud. In the process, they produced an immense corpus of commentary and law. This course will examine how and why the Talmud was studied in these centuries by Jews who mined it, subject by subject, for emotional, philosophical, and legal meaning.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.346. Introduction to the History of Rabbinic Literature. 3 Credits.

Broadly surveying classic rabbinic literature, including the Talmud and its commentaries, the legal codes and the response, this seminar explores the immanent as well as the external factors that shaped the development of this literature, the seminal role of this literature in Jewish self-definition and self-perception, and the role of this literature in pre-modern and modern Jewish culture.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.348. Survey Jewish History as Relected in Responsa Literature: How Immutable Judaism Wrestles with Change. 3 Credits.

How does a religious system which defines its ancient laws as God-given and unchangeable apply them to radically different and changing social, political and intellectual situations? This course explores the literature of "Questions and Answers"(She'elot u-Teshuvot), the Jewish legal responsa which have struggled to match Jewish religious law to modern life for fifteen centuries. A sweeping survey of Jewish history as revealed by one of its most impenetrable yet fascinating sources.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.352. History of Hasidism. 3 Credits.

Although it appears to be a relic of pre-modern Judaism, Hasidism is a phenomenon of the modern era of Jewish history. This course surveys the political and social history of the Hasidic movement over the course of the last three centuries. Students will also explore basic features of Hasidic culture and thought in their historical development. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.353. Space Archaeology: An Introduction to Satellite Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS. 3 Credits.

This course introduces technologies archaeologists use to map ancient landscapes. These include Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping software, advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers, and various types of satellite imagery. Taught together with AS.131.653.

Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.130.354. Archaeological Method and Theory. 3 Credits.

Climate change, population growth, war - what questions do archaeologists ask about the ancient past, how do they collect relevant evidence, and how do they arrive at satisfying answers to their questions? This course will review major theoretical currents in archaeology including evolutionary, cultural-historical, processual and post-processual approaches and discuss the future of archaeology as a scientific and humanistic discipline. Basic techniques for analyzing major categories of artifacts such as lithics, ceramics, archaeobotanical, and zooarchaeological materials will also be introduced.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.130.357. Geographic Information Systems in Archaeology. 3 Credits.

Applications of GIS in archaeology have recently expanded dramatically and GIS has now become an indispensable tool for archaeological research worldwide. This course will introduce the major applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in archaeology. These include the history of GIS in archaeology, air photography and satellite imagery, predictive modeling, hydrological modeling, viewsheds, and least-cost routes. It will grapple with theoretical issues manifest in archaeological GIS including conflicts between environment and social understandings of the ancient past, and will foster discussion of issues that affect outcomes of analyses including spatial scale and boundary delineation choices that can dramatically influence results. Students will learn the basics of ESRI's ArcGIS software. Taught with AS.131.657.

Area: Humanities, Natural Sciences

AS.130.364. Archaeology of Arabia. 3 Credits.

This course examines the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula from the earliest Paleolithic in the region (c. 1.5 million years ago) through the first few centuries of the Islamic era (c. 1000 AD). We will review basic geology and environmental conditions, examine the development of animal herding and crop cultivating lifeways, and scrutinize the rise of ancient South Arabian complex societies and civilizations. Co-listed with AS.131.664.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.373. Prophets and Prophecy in the Bible. 3 Credits.

From thundering voices of social justice to apocalyptic visionaries, biblical prophets have been revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims for thousands of years. They have inspired civic leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. yet also provided fodder for modern charlatans promising a utopian future. Yet who were these individuals (orators? politicians? diviners? poets?) and what was the full range of their message as set against the Realpolitik world of ancient Israel, Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Jordan?

Area: Humanities

AS.130.376. Ancient Magic and Ritual. 3 Credits.

This course will introduce students to the vast body of rituals that were practiced and performed in antiquity, with a particular emphasis on rituals from ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Hebrew Bible. In addition to examining rituals from a comparative perspective, anthropological and sociological studies of ritual will be read and discussed to shed light on the social, cultural, and political significance of ritual in the ancient world and beyond.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

AS.130.378. Geoarchaeology: Applications of Earth Science to Archaeology. 3 Credits.

