



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 tons 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. We've always got something going on.

NMCUSA Executive

NMC 101Y1Y The Ancient Near East

Instructor(s): S.Shubert

	Resp: 75							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	4	10	18	32	34	5.8
Explains	0	0	2	6	26	33	30	5.8
Communicates	0	0	1	12	8	36	41	6.1
Teaching	0	0	0	14	18	44	22	5.7
Workload	5	6	20	65	2	0	0	3.5
Difficulty	4	2	12	62	16	2	0	3.9
Learn Exp	0	0	1	30	26	31	9	5.2

Students found Shubert to be very enthusiastic and well-organized. They commented that the instructor was knowledgeable, particularly on the subject of Egyptology. They felt that the use of slides in lectures was very helpful. However, lectures were too long and students were disappointed with the lack of feedback.

Instructor(s): G. Frame

	Resp: 37							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	2	11	22	40	22	5.7
Explains	0	0	0	8	38	33	19	5.6
Communicates	0	2	0	11	14	37	34	5.9
Teaching	0	0	2	5	22	47	22	5.8
Workload	10	8	8	59	8	0	5	3.7
Difficulty	5	8	5	66	11	0	2	3.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	48	22	14	14	5.0

Students commented that the lectures could be dry at times, but that the instructor presented the material well. Frame was personable and easy to talk to. A major complaint was that the textbooks were not helpful and expensive. Some students also recommended that the lecture photos and other slides should have been posted on the internet.

NMC 201Y1Y Islam's Culture and Civilization

Instructor(s): T. Lawson

	Resp: 50							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	8	4	6	24	32	20	6	4.5
Explains	4	4	0	28	36	14	12	4.8
Communicates	4	2	6	12	22	32	22	5.3
Teaching	6	2	0	20	34	26	12	5.0
Workload	0	2	10	64	12	10	2	4.2
Difficulty	0	2	4	56	22	16	0	4.5
Learn Exp	2	2	5	32	21	21	13	4.9

This course was taught by different guest lecturers each week, covering a variety of topics throughout the year. Due to this format, many students felt the course lacked a clear structure and was at times, confusing. Students felt that more tutorials would have been helpful, particularly considering that a relatively high percentage was accorded to participation in class. They also had difficulties contacting Lawson, who did not actually teach a majority of the course.

NMC 240Y1Y1 Persian for Beginners

Instructor(s): H. Yazdi

	Resp: 22							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	4	13	18	63	6.4
Explains	0	0	0	4	9	18	68	6.5
Communicates	0	0	0	4	4	13	77	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	4	4	9	80	6.7
Workload	4	0	14	42	23	9	4	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	0	31	45	13	9	5.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	11	11	29	47	6.1

Yazdi was highly praised by his students, who found him to be enthusiastic, friendly and knowledgeable. Many students commented that Yazdi went out of his way to help students and was an excellent instructor.

NMC 256Y1Y Literature and Culture of Modern Israel

Instructor(s): S. Green

	Resp: 16							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	18	50	31	6.1
Explains	0	0	0	0	18	43	37	6.2
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	37	62	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	0	6	62	31	6.2
Workload	6	12	12	68	0	0	0	3.4
Difficulty	6	0	6	68	18	0	0	3.9
Learn Exp	0	0	0	7	38	15	38	5.8

Students felt the instructor was informative, but suggested that there could have been more of a focus on modern culture, and could have included Israeli Arab writers as well.

NMC 260Y1Y The Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

Instructor(s): S. Batiuk

	Resp: 48							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	14	18	22	25	18	5.1
Explains	0	0	2	23	31	25	17	5.3
Communicates	0	0	0	8	29	20	41	6.0
Teaching	0	2	0	14	27	34	21	5.6
Workload	0	0	4	54	20	20	0	4.6
Difficulty	0	0	10	58	20	10	0	4.3
Learn Exp	2	2	8	37	21	18	8	4.6

Students felt that the instructor was enthusiastic and knowledgeable, but some commented that he relied too much on powerpoint presentations. They found that testing was inconsistent in terms of the level of difficulty and structure. They were also not reflective of the material

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taught in class. Some students also felt too many books and readings were assigned.

NMC 270H1F History of Syriac Christianity

Instructor(s): A. Harrak

	Enr: 19							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	15	0	23	23	38	5.7
Explains	0	0	15	7	0	38	38	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	0	15	7	76	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	23	7	7	61	6.1
Workload	0	0	7	61	15	15	0	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	7	76	15	0	0	4.1
Learn Exp	0	0	0	40	0	20	40	5.6

Harrak was generally well-liked by his students. His enthusiasm was greatly appreciated.

