

## Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies

### **NM 1005: Introduction to Islamic Civilisation (Part A)**

<b>Duration:</b>	Semester A
<b>Contact hours p/w:</b>	2 hours per week
<b>Assessment:</b>	1 x 3,000-word essay
<b>Weighting:</b>	5 ECTS

**Description:** The module will begin with a historical review of the rise of Islam and will also cover some aspects of the religion such as the five pillars of Islam and the sacred texts, the Qur'an and the ahadith, and their relationship to Islamic Law. There is also an emphasis on the diverse traditions within the Islamic world.

### **NM 1006: Introduction to Islamic Civilisation (Part B)**

<b>Duration:</b>	Semester B
<b>Contact hours p/w:</b>	2 hours per week
<b>Assessment:</b>	1 x 3,000-word essay
<b>Weighting:</b>	5 ECTS

**Description:** The students will be introduced to thematic issues including: "Islam, Arts and Architecture," "Islam and Politics," "Islam and Women" and "Islam and Human Rights."

### **NM 1007: Introduction to Jewish Civilization from Antiquity to the Modern Period**

**Duration:** Semester A

**Contact hours p/w:** 2 hours per week

**Assessment:** 1 x 3,000-word essay

**Weighting:** 5 ECTS

**Description:** The purpose of this module is to introduce the student to the development of Jewish civilization from the earliest period to the present. The module is designed for those who are starting their study of Jewish civilisation and it equips the student with a knowledge of the central issues and main texts in the formation of Jewish identity. The intention of this module is to allow the student to acquire a basic knowledge of Jewish culture and history.

### **NM 1008: Introduction to Jewish Civilization from Antiquity to the Modern Period**

**Duration:** Semester B

**Contact hours p/w:** 2 hours per week

**Assessment:** Essay and other assignments

**Weighting:** 5 ECTS

**Description:** The purpose of this module is to introduce the student to the development of Jewish civilization from the earliest period to the present. The module is designed for those who are starting their study of Jewish civilisation and it equips the student with a knowledge of the central issues and main texts in the formation of Jewish identity. The intention of this module is to allow the student to acquire a basic knowledge of Jewish culture and history.

### **NM 1009: Jewish and Christian Origins and the Bible**

**Duration:** Semester A

**Contact hours p/w:** 2 hours per week

**Assessment:** Essay and other assignments

**Weighting:** 5 ECTS

**Description:** This module explores the physical environment of the world of ancient Israel and early Judaism using both literary and archaeological evidence. Particular attention is paid to the religious worldview of the ancient Israelites and their neighbours in the land of Palestine and in Babylonia, Persia, Egypt and the Hellenistic world. The literature of the Israelites (primarily the Bible and in particular the Pentateuch and the Deuteronomistic History) is examined within this wider context.

### **NM 1010: Jewish and Christian Origins and the Bible**

**Duration:** Semester B

**Contact hours p/w:** 2 hours per week

**Assessment:** 1 x 3,000-word essay

**Weighting:** 5 ECTS

**Description:** This module examines a variety of inscriptions and other material evidence from the environment of ancient Israel which may help to elucidate the world of the Biblical texts. For example, the Mesha Inscription from the ancient kingdom of Moab is examined and compared to the biblical account of wars with Moab in the book of Judges. Also explored is the importance of writing in ancient Israel and in the ancient Near Eastern world of Israel's neighbours. How important were written records? Were the identities and self understandings of the ancient societies more deeply rooted in oral tradition and if so how can we begin to explore their religions and cultures? The second part of the course looks at the emergence of the Jesus movement within the Jewish world of first century Palestine. Topics covered included Jesus and Jewish tradition, Jesus and Torah, Jesus and the Temple and Jesus and first century Jewish sects.

### **NM 2332: Rabbis, Poets, Mystics and Messiahs: Jews in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods**

**Duration:** Semester A

**Contact hours p/w:** 2 hours per week

**Assessment:** Essays and other assignments

**Weighting:** ECTS: 5

**Description:** This module examines Jewish life and thought in Medieval and Early Modern times in both Muslim and Christian contexts through the study of a wide variety of sources including philosophical writings, poetry, memoirs as well as material culture. Issues regarding contemporary political interpretations of the period are explored along with subjects such as minority identity politics (e.g., assimilation, acculturation), gender and representation.