Geoarchaeology is a multidisciplinary subfield that applies the tools and techniques of earth science to understand ancient humans and their interactions with environments. This course examines basic topics and concepts, including archaeological site formation, paleo-environmental reconstruction, raw materials and resources, soil science, deposition and erosion of wind and water-borne sediments in different environments such as along rivers, lakes and coastlines, radiocarbon and other chronometric dating methods, and ground-based remote sensing, including ground penetrating radar.

Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.130.381. Elementary Akkadian. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the paleography, grammar and lexicon of the Akkadian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language. Co-listed with AS.132.600

Area: Humanities

AS.130.382. History of Mesopotamia II. 3 Credits.

A survey of the history of Sumer, Babylonia, and Assyria.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.383. Elementary Akkadian II. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the paleography, grammar, and lexicon of the Akkadian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language. Continues AS.130.381

Area: Humanities

AS.130.388. Elementary Sumerian. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the paleography, grammar and lexicon of the Sumerian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.389. Elementary Sumerian II. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the paleography, grammar and lexicon of the Sumerian language and the reading of simpler texts in that language.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.396. Readings in a Talmudic Sugya (Yaavor v'al yehareg: The Search for Meaning in the Pre-Modern Era. 3 Credits.

In the early Middle Ages the Talmud emerged as the defining document of official Jewish religion and culture, and remained so until the dawn of the Modern Era. The problem was that the texts were not easily understandable, and the norms unclear. In premodern times, certain literary-approaches evolved which were taken by contemporaries as yielding significant meaning. Among the most interesting of these was the broad-sugya. In this course, students will follow the reasoning-process of a broad-sugya as they read a guided-series of passages and commentaries located throughout the Babylonian Talmud on the subject of the valence of human-life. All readings will be in the original Hebrew and Aramaic. Ability to read Hebrew and Aramaic required.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.420. Seminar in Research Methods in Near Eastern Studies. 3 Credits.

This writing intensive seminar examines the relationship between religion and science in ancient Mesopotamia and the rest of the Near East from the 4th millennium to the Hellenistic period. Using a variety of case studies, and through engagement with scholarly literature pertaining to the topic of the course, students will develop skills in specific research skills such as critical reading, analysis, and interpretation.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

AS.130.440. Elementary Biblical Hebrew. 3 Credits.

Introduction to the grammar, vocabulary, and writing system of biblical Hebrew.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.441. Elementary Biblical Hebrew II. 3 Credits.

Survey of grammar and reading of simple texts. May not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. A continuation of Elementary Biblical Hebrew I.

Prerequisite(s): AS.130.440

Area: Humanities

AS.130.442. Readings - Hebrew Prose. 3 Credits.

Reading of biblical Hebrew prose, especially from the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.443. Readings - Hebrew Prose and Poetry. 3 Credits.

Reading of Biblical Hebrew Prose, from texts such as the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings.

Area: Humanities

AS.130.501. Readings & Research. 3 Credits.

Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration, Online Forms.

AS.130.504. Independent Study. 1 - 3 Credits.

Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration, Online Forms.

AS.130.590. Independent Study. 1 - 3 Credits.

Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration, Online Forms.

AS.131

AS.131.600. Seminar Near Eastern History. 3 Credits.

Seminar in Near Eastern History.

AS.131.601. Seminar Near Eastern History: Mesopotamia. 3 Credits.

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.

AS.131.613. Archaeology of Africa: From Human Origins to the Emergence of Civilizations. 3 Credits.

This course examines Africa's ancient past from the emergence of biologically modern humans, ancient hunter-gatherers, the earliest animal herding and farming populations, to cities and civilizations. While Egypt plays an undeniably central role in world history, this course concentrates in particular on ancient geographies other than Egypt.

Area: Humanities

AS.131.634. Seminar: Near Eastern Archaeology. 3 Credits.

Topic varies but can include the archaeology of Mesopotamia, Syria, or Palestine, or thematic discussions (e.g., on ideology, state collapse, etc.). In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.131.635. Seminar: Near East Archaeology. 3 Credits.

Topic varies but can include the archaeology of Mesopotamia, Syria, or Palestine, or thematic discussions (e.g., on ideology, state collapse, etc.). In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.131.653. Space Archaeology: An Introduction to Satellite Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS. 3 Credits.

This course introduces technologies archaeologists use to map ancient landscapes. These include Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping software, advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers, and various types of satellite imagery. Taught together with AS.130.353.

Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.131.654. Advanced Archaeological Method and Theory. 3 Credits.

Climate change, population growth, war - what questions do archaeologists ask about the ancient past, how do they collect relevant evidence, and how do they arrive at satisfying answers to their questions? This course will review major theoretical currents in archaeology including evolutionary, cultural-historical, processual and post-processual approaches and discuss the future of archaeology as a scientific and humanistic discipline. Basic techniques for analyzing major categories of artifacts such as lithics, ceramics, archaeobotanical, and zooarchaeological materials will also be introduced.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.131.657. Geographic Information Systems in Archaeology. 3 Credits.

Applications of GIS in archaeology have recently expanded dramatically and GIS has now become an indispensable tool for archaeological research worldwide. This course will introduce the major applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in archaeology. These include the history of GIS in archaeology, air photography and satellite imagery, predictive modeling, hydrological modeling, viewsheds, and least-cost routes. It will grapple with theoretical issues manifest in archaeological GIS including conflicts between environment and social understandings of the ancient past, and will foster discussion of issues that affect outcomes of analyses including spatial scale and boundary delineation choices that can dramatically influence results. Students will learn the basics of ESRI's ArcGIS software. Taught with AS.130.357.

Area: Humanities, Natural Sciences

AS.131.664. Archaeology of Arabia. 3 Credits.

This course examines the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula from the earliest Paleolithic in the region (c. 1.5 million years ago) through the first few centuries of the Islamic era (c. 1000 AD). We will review basic geology and environmental conditions, examine the development of animal herding and crop cultivating lifeways, and scrutinize the rise of ancient South Arabian complex societies and civilizations. Co-listed with AS.130.364.

AS.131.678. Geoarchaeology: Applications of Earth Science to Archaeology. 3 Credits.

Geoarchaeology is a multidisciplinary subfield that applies the tools and techniques of earth science to understand ancient humans and their interactions with environments. This course examines basic topics and concepts, including archaeological site formation, paleo-environmental reconstruction, raw materials and resources, soil science, deposition and erosion of wind and water-borne sediments in different environments such as along rivers, lakes and coastlines, radiocarbon and other chronometric dating methods, and ground-based remote sensing, including ground penetrating radar.

Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.131.800. Readings & Research. 3 Credits.**AS.131.801. Readings And Research. 3 Credits.**

Area: Humanities

AS.131.848. Dissertation Research. 9 Credits.**AS.131.849. Dissertation Research. 9 Credits.****AS.131.850. Summer Independent Research. 9 Credits.**

Independent summer research

AS.132

AS.132.600. Elementary Akkadian. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the paleography, grammar and lexicon of the Akkadian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language.

AS.132.601. Elementary Akkadian II. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the paleography, grammar and lexicon of the Akkadian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language.

Area: Humanities

AS.132.606. Intermediate Akkadian Texts. 3 Credits.

In this course a selection of intermediate level Akkadian texts from different genres and period will be read, analyzed and discussed. To build on skills learned in Introduction to Akkadian, specific emphasis will be placed on understanding more advanced grammatical forms and learning how to critically use research tools like the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary and von Soden's Akkadisches Handwoerterbuch. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.132.607. Intermediate Akkadian Texts. 3 Credits.

In this course a selection of intermediate level Akkadian texts from different genres and period will be read, analyzed and discussed. To build on skills learned in Introduction to Akkadian, specific emphasis will be placed on understanding more advanced grammatical forms and learning how to critically use research tools like the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary and von Soden's Akkadisches Handwoerterbuch. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

Area: Humanities

AS.132.609. Seminar in Research Methods in Near Eastern Studies. 3 Credits.

This writing intensive seminar examines the relationship between religion and science in the ancient world. While the focus will be on religious and scientific practices in Mesopotamia, the topics covered – which include astronomy and divination, magic and medicine, cosmology, and cartography – will be examined together with studies in anthropology, sociology, and comparative religion that shed light on the intersection of science and religion in the practices considered in the course. By reading and engaging with a wide range of perspectives on these subjects, students will develop specific research skills such as critical reading, analysis, and interpretation.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

AS.132.612. Advanced Akkadian. 3 Credits.

