



Introduction

Welcome to the NMCSU (Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations Student Union) at the renowned University of Toronto. We strive to bring a strong sense of community within the department, and to maintain a suitable academic environment for the advancement of research and thought within the NMC fields.

Throughout the school year we host lectures, with topics ranging from Ancient Egypt to the modern political issues of the Middle East, social functions, to get to know your department better, and movie nights, to combine fun with education. Visit our website to find out more about what we do: <http://groups.chass.utoronto.ca/nmcsu/>

-NMCSU Executive

NMC 184H1F The Islamic World

Instructor(s): M. Subtelny

Enr: 138 Resp: 70 Retake: 77%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	1	4	5	38	25	25	5.6
Explains	0	2	2	11	32	26	23	5.5
Communicates	0	0	4	4	17	33	39	6.0
Teaching	0	1	1	8	28	28	30	5.7
Workload	0	2	11	48	20	10	5	4.4
Difficulty	0	4	6	60	24	3	1	4.2
Learn Exp	0	1	8	25	27	22	13	5.0

Subtelny was described as an enthusiastic and knowledgeable instructor who used great visual examples to teach. Although the majority of students like the instructor, some described her as giving a biased point of view as well as using a difficult grading scheme.

The course load was excessive for a half-year course and marked a little too hard for a 100-level course. However, the overall experience was enjoyable and the subject matter was interesting.

NMC 202H1F Introduction to Coptic Studies

Instructor(s): R. Boutros

Enr: 19 Resp: 15 Retake: 92%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	13	20	66	6.5
Explains	0	0	0	7	35	7	50	6.0
Communicates	0	0	6	6	13	33	40	5.9
Teaching	0	0	0	6	0	46	46	6.3
Workload	0	0	7	71	21	0	0	4.1
Difficulty	0	0	6	80	13	0	0	4.1
Learn Exp	0	0	0	10	40	20	30	5.7

Students found that the instructor was very approachable and accommodating to student needs. His lectures slides proved very useful for studying although some felt that he could have showed more enthusiasm during lectures. Students also appreciated the wide range of evaluation methods in the course and felt that they were graded fairly.

NMC 250H1S Dead Sea Scrolls

Instructor(s): C. Stauber

Enr: 46 Resp: 19 Retake: 100%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	31	26	42	6.1
Explains	0	0	0	0	26	31	42	6.2

Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	22	77	6.8
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	47	52	6.5
Workload	5	10	10	52	10	0	10	3.9
Difficulty	5	5	22	55	0	0	11	3.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	37	12	18	31	5.4

Students thought Stauber was kind and approachable. He made the subject material seem enjoyable. His lectures were very informative and thorough and he displayed exceptional knowledge on the information he presented.

NMC 260Y1Y The Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

Instructor(s): D. Foran

Enr: 64 Resp: 44 Retake: 80%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	2	2	13	16	53	11	5.5
Explains	0	0	2	16	18	44	18	5.6
Communicates	0	0	0	13	11	32	41	6.0
Teaching	0	0	2	11	18	55	11	5.6
Workload	0	0	11	53	23	11	0	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	7	52	30	7	2	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	8	37	32	16	5	4.7

The students liked Foran and generally thought she was good at answering questions and was enthusiastic about the material. Some of them found the organization of lectures difficult to follow at times. Overall though they thought the subject matter was interesting.

NMC 270H1F Christians of the Middle East

Instructor(s): A. Harrak

Enr: 31 Resp: 22 Retake: 80%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	9	9	4	27	50	6.0
Explains	0	0	0	4	18	22	54	6.3
Communicates	0	0	0	4	9	9	77	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	13	4	36	45	6.1
Workload	0	0	22	72	4	0	0	3.8
Difficulty	0	0	4	72	18	0	4	4.3
Learn Exp	0	0	0	21	35	21	21	5.4

Harrak was described as an enthusiastic and knowledgeable instructor who was also very helpful and patient with the students. However, some students complained about his failure to communicate the expectations for the tests.

Other than the assessment of the mid term which many students deemed unfair, the overall experience was described as enjoyable and great. Students expressed that they were happy to have taken the course.

