

## Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies

### Major Track: The Bible and the Ancient World

#### Required of All Majors

Foundational Literacies: As part of completing the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies major, students must:

Fulfill the writing intensive requirement by successfully completing one of the following: Any NEJS course approved for WI, or HBRW 124a, HBRW 144a, HBRW 146a, HBRW 161b, HBRW 164b, HBRW 170a, or YDSH 30a.

Fulfill the oral communication requirement by successfully completing one of the following: HBRW 121b, HBRW 144a, HBRW 152b, HBRW 164b, NEJS 123a, NEJS 123b, NEJS 153a, NEJS 174b, or NEJS 184b.

Fulfill the digital literacy requirement by successfully completing one of the following: HBRW 124a, HBRW 167b, NEJS 10a, NEJS 123a, NEJS 137b, or NEJS 186a.

*No single course may satisfy all three foundational literacies.*

#### For The Bible and the Ancient World Track:

Nine courses pertaining to the Bible and its ancient context are required for the major. A single course may fulfill requirements in multiple categories.

A. Distribution Requirement: Students must complete one course in each of the following three areas of study:

##### **The Ancient Middle East**

NEJS 104a (Comparative Semitic Languages); 113a (Biblical Aramaic in Context); 116a (Mesopotamian Mythology); 122a (Magic and Witchcraft in the Ancient Middle East); CLAS 117b (Unmasking Cleopatra); 119b (Homer and the Hebrew Bible); 155a (Mummies, Myths, and Monuments of Ancient Egypt).

##### **The Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel**

NEJS 12a (Who Wrote the Bible?); 106a (Ancient Hebrew Inscriptions); 113b (Law in the Bible and the Ancient Middle East); 115b (Gender and Sexuality in the Bible); 117b (Dead Sea Scrolls); 122a (Magic and Witchcraft in the Ancient Middle East); CLAS 119b (Homer and the Hebrew Bible).

### **Ancient and Medieval Judaism and Early Christianity**

NEJS 18a (Understanding Evil and Human Destiny); 23a (Scripture and Script: The Bible and Contemporary Literature, Arts, and Film); 25a (Introduction to Talmud); 27a (Abortion, Reproduction, and Contraception in Jewish Law and Ethics); 30a (Reading the New Testament); 117b (Dead Sea Scrolls); 123b (Gender, Species, and Ethnicity in Early Judaism); 124b (Divinity, Desire, and Difference: An Introduction to Jewish Mysticism); 125a (Just Communities and Neighborhoods in Talmudic Literature); 125b (Midrashic Literature); 126a (Intermediate Talmud); 127a (Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism); 127b (Jewish Liturgy); 129b (Debating Jesus: Diverse Beliefs in the Early Church); 130b (Denial and Desires: Gender and Sexuality in Early Christian Communities); 133b (Judaism in the Time of Jesus); 134a (Debating Religion: Muslims, Christians, and Jews); 155a (Maimonides); 191a (The Bible and the Qur'an); CLAS 118a (Queens of the Ancient Mediterranean World); 156b Living and Dying in Roman and Byzantine Egypt.

B. Comparative Requirement: Students must complete one course that provides a comparative context for the study of the Bible and the Ancient World that broadens and reinforces the contextual or methodological horizons of study in the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies department. In consultation with their NEJS advisor, students should select a course treating a geographically and/or chronologically adjacent ancient context (e.g. in Classics), an interpretive tradition engaging biblical, early Jewish, early Christian, and/or ancient Middle Eastern texts (e.g. AAAS, Education, English, Philosophy), methods applicable to historical textual study (e.g. in Anthropology, History, Linguistics, Sociology, WGS), etc.

Examples of courses that can satisfy this requirement include ANTH 128a (Meaning and Material Culture); CLAS 133a (Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece); 144b (Archaeological Ethics, Law and Cultural Heritage); 160a (Race and Ethnicity in the Ancient World); ED/NEJS 170b (Inside Jewish Education); ENG 111a (Narrative Theory); 111b (Postcolonial Theory); HIST 178a (The Middle East and the West); LING 100a (Introduction to Linguistics); WGS 6b (Sexuality and Queer Studies).

C. Primary Language Requirement: Students must complete four semesters of an ancient Middle Eastern language, typically biblical Hebrew. Students should begin with NEJS 10a (Biblical Hebrew Grammar and Texts), to be followed by NEJS 10b (Biblical Hebrew Practicum) when available, and then proceed with courses tagged as “Advanced Biblical Hebrew,” such as NEJS 107a (Biblical Prophecy); 110b (Psalms in the Hebrew Bible); 112a (Book of Genesis); 119a (The Torah: Composition and Interpretation); 121b (Biblical Poetry); and 122b (Biblical Narrative Texts). NEJS 113a (Biblical Aramaic in Context) may be counted as one of these four semesters.

D. Secondary Language Requirement: Students must study one other ancient Middle Eastern or Mediterranean language to the second semester level (typically Greek, Latin, Arabic, or—when

offered—Akkadian, i.e. cuneiform Babylonian and Assyrian). The following courses fulfill this requirement and are taught annually: Greek: GRK 10a, 20b (Beginning Ancient Greek; Continuing Ancient Greek); Latin: LAT 10a, 20b (Beginning Latin, Continuing Latin); Arabic: ARBC 10a, 20b (Beginning Arabic I, Beginning Arabic II).