Students read texts in the original Akkadian cuneiform with attention to their philological, archaeological, historical, and literary features. The seminar topic varies from semester to semester but usually consists either of texts of various genres from a single period (e.g., Neo-Assyrian) or texts of various period from a single genre (e.g., letters). In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

Area: Humanities

AS.132.630. Akkadian Literary & Religious Texts. 3 Credits.

Students will read a variety of Akkadian texts commonly described as literary in the original cuneiform. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.132.643. Ancient Magic and Ritual. 3 Credits.

This course will introduce students to the vast body of rituals that were practiced and performed in antiquity, with a particular emphasis on rituals from Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Hebrew Bible. In addition to examining rituals from a comparative perspective, anthropological and sociological studies of ritual will be read and discussed to shed light on the social, cultural, and political significance of ritual in the ancient world and beyond.

Area: Humanities

AS.132.644. Treaties And Diplomacy. 3 Credits.

Reading treaties and related materials in Akkadian. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.132.700. Elementary Sumerian. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the paleography, grammar and lexicon of the Sumerian language, and the reading of simpler texts in that language.

Area: Humanities

AS.132.701. Elementary Sumerian II. 3 Credits.

In this course, students will continue to learn the fundamental aspects of Sumerian grammar and lexicography needed to read Sumerian texts. To review and develop the basics of the languages that were learned in the first semester of this course, intermediate texts like the Cylinders of Gudea and Inana's Descent to the Netherworld will be studied. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

Area: Humanities

AS.132.710. Advanced Sumerian. 3 Credits.

We will read Letter Collection B and related materials in the original cuneiform. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.132.711. Advanced Sumerian. 3 Credits.

In this course a selection of Sumerian texts from different periods and genres will be read and discussed from a linguistic, philological, historical, and literary perspective. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.132.800. Mesopotamian Seminar. 3 - 9 Credits.

Research and discussion on topics of current interest.

AS.132.801. Mesopotamian Seminar. 3 - 9 Credits.

Research and discussion on topics of current interest.

Area: Humanities

AS.133

AS.133.304. Let's Play! Games from Ancient Egypt and Beyond. 3 Credits.

The ancient Egyptians played many games, as we do today. Board games, ball games, games of skill, etc., were not only part of daily life, but also had a role to play in religious practices and beliefs. Although the rules of the games are largely unknown to us, archaeological objects, funerary images, and texts help us to better understand their roles and meanings in ancient Egyptian culture. These various sources also show how games reflect some facets of the organization of the society, and reveal how the ancient Egyptians perceived some aspects of their world - social hierarchy, gender division, representation of death, relationship to chance/fate/divine will, etc. This course will present the evolution of games and play in Ancient Egypt from the 4th millennium B.C., with the first board game discovered in the tomb of a woman, through those deposited in the tomb of Tutankhamun, and up to the Roman period, with the games engraved on the ground by soldiers in the fortresses of the Eastern Desert. Particular attention will be paid to the travels of the games - Egyptian games played outside of Egypt and games of foreign origin played inside Egypt - because they allow for a better understanding of the intercultural connections that were established in between Egypt, Nubia, the Near East in general and the Mediterranean world. By replacing the games in their archaeological, historical and cultural contexts, the course is also intended as an original introduction to the civilization of ancient Egypt.

Area: Humanities

AS.133.451. Workshop: Egyptian Objects from Eton College Myers Collection at the JHU Arch Museum. 3 Credits.

This course is designed as a workshop in which students will actively participate in the study of unpublished Egyptian objects currently housed at the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum. In small groups, students will work in particular on supposedly ludic objects (dice, ball models, pawns, "dolls", etc.) from the Eton College Myers Collection. They will participate in cataloguing objects in the museum's database, conduct personal research on a selected set of objects, and produce an exhibit (online/in one of the museum's display cases) that will showcase their research outcomes.

Prerequisite(s): AS.130.153 OR AS.133.304 OR AS.133.451

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

AS.133.600. Introduction To Middle Egyptian. 3 Credits.

Introduction to the grammar and writing system of the classical language of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (ca. 2135-2000 B.C.). In the second semester, literary texts and royal inscriptions will be read.

AS.133.601. Introduction To Middle Egyptian (Hieroglyphs). 3 Credits.

Introduction to the grammar and writing system of the classical language of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (ca. 2011-1700 B.C.). Co-listed with AS.130.401

Prerequisite(s): AS.133.600 or equivalent.

