

Introduction

The Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations once again promises to offer a wide variety of courses that will appeal to students who are interested in the earliest and modern civilizations of the Near and Middle. These courses range in scope and include history and material culture (archaeology), philosophy, religion, language and culture in those regions.

The Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations Undergraduate Students' Association (NMCUSA) is dedicated to enhancing student life within the department. We provide all sorts of entertainment, guest lectures, and tonnes of wacky fun. Our office is Room 322 in Bancroft Hall where you can come and visit us or check out our website: [www.chass.utoronto.ca/nmcusa](http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/nmcusa). We've always got something going on.

NMCUSA Executive

**NMC101Y1Y The Ancient Near East**

Instructor(s): R. Leprohon

	Enr: 120							Resp: 80		Retake: 96%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	0	0	0	2	5	22	70	6.6			
Explains	0	0	0	0	5	27	67	6.6			
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	6	93	6.9			
Teaching	0	0	0	2	1	26	70	6.6			
Workload	1	6	12	72	6	1	0	3.8			
Difficulty	0	0	10	75	11	2	0	4.1			
Learn Exp	0	0	0	2	25	29	42	6.4			

Students appreciated Leprohon's enthusiasm and found him to be extremely knowledgeable. Most students felt that the slides were very helpful while some felt that there were too many slides. Some students expressed that they would have appreciated more opportunities to have work evaluated. Overall, students really enjoyed this course.

Instructor(s): G. Frame

	Enr: 109							Resp: 51		Retake: 79%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	2	2	8	30	28	22	8	4.8			
Explains	0	4	8	26	22	30	10	5.0			
Communicates	1	1	5	15	19	29	25	5.4			
Teaching	2	2	8	20	22	30	16	5.1			
Workload	3	3	19	68	3	0	0	3.6			
Difficulty	0	3	13	60	19	1	0	4.0			
Learn Exp	0	10	7	37	12	20	12	4.6			

Overall, students felt that although Frame seemed to know his subject matter well, he was not always able to effectively present it. However, overall, his enthusiasm for the subject overshadowed his short comings. Most students had complaints regarding the Ronx textbook - it did not follow his lectures and the material was outdated; and also there were too many textbooks needed for the course.

**NMC 201Y1Y Civilization of Islam**

Instructor(s): S. Guenther

	Enr: 86							Resp: 41		Retake: 69%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	0	6	6	18	37	0	31	5.1			
Explains	0	6	12	25	18	6	31	5.0			
Communicates	6	6	6	6	33	13	26	5.0			
Teaching	6	0	6	20	20	26	20	5.1			
Workload	0	5	16	72	2	2	0	3.8			
Difficulty	2	2	10	78	2	2	0	3.8			
Learn Exp	3	0	14	22	18	29	11	4.9			

Some students felt that having experts come in to lecture on their area of specialty helped make the course more interesting while an equal number of students would have preferred that one instructor did all the lectures in order to facilitate the flow of the subject matter.

**NMC 210Y1Y Introductory Standard Arabic**

Instructor(s): G. Jayyusi-Lehn

	Enr: 34							Resp: 30		Retake: 87%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	0	18	7	22	14	11	25	4.7			
Explains	0	3	7	18	11	25	33	5.5			
Communicates	0	0	0	7	3	22	66	6.5			
Teaching	0	3	3	11	18	29	33	5.7			
Workload	0	0	3	32	14	35	14	5.2			
Difficulty	0	0	0	37	14	29	18	5.3			
Learn Exp	0	3	3	7	23	26	34	5.7			

Jayyusi-Lehn was very enthusiastic and helpful to students. However, she tended to be a little disorganized, at times. The workload was heavy, and Jayyusi-Lehn sometimes moved too quickly.