### **NM 2013: Introduction to Hebrew**

<b>Duration:</b>	Semester A and B
<b>Contact hours p/w:</b>	3 hours per week
<b>Assessment:</b>	50% continual assessment & 50% end of semester test
<b>Weighting:</b>	5 ECTS
<b>Description:</b>	Classes on Hebrew grammar and biblical texts.

### **NM 2015: Introduction to Arabic**

<b>Duration:</b>	Semesters A and B
<b>Contact hours p/w:</b>	3 hours per week
<b>Assessment:</b>	50% continual assessment & 50% end of semester test
<b>Weighting:</b>	5 ECTS each semester
<b>Description:</b>	Basic Arabic: alphabet, pronunciation; basic grammar

### **NM 2336: Islam and Asia**

<b>Duration:</b>	Semester A
<b>Contact Hours:</b>	22 Hours of seminars
<b>Weighting:</b>	ECT Value: 5
<b>Assessment:</b>	Essay and other assignments

**Description:** This module examines the development of Muslims' unique cultural, social, religious and political life in Asia. By incorporating a holistic approach that includes historical, cultural and political contexts, this course provides students with a deeper understanding of the multivariate processes that have shaped the existence of Islam throughout the region.

### **NM2319: Human Rights in the Middle East**

<b>Duration:</b>	Semester B
<b>Contact hours p/w:</b>	22 Hours of seminars
<b>Assessment :</b>	Essay and other assignments
<b>Weighting:</b>	5 ECTS

**Description:** This module seeks to provide students with an introduction to human rights in the Middle East and North Africa from theoretical and practical perspectives. The module gives an overview of international human rights and looks at the implementation of human rights law in the regions of the Middle East and North Africa. The theoretical perspective will both engage the international human rights system and also consider debates around the universality of rights and the relationship between Islam and human rights. This module examines various themes that can be grouped under two main headings: a) General Introduction to the International Human Rights System (United Nations and Regional Systems) and Vulnerable Groups & Specific Issues in the Middle East and North Africa.

### **NM2335: Ancient Empires in the Near Eastern and Mediterranean Worlds**

<b>Duration:</b>	Semester A
<b>Contact hours p/w:</b>	2 x hours per week
<b>Assessment :</b>	Essays and other assignments
<b>Weighting:</b>	5 ECTS

**Description:** This module aims to explore the ancient empires which emerged between the ninth to first centuries BCE, viz. the neo-Assyrian, neo-Babylonian, Persian, Ptolemaic and Seleucid empires. Modern scholarship has tended to compare the methods by which these empires ruled with those of more recent empires, the British empire, for example. The question of the appropriateness and usefulness of this comparison is explored through an examination of the ideological texts of these ancient empires (including palace art) and the documents which reflect the daily workings of these empires (letters, economic documents, legal texts and treaties). The second major question raised in the module is the extent to which the various subjects of empire (in particular kingdoms such as Israel, Judah, Moab, Edom and some of the Phoenician cities) were affected by empire. For example, what impact did these ancient empires have on the economies of these states? Can we trace any cultural

impact of these empires, to be seen in changes to religious traditions and customs for example?

### **NM (code to be confirmed)      Great Jewish Books**

**Duration:** Semester B

**Contact hours p/w:** 2 x hours per week

**Assessment:** Assignments

**Weighting:** 5 ECTS

**Description:** This module introduces students to reflections on Jewish identity from culturally diverse contexts from Roman antiquity to Leonard Cohen. Through our reading of a range of texts from antiquity to the present (including poetry, philosophy and fiction), we explore how perennial questions and new challenges are addressed within particular historical contexts in the Middle East, Europe and North America. Issues of ethnicity, religion and gender are examined.

### **NM 3003: Intermediate Hebrew**

**Duration:** Semester A and B

**Contact hours p/w:** 2 hours per week

**Assessment:** 50% continuous assessment and 50% end of semester test

**Weighting:** 5 ECTS per semester

**Description:** This module is intended for students who have completed an introductory course in Classical Hebrew and who already know basic grammar. The module concentrates on the reading and translation of narrative prose texts from the Hebrew bible.