Area: Humanities

AS.133.610. Middle Egyptian Texts. 3 Credits.

In this course we read a variety of Middle Egyptian hieroglyphic compositions and documents. Knowledge of Middle Egyptian Required.

AS.133.611. Middle Egyptian Texts. 3 Credits.

In this course we read a variety of Middle Egyptian hieroglyphic compositions and documents. Knowledge of Middle Egyptian Required.

Area: Humanities

AS.133.616. Let's Play! Games from Ancient Egypt and Beyond. 3 Credits.

The ancient Egyptians played many games, as we do today. Board games, ball games, games of skill, etc., were not only part of daily life, but also had a role to play in religious practices and beliefs. Although the rules of the games are largely unknown to us, archaeological objects, funerary images, and texts help us to better understand their roles and meanings in ancient Egyptian culture. These various sources also show how games reflect some facets of the organization of the society, and reveal how the ancient Egyptians perceived some aspects of their world - social hierarchy, gender division, representation of death, relationship to chance/fate/divine will, etc. This course will present the evolution of games and play in Ancient Egypt from the 4th millennium B.C., with the first board game discovered in the tomb of a woman, through those deposited in the tomb of Tutankhamun, and up to the Roman period, with the games engraved on the ground by soldiers in the fortresses of the Eastern Desert. Particular attention will be paid to the travels of the games - Egyptian games played outside of Egypt and games of foreign origin played inside Egypt - because they allow for a better understanding of the intercultural connections that were established in between Egypt, Nubia, the Near East in general and the Mediterranean world. By replacing the games in their archaeological, historical and cultural contexts, the course is also intended as an original introduction to the civilization of ancient Egypt.

Area: Humanities

AS.133.617. Workshop: Egyptian Objects from Eton College Myers Collection at the JHU Arch Museum. 3 Credits.

This course is designed as a workshop in which students will actively participate in the study of unpublished Egyptian objects currently housed at the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum. In small groups, students will work in particular on supposedly ludic objects (dice, ball models, pawns, "dolls", etc.) from the Eton College Myers Collection. They will participate in cataloguing objects in the museum's database, conduct personal research on a selected set of objects, and produce an exhibit (online/in one of the museum's display cases) that will showcase their research outcomes.

Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

AS.133.620. Hieratic. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the cursive scripts of Ancient Egypt from the Old Kingdom through the Roman Period.

AS.133.621. Hieratic. 3 Credits.

Area: Humanities

AS.133.630. Old Egyptian. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the stage of Ancient Egyptian language associated with the Old Kingdom (ca. 2687-2190 BCE). In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.133.631. Old Egyptian. 3 Credits.

Continuation of the study of this stage of Ancient Egyptian, introduced in AS.133.630. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.133.640. Late Egyptian. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the stage of Ancient Egyptian language associated with the New Kingdom (ca. 1569-1081 BCE). In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.133.641. Late Egyptian Texts. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the grammar and texts of Late Egyptian. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

Area: Humanities

AS.133.646. Demotic Texts. 3 Credits.

An introduction both to the stage of Ancient Egyptian language from ca. 750 BCE-400 CE and the cursive script associated with this stage. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.133.647. Demotic Texts. 3 Credits.

Continuation of the study of Demotic as introduced in AS.133.646. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

Area: Humanities

AS.133.648. Intro To Coptic. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the stage of Ancient Egyptian language in use from ca. 300 CE onward; still the liturgical language of the Coptic Church.

AS.133.649. Advanced Coptic. 3 Credits.

In this class we will read Coptic texts of various genres.

AS.133.751. Seminar in Egyptian Art and Archaeology: Egyptian Art in Museums. 3 Credits.

This course will utilize Egyptian collections in museums as a basis for studying Egyptian art. An aim is to evaluate how the experience of the objects impacts approaches to the discipline.

AS.134

AS.134.101. GOD 101: The Early History of God - Origin, Character, Practice. 3 Credits.