**NMC 236H1F Intermediate Modern Hebrew I**

Instructor(s): B. Walfish

	Enr: 6							Resp: 6		Retake: 100%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	4.5			
Explains	0	0	16	16	33	33	0	4.8			
Communicates	0	0	33	0	0	50	16	5.2			
Teaching	0	16	0	0	66	16	0	4.7			
Workload	0	0	16	16	33	16	16	5.0			
Difficulty	0	0	16	33	16	16	16	4.8			
Learn Exp	0	0	0	33	33	33	0	5.0			

**NMC 240Y1Y Persian for Beginners**

Instructor(s): N. Danesh

	Enr: 27							Resp: 15		Retake: 93%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	0	0	6	6	6	46	33	5.9			
Explains	0	0	6	0	6	46	40	6.1			
Communicates	0	0	0	0	20	26	53	6.3			
Teaching	0	0	6	0	6	33	53	6.3			
Workload	0	0	6	80	6	6	0	4.1			
Difficulty	0	0	13	66	20	0	0	4.1			
Learn Exp	0	0	0	9	18	36	36	6.0			

An interesting course with an enthusiastic and helpful instructor. More student interaction would have been helpful.

**NMC 260Y1Y The Archaeology of the Ancient Near East**

Instructor(s): T. Harrison

	Enr: 54							Resp: 44		Retake: 82%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	2	2	4	21	21	17	29	5.3			
Explains	2	0	2	4	35	30	23	5.6			
Communicates	0	0	0	4	20	37	37	6.4			
Teaching	0	0	2	2	23	33	38	6.0			
Workload	0	2	9	71	16	0	0	4.0			
Difficulty	0	0	4	80	12	2	0	4.1			
Learn Exp	0	2	2	31	20	31	11	5.1			

Students felt that Harrison was a very good instructor and that his enthusiasm for the material enhanced the learning experience. Some students felt that a course reader would have been preferable to the many different textbooks, as the cost of these books was oppressive and the value of some, marginal. The test review sheets were helpful given the body of material covered and were appreciated by students.

## 152 NEAR & MIDDLE EASTERN CIVILIZATIONS

### NMC 270Y1Y History of Syriac Christianity

Instructor(s): A. Harrak

	Enr: 11							Resp: 9		Retake: 77%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	0	0	0	22	11	44	22	5.7			
Explains	0	0	0	0	11	55	33	6.2			
Communicates	0	0	0	0	11	33	55	6.4			
Teaching	0	0	0	11	0	22	66	6.4			
Workload	0	0	11	55	22	11	0	4.3			
Difficulty	0	0	0	33	55	11	0	4.8			
Learn Exp	0	0	0	14	28	0	57	6.0			

Harrak provided an enthusiastic introduction to a fascinating topic. Students enjoyed the class, the only complaints being the single term paper (instead of two shorter papers) and the fact that the exam was in the class period rather than during the exam period.

### NMC 274Y1Y Islamic History to the Fall of Baghdad (1258)

Instructor(s): L. Northrup

	Enr: 73							Resp: 59		Retake: 80%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	0	5	3	15	30	23	22	5.3			
Explains	1	0	12	15	27	24	18	5.2			
Communicates	3	3	6	17	31	13	24	5.1			
Teaching	0	0	12	13	29	17	58	5.2			
Workload	0	1	13	49	23	10	1	4.3			
Difficulty	0	1	10	47	29	7	3	4.4			
Learn Exp	2	2	7	28	12	28	17	5.0			

Many students believed that this course was in need of a tutorial. They found the instructor knowledgeable and the course, overall, interesting. Northrup was seen as being very approachable.

### NMC 284H1F Judaism and Feminism

Instructor(s): T. Meacham

	Enr: 12							Resp: 12		Retake: 70%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	0	0	33	41	25	0	0	3.9			
Explains	0	0	9	9	36	27	18	5.4			
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	66	33	6.3			
Teaching	0	0	0	25	25	33	16	5.4			
Workload	0	0	0	16	41	25	16	5.4			
Difficulty	0	0	8	58	33	0	0	4.2			
Learn Exp	0	0	10	50	10	20	10	4.7			

The course content was quite demanding with regards to the readings, some students felt it would have been beneficial to have had a reading package. Some students felt that knowledge of Judaism or feminism should have been recommended for the course.

Students did say, however, that the instructor was very informative.

