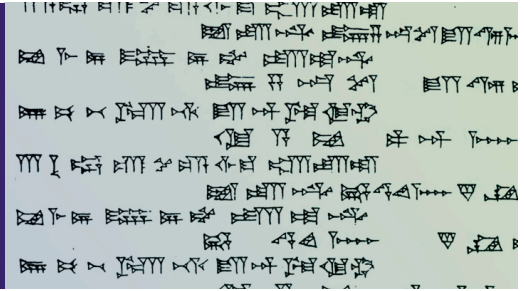


NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATION

The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization is devoted to teaching and research concerning the principal cultures and languages of the Near and Middle East, including Central Asia, emphasizing not only their contemporary manifestations but also their ancient and medieval roots and their significance within the history of world civilizations.



Education

The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization (NELC) offers BA and MA degree programs that investigate major literary and cultural traditions of the Near East and Central Asia. Arabic, Persian, Tajik, Turkish (Modern and Ottoman), and Central Asian Turkic (such as Uzbek, Kazak, Kyrgyz, and Uygur) are the languages of the most significant manifestations of Islamic civilization. Hebrew and Aramaic are languages of the Bible and are central to Judaism and Jewish culture. A rich and vast heritage from other ancient Near Eastern cultures is explored through study of languages and literatures such as Egyptian (Hieroglyphic, Coptic), Akkadian, Ugaritic, Phoenician, and Syriac. Undergraduates can select from degree options concentrating in Languages and Civilization; Culture and Civilization; Comparative Islamic Studies; and Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies.

NELC serves a broad spectrum of undergraduates, including those with plans to acquire specific linguistic and cultural proficiencies and those simply interested in the histories and cultures of these regions. NELC graduates have pursued further study in the humanities or social sciences, professional degree programs in law or medicine, employment with government or non-governmental organizations, and other careers.

The Department participates actively in exchange programs, sending UW students for language and cultural study and research to a variety of locations—from North Africa, to the Middle East, and across Central Asia—and training many students from institutions overseas.

Outreach

Annual events include the Hooshang Afrassiabi Distinguished Lectureship in Persian Studies and the Farhat J. Ziadeh Distinguished Lectureship in Arab and Islamic Studies. Additional lectures and cultural presentations are supported by the Turkish Studies Endowment, the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East Fund, the Ravani Endowment, and the Friends of Persian Studies Fund.

NELC faculty participate in the annual World Languages Day at the UW, an event that introduces high school students to language study at the University.

Programs and cultural activities are presented throughout the year by the Central Asian Turkic Languages and Culture Circle, the Persian Circle, and other student interest groups.

STUDENTS (Autumn 2011)

- 94 Undergraduate majors
- 11 Master of Arts students

DEGREES AWARDED (Sept. 2010-Aug. 2011)

- 33 Bachelor of Arts degrees
- 3 Master of Arts degrees

MAJOR STUDENT AWARDS (Since 2004)

- 1 Rhodes Scholar
- 2 Ronald E. McNair Scholars
- 4 National Fellows for Advanced Arabic Study
- 17 Schwartz Fellows for Study Abroad
- 9 Roshan Institute Fellows for Excellence in Persian Studies
- 6 Naficy Scholars in Persian Studies
- 6 Turkish and Ottoman Literature Endowed Fellows
- 6 Hooshang Afrassiabi Essay Award
- 15 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellows
- 3 Boren Scholars
- 2 Fulbright Scholars
- 6 Critical Language Scholars
- 2 Gilman Scholars
- 2 Easa Bateh Fellows
- 1 Williams Endowment for Excellence Fellow
- 3 Fulbright-Hays Language Fellows
- 1 Institute for International Public Policy Fellow

Faculty

The Department ranked third in the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* Faculty Scholarly Productivity rankings, with only Harvard University and University of Arizona rating higher. Awards and leadership roles for Department of NELC faculty include:

- 6 Fulbright Scholars
- 3 National Endowment for the Humanities grants
- 3 Fellows, American Research Center in Egypt
- 1 Senior Fellow, American Center for Oriental Research
- 2 Presidents, Middle East Studies Association
- 1 President, Society for Iranian Studies
- 1 President, Middle East Medievalists
- 1 President, Pacific NW American Research Center in Egypt
- 1 President, Pacific NW American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature
- 1 Director, American Research Center in Egypt
- 1 Director, Center for Arabic Study Abroad
- 1 Samuel and Althea Stroum Chair
- 1 Mentor Award, Middle East Studies Association
- 1 Service Award, Middle East Studies Association
- 7 Editors of leading journals

Scholarship

NELC faculty are engaged in a wide variety of individual research endeavors with emphases including post-colonial theory, intercultural exchange, literature as performance, gender theory, literary dynamics in exilic or diaspora communities, children's literatures, linguistics, legal theory, and comparative religion. Departmental research on Jewish, Christian, and Islamic literatures and cultures is characterized by the study of these, not as isolated entities, but rather, as integral to wider Near Eastern cultural developments.

Faculty in NELC have been leaders in numerous national and international team research projects including:

- the Ottoman Text Archive Project, an international effort to make a vast collection of documents crucial to understanding the history and cultural heritage of the Ottoman Empire accessible in a central web-based text archive;
- federally-funded grants for innovative Arabic distance learning programs;
- national grant initiatives to develop more effective and advanced pedagogies for proficiency in Arabic and Persian;
- organizing and hosting international conferences as well as a Western Jewish Studies Association conference; and
- a \$1million, three-year U.S. Department of State grant for developing educational partnerships with institutes of higher learning in Uzbekistan.

FACULTY (Autumn 2011)

- 4 Professors
- 1 Research Professor
- 3 Associate Professors
- 8 Lecturers
- 7 Adjunct Faculty
- 4 Affiliate Faculty
- 3 Emeritus Faculty

AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP

Hebrew Bible, Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Judaism in Late Antiquity

Ancient Christianity and Religions of Antiquity

Islamic Law, Institutions, Philosophy, Religion

Comparative Religion

Arabic Language and Literature

Coptic Language

Modern Hebrew Language and Literature

Persian Language and Literature, Iranian Culture and Civilization

Turkic Languages and Literatures

Modern and Ottoman Turkish Language and Literature

Linguistics and Near Eastern Studies

History of the Middle East

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

Bateh Scholarship in Arabic Studies

Paul LeRoy Award in Egyptological Studies

Naficy Family Fellowship in Persian Studies

Cole and Firoozeh Papan-Matin Scholarship for Excellence in Persian and Iranian Studies

Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute Graduate Fellowship in Persian Studies

Maurice and Lois Schwartz Fellowship for Study Abroad

Michael A. Williams Scholarship for Excellence in Near Eastern Studies

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