In a world of big ideas, there is none larger than that of God. Divinity is an ever-present topic for both religious devotees and hard core secularists—for anyone who embraces the humanities or ponders what makes us human. Humans are, for better and worse, homo-religiosus (humans who practice religion) as much as homo-sapiens. But what do we know of God historically? How do we go about reconstructing divinity from ancient texts and archaeology? How do we best walk back in time to understand ancient Middle Eastern cultures that gave birth to notions of the divine that have come down to today's Judaism, Christianity and Islam? This course looks synthetically at the vast topic of God—exploring questions of historical origin, how God was characterized in literature (mythic warrior, king, parent, judge, holy, compassionate) and how God was represented in iconography, both materially and abstractly. Secondly, how did belief intersect with practice? Using the indow of divinity, this course will peer into the varieties of religion experience, exploring the royal use of religion for power, prestige and control balanced against the intimacy of family and household religion. It will probe priestly prerogatives and cultic status, prophetic challenges to injustice, and the pondering of theodicy by poetic sages.

Area: Humanities

AS.134.400. Northwest Semitic Epigraphy. 3 Credits.

This course will provide an introduction to West Semitic dialects as reflected in inscriptions from the first millennium BCE. We will survey the grammar (phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon) of epigraphic Hebrew, Phoenician, and known Transjordanian languages (Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite). We will also discuss the methodological challenges inherent to the study of script evolution, scribalism, and the reconstruction of NWS languages through the study of inscriptions. This course will also introduce students to scholarship outside of the field of NWS and Hebrew Bible on literacy, the study of visual grammar, and the socio-semiotic approach to the study of writing.

Area: Humanities

AS.134.404. The Book of Job. 3 Credits.

Reading portions of the Book of Job in Hebrew. In addition to increasing proficiency in biblical Hebrew, the course also involves critical exegesis including grammatical analysis and textual criticism. Students will interact with various aspects of interpretation for the Book of Job (e.g., philology, text history, structure, literary history, message, poetics, rhetoric, philosophy, theology and reception history).

Area: Humanities

AS.134.406. Kings, Prophets, and Scribes: The Creation of "Israel" in the Deuteronomistic History. 3 Credits.

This class will introduce students to "The Deuteronomistic History," which comprises the biblical books of Deuteronomy, Joshua, 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings. The narrative arc of this "history" spans the giving of the law to Moses to the rise and fall of the monarchies of Israel and Judah, respectively in the Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian periods. During this course we will examine the reasons why biblical scholars have argued in varying ways that this body of text represents the work of a group of ideologically driven scribes, the Deuteronomists; we will also investigate the primary texts themselves for evidence for divergent views about the need for a king in Israel and the role and fate of the royal house of David. We will also explore the relationship between the books of the former prophets (Joshua>2 Kings) and Deuteronomy, which is a book that concludes the Pentateuch. This course requires students to engage with the biblical text in the original Hebrew language at an advanced level. We will also engage with biblical scholarship regarding the scope, purpose, and nature of a cohesive Deuteronomistic History, as well as with dissenting voices that probe the unity of these biblical books.

Area: Humanities

AS.134.408. The Book of Ezekiel. 3 Credits.

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.

Area: Humanities

AS.134.409. Prophets and Prophecy in the Hebrew Bible. 3 Credits.

From thundering voices of social justice to apocalyptic visionaries, biblical prophets have been revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims for thousands of years. They have inspired civic leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. yet also provided fodder for modern charlatans promising a utopian future. Yet who were these individuals (orators? politicians? diviners? poets?) and what was the full range of their message as set against the Realpolitik world of ancient Israel, Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Jordan?"

Area: Humanities

AS.134.410. Kings and Chronicles. 3 Credits.

This course surveys scholarship on the histories of Israel and Judah as presented in Kings and Chronicles. The course also addresses changes in the Hebrew language in the first millennium BCE.

Prerequisite(s): AS.130.440 OR AS.130.441

Area: Humanities

AS.134.450. Seminar in Hebrew: Archaic Biblical Poetry. 3 Credits.

Translation and analysis of selected texts in Biblical Hebrew giving attention to advanced features of grammar and syntax. Topic: "Archaic Biblical Poetry".

Area: Humanities

AS.134.604. The Book Of Job. 3 Credits.

Reading portions of the Book of Job in Hebrew. In addition to increasing proficiency in biblical Hebrew, the course also involves critical exegesis including grammatical analysis and textual criticism. Students will interact with various aspects of interpretation for the Book of Job (e.g., philology, text history, structure, literary history, message, poetics, rhetoric, philosophy, theology and reception history)

Area: Humanities

AS.134.606. Kings, Prophets, and Scribes: The Creation of "Israel" in the Deuteronomistic History. 3 Credits.