NMC 273Y1Y Islamic History to the Fall of Baghdad (1258)

Instructor(s): L. Northrup

	Enr: 50							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	17	14	25	21	21	5.1
Explains	0	0	19	19	34	15	11	4.8
Communicates	0	3	7	26	26	3	30	5.1
Teaching	0	0	3	40	11	33	11	5.1
Workload	0	0	3	81	11	3	0	4.1
Difficulty	0	0	0	74	18	7	0	4.3
Learn Exp	0	0	0	31	36	27	4	5.0

Students felt the instructor was organized and knowledgeable, but lacked enthusiasm for the material.

NMC 278Y1Y Introduction to the Modern Middle East

Instructor(s): J. Reilly

	Enr: 91							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	12	20	46	20	5.7
Explains	0	0	2	7	28	39	21	5.7
Communicates	0	0	2	20	20	38	17	5.5
Teaching	0	0	0	12	23	48	15	5.7
Workload	0	0	5	76	12	2	2	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	2	78	13	2	2	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	28	21	39	10	5.3

Reilly was very knowledgeable and informative, but the lectures were dry and the material covered too quickly. Students found the material very interesting and relevant, although there could have been more focus on Gulf States.

NMC 285Y1Y The Qur'an

Instructor(s): T. Lawson

	Enr: 70							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	5	5	20	20	23	16	9	4.4
Explains	3	3	3	23	23	16	25	5.1
Communicates	3	1	1	9	12	21	49	5.9
Teaching	5	0	3	29	14	25	20	5.1
Workload	0	1	7	67	12	8	4	4.2
Difficulty	0	1	5	50	30	12	0	4.5
Learn Exp	2	2	4	24	15	28	22	5.2

Students found Lawson very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the course material. The course was an introductory one, but many commented that previous knowledge was an asset. Also, some students felt that the course was disorganized and more help - e.g. tutorials was needed. A few also found it difficult to approach the instructor.

NMC 320Y1Y Introduction to Middle Egyptian

Instructor(s): S. Rampersad

	Enr: 10							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	10	30	60	6.5
Explains	0	0	0	0	10	50	40	6.3
Communicates	0	0	0	10	0	50	40	6.2
Teaching	0	0	0	0	10	60	30	6.2
Workload	0	0	0	30	40	30	0	5.0
Difficulty	0	0	0	40	40	20	0	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	22	11	44	22	5.7

This course was thoroughly enjoyed by the class. They found Rampersad to be a very good and knowledgeable lecturer. The only complaint was that she sometimes covered the material too quickly.

NMC 331H1F Mishnah and Tosefta

Instructor(s): T. Meacham

	Enr: 7							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	20	20	60	0	5.4
Explains	0	0	0	0	33	33	33	6.0
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	60	40	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	0	20	20	60	6.4
Workload	0	0	0	40	60	0	0	4.6
Difficulty	0	0	0	33	50	16	0	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	16	16	33	33	5.8

Students thought that the instructor was very knowledgeable and helpful.

NMC 363Y1Y The Archaeology of Historical Mesopotamia

Instructor(s): G. Frame

	Enr: 12							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	20	0	60	20	5.8
Explains	0	0	0	0	30	50	20	5.9
Communicates	0	0	0	10	0	70	20	6.0
Teaching	0	0	0	0	20	60	20	6.0
Workload	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	4.0
Difficulty	0	0	0	80	20	0	0	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	57	42	0	0	4.4

All students who replied found it a valuable experience. The instructor was knowledgeable and gave excellent feedback and extra help to students.

NMC 371Y1Y Ancient Egypt

Instructor(s): M. Wegner

	Enr: 95							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	14	24	27	34	5.8
Explains	0	0	0	10	28	36	24	5.8
Communicates	0	0	4	7	21	31	35	5.9
Teaching	0	0	0	7	21	45	25	5.9
Workload	0	0	2	62	23	8	1	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	7	60	26	4	1	4.3
Learn Exp	0	0	0	36	22	30	11	5.2

Students felt that Wegner was very well-organized and approachable. They found the slides and handouts to be very useful and the guest lecturers very informative. However, many felt the amount of material was daunting and the topics covered too quickly. Also, students asked for a more balanced workload, as there were too many assignments in the second term. One of the biggest concerns was the unfair and problematic marking by the TAs, who students found overly personal in their criticism and marking.

NMC 376H1F History of Islamic Spain and North Africa (640-1492)

Instructor(s): L. Northrup

Enr: 63 Resp: 43 Retake: 82%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	4	13	30	27	23	5.5
Explains	0	0	6	13	23	39	16	5.4
Communicates	0	2	6	4	32	25	27	5.6
Teaching	0	0	2	13	23	32	27	5.7
Workload	0	0	14	59	16	9	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	4	6	69	13	4	0	4.1
Learn Exp	0	0	0	24	43	13	18	5.3

Students commented on Northrup's high level of enthusiasm for the material and her organization. They found her handouts very useful. Some students felt that the course was rushed with regards to the amount of material covered.