### NMC 310Y1Y Intermediate Standard Arabic

Instructor(s): G. Jayyusi-Lehn

	Enr: 11							Resp: 11		Retake: 63%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	0	9	27	36	27	0	0	3.8			
Explains	0	9	27	27	36	0	0	3.9			
Communicates	0	0	9	27	0	27	36	5.5			
Teaching	0	0	30	20	10	40	0	4.6			
Workload	0	0	9	72	18	0	0	4.1			
Difficulty	0	0	9	54	29	9	0	4.4			
Learn Exp	11	0	11	33	11	33	0	4.3			

A few students felt that the instructor was unorganized and that the course material was not adequately covered. However, students found the instructor to be very personable.

### NMC 320Y1Y Introduction to Middle Egyptian

Instructor(s): S. Rampersad

	Enr: 21							Resp: 24		Retake: 91%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	4	0	0	0	8	33	54	6.2			
Explains	4	0	0	4	0	37	54	6.2			
Communicates	0	0	0	0	8	29	62	6.5			
Teaching	4	0	0	0	0	41	54	6.3			
Workload	0	0	08	33	41	12	4	4.7			
Difficulty	0	0	4	37	37	16	4	4.8			
Learn Exp	4	0	0	0	4	40	45	6.1			

The overriding opinion of Rampersad was that she was an absolutely fabulous instructor, who went out of her way to be available to her students. Some students said that they would take any class Rampersad taught, and that she NEEDS to be teaching more.

### NMC 334Y1F Topics in Babylonian Talmud

Instructor(s): T. Meacham

	Enr: 9							Resp: 9		Retake: 87%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	0	0	0	25	62	0	12	5.0			
Explains	0	0	12	0	25	50	12	5.5			
Communicates	0	0	0	0	12	62	25	6.1			
Teaching	0	0	0	0	25	37	37	6.1			
Workload	12	0	0	37	25	0	25	4.6			
Difficulty	0	0	0	25	37	25	12	5.2			
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	16	66	16	6.0			

Students found Meacham to be an effective instructor who was always available for help.

The small class size facilitated good class discussions and visual diagrams helped clarify the material.

### NMC 352Y1Y Faith and Doubt in Hebrew Poetry

Instructor(s): S. Green

	Enr: 12							Resp: 11		Retake: 88%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	0	0	0	10	20	30	40	6.0			
Explains	0	0	10	0	10	40	40	6.0			
Communicates	0	0	0	0	11	33	55	6.4			
Teaching	0	0	0	11	11	33	44	6.1			
Workload	0	10	10	70	10	0	0	3.8			
Difficulty	0	0	25	62	0	12	0	4.0			
Learn Exp	0	0	0	28	28	14	28	5.4			

Most students found Green to be a wonderful instructor.

### NMC 361Y1Y Archaeology of Palestine in the Biblical Period

Instructor(s): T. Harrison

	Enr: 20							Resp: 10		Retake: 90%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean			
Presents	0	0	10	10	30	30	20	5.4			
Explains	0	0	0	12	37	25	25	5.6			
Communicates	0	0	0	0	25	37	37	6.1			
Teaching	0	0	0	0	11	66	22	6.1			
Workload	0	11	0	66	22	0	0	4.0			
Difficulty	0	0	0	77	22	0	0	4.2			
Learn Exp	0	0	0	12	50	25	12	5.4			

Students felt that this was a great course and that the instructor was wonderful. Some students felt that there was too much material to be covered.



## 154 NEAR & MIDDLE EASTERN CIVILIZATIONS

Teaching	0	14	0	0	42	42	0	5.0
Workload	0	0	0	57	42	0	0	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	0	57	42	0	0	4.4
Learn Exp	0	20	0	20	20	40	0	4.6

Most students felt that Frame was a good teacher. The biggest problem with the course, the students felt, was the 40% participation. They felt that it was too excessive.

### NMC 410Y1Y Advanced Standard Arabic

Instructor(s): S. Guenther

Enr: 9	Resp: 10							Retake: 100%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	33	44	22	5.9
Explains	0	0	0	0	30	70	0	5.7
Communicates	0	0	0	0	10	80	10	6.0
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	60	40	6.4
Workload	0	0	0	77	22	0	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	0	55	44	0	0	4.4
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	33	44	22	5.9

Students found the course to be an excellent learning experience. Some would have preferred reading from actual Arabic texts rather than using the workbook. Guenther showed a genuine interest in the progress of his students.