### **NM 3006: Intermediate Arabic VS**

**Duration:** Semester A and B

**Contact hours p/w:** 2 hours per week

**Assessment:** 50% continuous assessment and 50% end of semester test

**Weighting:** 5 ECTS each Semester

**Description:** This module is intended for students who have completed an introductory module in Arabic and who already know basic grammar. The module concentrates on the reading and translation of texts from the Qur'an.

## NM 4010: Into/Out of Egypt: Biblical Narratives and Popular Culture

<b>Duration:</b>	Semester B
<b>Contact hours p/w:</b>	1 x two-hour seminar per week
<b>Assessment:</b>	2 x 3,000-word essay
<b>Weighting:</b>	10 ECTS

**Description:** This course considers the use of Biblical narrative in the cinema and popular novels, examining how the presentation of the Biblical material differs in each case and how that presentation reflects the time-period, religious and political views of the films and novels directors and authors. It focuses on the representation of the narrative material on Israel in Egypt and the Exodus examining such issues as differing constructions of ethnicity, gender and sexuality; the use of Egypt as a political symbol and the effect of genre on the presentation of the base narrative. This module allows the students to recognise the importance of Biblical material in Western popular culture and to see how the popular presentation of Biblical narratives reflects back on a reader's understanding of the material found in the Bible. Each week, one or more films/novels are discussed in student led-seminars and then group discussions supplemented by short lectures.

## NM 4011: The Jews of Egypt

<b>Duration:</b>	Semester A
<b>Contact hours p/w:</b>	1 x two-hour seminar per week
<b>Assessment:</b>	2 x 3,000-word essay
<b>Weighting:</b>	10 ECTS

**Description:** This module begins with an examination of the earliest traditions about Egypt in the Hebrew Bible and continues to examine Judean-Egyptian political relations in the neo-Assyrian, neo-Babylonian, Persian and Ptolemaic periods. Topics include: Jewish temples in Egypt, emigration of Jews to Egypt, The presentation of Jewish residence in Egypt in the Hebrew Bible and other traditions, the translation of the Torah into Greek at Alexandria, Judean soldiers in Egypt, the Jewish politeuma and the socio-historical background of Jewish life in Egypt.

## NM 4012: Holocaust Representation in Film and Literature

<b>Duration:</b>	Semester B
<b>Contact hours p/w:</b>	1 x two-hour seminar per week

**Assessment:** 2 x 3,000-word essay

**Weighting:** 10 ECTS

**Description:** This module aims to take up the philosophical and ethical questions regarding literary and filmic representation of the destruction of the Jews of Europe. Students examine a variety of sources—literary, testimony, filmic and scholarly—in order to familiarize themselves with a range of genres of Holocaust representation and with the current debates regarding the possibilities and limitations of the representation of the Holocaust. There are no prerequisites and the module is optional.

### **NM 4013: Islam and Gender**

**Duration:** Semester A

**Contact hours p/w:** 1 x two-hour seminar per week

**Assessment:** 2 x 3,000-word essay

**Weighting:** 10 ECTS

**Description:** This module addresses the concept of gender in Islam from historical, socio-political and legal perspectives. A broad range of topics including contemporary debates on identity, feminism and sexuality are covered. The areas of Islamic law pertaining to women's legal rights will be another topic of discussion. The changing discourse regarding construction of gender identities are explored through studies of women's movements in Muslim majority countries. This module will encourage students to challenge stereotypes surrounding women's status in Islam by promoting lively debates and discussions. In addition to readings there will be a number of film screenings and guest lectures. **Topics include:** Women at the Inception of Islam: The Prophet and Women, Women, the Qur'an and the Hadith: Women in the Qur'an and the Story of Creation, Women in Islamic Law: Marriage, Women in Islamic Law: Divorce, Sexuality and Islam, Patriarchy and Honour, Discourses on the Veil: Comparative perspectives, Islamic Feminisms and Women's Movements: Comparative Perspectives (Iran, Turkey, Morocco, Egypt, Indonesia), Women and the Islamic State.

### **NM 4015: Advanced Arabic Texts**

**Duration:** Semester A

**Assessment:** 1 end of semester test

**Weighting:** 10 ECTS

**Description:** The successful completion of modules in introductory and intermediate Arabic is a prerequisite for this module. The module aims to familiarise students with a wider range of Arabic texts including prose and poetry. Students also engage in translation of advanced-level Arabic texts.