NMC 379H1F History of Science in the Islamic World

Instructor(s): I. Hehmeyer

Enr: 23 Resp: 16 Retake: 84%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	6	12	50	31	6.1
Explains	0	0	0	6	12	37	43	6.2
Communicates	0	0	0	0	12	37	50	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	12	18	37	31	5.9
Workload	0	0	6	43	31	12	6	4.7
Difficulty	0	0	6	56	31	0	6	4.4
Learn Exp	0	0	0	8	33	16	41	5.9

Students felt the course material was very interesting and the instructor was very well-informed. Many students were very pleased with how helpful Hehmeyer was.

NMC 384H1S Life Cycle and Personal Status in Judaism

Instructor(s): T. Meacham

Enr: 14 Resp: 12 Retake: 100%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	10	40	20	30	0	4.7
Explains	0	0	0	10	60	10	20	5.4
Communicates	0	0	0	10	10	40	40	6.1
Teaching	0	0	0	10	40	20	30	5.7
Workload	0	0	10	60	30	0	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	10	90	0	0	0	3.9
Learn Exp	0	0	0	37	37	25	0	4.9

NMC 385Y1Y Intellectuals of the Arab World

Instructor(s): J. Hanssen

Enr: 16 Resp: 16 Retake: 50%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	16	25	25	25	8	4.8
Explains	0	0	8	33	25	16	16	5.0
Communicates	0	0	0	9	18	45	27	5.9
Teaching	0	0	8	25	25	16	25	5.2
Workload	0	0	0	25	25	41	8	5.3
Difficulty	0	0	0	7	38	30	23	5.7
Learn Exp	0	0	10	10	20	10	50	5.8

Students felt that Hanssen was very knowledgeable and inspiring, but that the course was somewhat disorganized.

NMC 441Y1Y Survey of Classical Persian Literature

Instructor(s): M. Subtelny

Enr: 34 Resp: 29 Retake: 83%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	3	0	3	10	13	24	44	5.8
Explains	3	0	0	3	17	31	44	6.0
Communicates	3	0	0	0	20	20	55	6.2

Teaching	3	0	0	6	13	27	48	6.0
Workload	3	0	3	55	20	13	3	4.4
Difficulty	3	0	3	34	27	24	6	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	15	5	47	31	5.9

Students felt that the instructor was very enthusiastic and approachable and the course material interesting.

NMC 462Y1Y Polarized-light Microscopy in Archaeology

Instructor(s): R. Mason

Enr: 6 Resp: 5 Retake: 100%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	40	60	0	0	4.6
Explains	0	0	0	40	40	20	0	4.8
Communicates	0	0	0	0	20	60	20	6.0
Teaching	0	0	0	0	60	20	20	5.6
Workload	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	4.0
Difficulty	0	0	0	75	25	0	0	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	4.5

This instructor provided an interesting experience, where the use of labs proved to be valuable. Students expressed the desire for a little more organization and clarity with regards to lectures and expectations. Overall though, students greatly enjoyed the class.

NMC 465H1F Ceramic Analysis

Instructor(s): T. Harrison

Enr: 10 Resp: 8 Retake: 75%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	12	0	75	12	0	4.9
Explains	0	0	0	0	37	62	0	5.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	25	62	12	5.9
Teaching	0	0	0	0	25	62	12	5.9
Workload	0	0	0	62	25	12	0	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	0	50	25	25	0	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	42	14	42	0	5.0

NMC 466H1S Near Eastern Ceramics

Instructor(s): T. Harrison

Enr: 8 Resp: 9 Retake: 85%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	33	66	0	5.7
Explains	0	0	0	0	22	77	0	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	0	11	66	22	6.1
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	6.0
Workload	0	0	0	85	14	0	0	4.1
Difficulty	0	0	0	57	28	14	0	4.6
Learn Exp	0	0	0	14	42	42	0	5.3

Students found this to be an informative and useful course.

NMC 471H1S Topics in Early & Medieval Islamic History

Instructor(s): L. Northrup

Enr: 12 Resp: 11 Retake: 100%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	9	18	36	36	6.0
Explains	0	0	0	0	18	36	45	6.3
Communicates	0	0	0	0	9	27	63	6.5
Teaching	0	0	0	0	9	36	54	6.5
Workload	0	0	0	60	30	10	0	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	0	54	36	0	9	4.6
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	0	16	83	6.8

Northrup was an enthusiastic and interesting lecturer in this seminar, and students enjoyed the material covered.