### NMC 412Y1Y Survey of Classical Arabic Literature

Instructor(s): S. Guenther

Enr: 13	Resp: 13							Retake: 100%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	7	23	46	23	5.8
Explains	0	0	0	15	15	23	46	6.0
Communicates	0	0	0	7	15	30	46	6.2
Teaching	0	0	0	7	7	46	38	6.2
Workload	0	0	15	84	0	0	0	3.8
Difficulty	0	0	15	76	7	0	0	5.0
Learn Exp	0	0	10	30	10	0	50	5.5

Students felt that Guenther was an informative and enjoyable lecturer who was an asset to UofT. He was extremely friendly and approachable, and all his students would gladly take his course again.

### NMC 413H1S Islamic Thought in Mediaeval Arabic Sources

Instructor(s): S. Guenther

Enr: 11	Resp: 7							Retake: 80%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	14	42	42	6.3
Explains	0	0	0	0	0	42	57	6.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	28	71	6.7
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	42	57	6.6
Workload	0	0	0	8.	0	16	0	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	0	85	14	0	0	4.1
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	6.5

An outstanding instructor who was approachable and understanding.

### NMC 420Y1Y Intermediate Egyptian

Instructor(s): R. Leprohon

Enr: 11	Resp: 10							Retake: 100%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	0	40	60	6.6
Explains	0	0	0	0	0	30	70	6.7
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	10	90	6.9
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	30	70	6.7
Workload	0	0	0	0	30	10	60	6.3
Difficulty	0	0	0	10	30	20	40	5.9
Learn Exp	0	0	0	14	14	14	57	6.1

Students found that the workload was heavy and challenging but in the end they found it to be a rewarding experience. Students felt that Leprohon was an excellent instructor.

### NMC 441Y1Y Survey of Classical Persian Literature

Instructor(s): M. Subtelny

Enr: 35	Resp: 22							Retake: 86%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	4	0	0	22	36	36	6.0
Explains	0	0	0	0	13	40	45	6.3
Communicates	0	0	0	4	0	23	71	6.6
Teaching	0	4	0	0	4	45	45	6.2
Workload	0	0	9	61	23	0	4	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	0	59	31	0	9	4.6
Learn Exp	0	0	5	5	21	26	42	5.9

Most students felt that Subtelny was a great instructor. They found her very approachable and enthusiastic.

### NMC 462Y1Y Polarized-light Microscopy in Archaeology

Instructor(s): R. Mason

Enr: 9	Resp: 10							Retake: 88%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	10	0	70	20	0	5.0
Explains	0	0	10	20	40	30	0	4.9
Communicates	0	0	0	0	40	10	50	6.1
Teaching	0	0	0	10	60	10	20	5.4
Workload	0	0	30	50	10	10	0	4.0
Difficulty	0	0	10	60	20	10	0	4.3
Learn Exp	0	0	0	37	12	25	25	5.4

### NMC 467Y1Y Archaeology and Material Culture of Ancient Egypt

Instructor(s): M. Wegner

Enr: 15	Resp: 12							Retake: 83%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	8	50	33	8	5.4
Explains	0	0	0	0	33	50	16	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	16	41	25	16	5.4
Teaching	0	0	0	0	41	50	8	5.7
Workload	0	0	0	50	25	16	8	4.8
Difficulty	0	0	0	50	25	25	0	5.5
Learn Exp	0	0	0	25	62	12	0	4.9

Overall, students felt that Wegner was a good instructor. Some students felt that the amount of reading required was too much, and that the readings were not discussed in class. Students felt that the tests would have been a better learning experience if they were not solely a process of memorization. The ROM section was very helpful and enjoyed by most students.

### NMC 479Y1Y Topics in Modern Middle Eastern History

Instructor(s): J. Reilly

Enr: 10	Resp: 5							Retake: 100%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	20	40	40	6.2
Explains	0	0	0	0	0	40	60	6.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	20	60	20	6.0
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	40	60	6.6
Workload	0	0	20	60	0	20	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	0	20	60	20	0	5.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	20	0	40	40	6.0

Students found Reilly to be incredibly knowledgeable and a wonderful instructor.