This class will introduce students to "The Deuteronomistic History," which comprises the biblical books of Deuteronomy, Joshua, 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings. The narrative arc of this "history" spans the giving of the law to Moses to the rise and fall of the monarchies of Israel and Judah, respectively in the Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian periods. During this course we will examine the reasons why biblical scholars have argued in varying ways that this body of text represents the work of a group of ideologically driven scribes, the Deuteronomists; we will also investigate the primary texts themselves for evidence for divergent views about the need for a king in Israel and the role and fate of the royal house of David. We will also explore the relationship between the books of the former prophets (Joshua>2 Kings) and Deuteronomy, which is a book that concludes the Pentateuch. This course requires students to engage with the biblical text in the original Hebrew language at an advanced level. We will also engage with biblical scholarship regarding the scope, purpose, and nature of a cohesive Deuteronomistic History, as well as with dissenting voices that probe the unity of these biblical books.

Area: Humanities

AS.134.608. Book Of Ezekiel. 3 Credits.

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. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.134.609. Prophets and Prophecy in the Hebrew Bible. 3 Credits.

From thundering voices of social justice to apocalyptic visionaries, biblical prophets have been revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims for thousands of years. They have inspired civic leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. yet also provided fodder for modern charlatans promising a utopian future. Yet who were these individuals (orators? politicians? diviners? poets?) and what was the full range of their message as set against the Realpolitik world of ancient Israel, Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Jordan?"

Area: Humanities

AS.134.613. Seminar in the Mino Prophets. 3 Credits.

This course surveys the group of 12 prophetic works known as the "minor" prophets. In addition to reading the Hebrew text, we will also engage with scholarly readings about the socio-political, religious, and historical backdrop of this group of writings.

Area: Humanities

AS.134.623. Pentateuch. 3 Credits.

This course surveys the linguistic and literary structure of the Pentateuch. A second and equally important focus will be the history of scholarship and its broader impact on the study of the history and religion of ancient Israel and Judah. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

Area: Humanities

AS.134.650. Seminar in Hebrew. 3 Credits.

Seminar in advanced biblical Hebrew for graduate students.

AS.134.651. Seminar: Hebrew. 3 Credits.

Seminar in advanced biblical Hebrew for graduate students.

AS.134.652. Seminar in Ancient Israelite Religion. 3 Credits.

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. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.134.660. History of Ancient Syria/Palestine. 3 Credits.

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

AS.134.661. History: Ancient Syria-Palestine II. 3 Credits.

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

Area: Humanities

AS.134.700. Northwest Semitic Epigraphy. 3 Credits.

This course will provide an introduction to West Semitic dialects as reflected in inscriptions from the first millennium BCE. We will survey the grammar (phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon) of epigraphic Hebrew, Phoenician, and known Transjordanian languages (Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite). We will also discuss the methodological challenges inherent to the study of script evolution, scribalism, and the reconstruction of NWS languages through the study of inscriptions. This course will also introduce students to scholarship outside of the field of NWS and Hebrew Bible on literacy, the study of visual grammar, and the socio-semiotic approach to the study of writing. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.134.720. Ugaritic I. 3 Credits.

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. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

AS.134.721. Ugaritic II. 3 Credits.

A continuation of AS.134.720 with emphasis on the mythological and ritual texts from Ugarit. A digital epigraphy lab will also form part of the course. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

Area: Humanities

AS.134.747. Archaic Aramaic. 3 Credits.

An advanced course in Aramaic devoted to the study of Old Aramaic inscriptions. We will be translating and analyzing a selection of texts from Northern Syria (e.g. Bar-Rakib; Hadad; Kuttamuwa, Nerab, Panamuwa, Sefire, Zakkur), Southern Syria (e.g. Bar-Hadad/Melqart Stela, Hazael, Tel Dan) and Northern Mesopotamia (e.g. Tell Fakhariyah). Students will be expected to vocalize such texts as a study in historical and comparative linguistics and to clarify their understanding of the morphology and syntax. In addition to seminar times, students are expected to complete online discussions, supplemental readings and assignments, and attend several guest lecture events.

Area: Humanities