NMC 273Y1Y Early Islamic History: The Prophet and the Caliphates

Instructor(s): M. Simidchieva

Enr: 78 Resp: 52 Retake: 65%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	6	6	14	20	26	14	14	4.5
Explains	2	2	10	22	28	16	20	5.0
Communicates	0	2	8	12	28	24	26	5.4
Teaching	0	6	4	14	20	32	22	5.4
Workload	0	2	2	43	33	14	4	4.7
Difficulty	0	2	0	34	34	26	2	4.9
Learn Exp	0	8	8	25	11	28	17	4.9

Students thought the instructor was kind and approachable. However the lectures were a bit hard to follow. In addition, students had difficulty translating the examples given in class into a broader understanding of the subject material. Simidchieva did exhibit extensive knowledge of the subject material.

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NMC 278H1F Introduction to Modern Middle East

Instructor(s): J. Reilly

	Enr: 75							Mean
	Resp: 39							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	2	5	18	29	43	6.1
Explains	0	0	2	5	10	35	45	6.2
Communicates	0	0	2	8	8	38	41	6.1
Teaching	0	0	0	5	11	41	41	6.2
Workload	0	2	2	74	14	5	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	0	74	25	0	0	4.3
Learn Exp	0	0	0	24	31	17	27	5.5

Reilly was enthusiastic about the course material. This was truly reflected in his lectures. He was well-informed of the topics and was most willing to tackle questions posed by students. The elegance and simplicity of his lectures made it easy for the students to follow. He was well-organized an approachable instructor, Both his methods of evaluation and the assigned readings were effective and valuable. Overall, the students found Reilly engaging and helpful as an instructor. His course was highly recommended.

NMC 343H1F History of Ancient Egypt I: Predynastic Period to Middle Kingdom

Instructor(s): M. Pouls-Wegner

	Enr: 85							Mean
	Resp: 45							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	6	31	40	22	5.8
Explains	0	0	0	6	15	44	33	6.0
Communicates	0	0	0	4	4	40	51	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	2	13	37	46	6.3
Workload	0	0	4	62	28	2	2	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	8	68	15	4	2	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	2	26	26	30	14	5.3

Most respondents enjoyed the course and found the material to be quite interesting. Students had a largely positive view of the instructor, finding her to kind and enthusiastic about the material. People found her lectures to be well-presented and interesting, although a common complaint was that she moved through the lecture slides too fast and wished that she would post them on Blackboard before or after the lecture. Students largely enjoyed doing the assignments and appreciated that she laid out her expectations very clearly with a grading rubric and several writing workshops. Another common complaint was that she should have graded the assignments faster so that students would have had a better idea of how to complete the final assignment, which was worth 40% of the final mark. Overall, respondents had a high opinion of the class.

NMC 362Y1Y Ancient Egyptian Sites

Instructor(s): M. Pouls-Wegner

	Enr: 14							Mean
	Resp: 10							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	10	20	70	6.6
Explains	0	0	0	0	20	30	50	6.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	20	30	50	6.3
Teaching	0	0	0	0	10	30	60	6.5
Workload	0	0	0	90	10	0	0	4.1
Difficulty	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	4.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	44	0	55	6.1

Students liked the format and organization of the class. In particular, they enjoyed the assignments and thought they were helpful. They also thought the instructor was knowledgeable and approachable. Some students would have liked more classroom discussion.

NMC 364H1S The Archaeology of Ancient Mesopotamia II: 2000-300 BC

Instructor(s): C. Reichel

	Enr: 15							Mean
	Resp: 10							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	11	11	33	11	33	5.4
Explains	0	0	0	0	20	20	60	6.4
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	40	60	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	0	10	40	50	6.4
Workload	0	0	10	50	30	0	10	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	0	80	10	10	0	4.3
Learn Exp	0	0	0	25	50	25	0	5.0

Students thought Reichel was a fair marker who was also very approachable. The class materials and lectures were interesting, and contained a lot of information. Students felt that Reichel put a lot of effort into preparing for class.

NMC 368H1S Coptic Art & Archaeology

Instructor(s): R. Boutros

	Enr: 45							Mean
	Resp: 33							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	12	28	59	6.5
Explains	0	0	0	0	15	36	48	6.3
Communicates	0	0	0	0	12	40	46	6.3
Teaching	0	0	0	0	6	33	60	6.5
Workload	0	3	3	75	12	6	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	9	63	18	9	0	4.3
Learn Exp	0	0	0	24	32	20	24	5.4

Students thought that the instructor as well-organized and created a friendly learning environment. He was very considerate and made an effort to communicate with his students.

NMC 369Y1Y Archaeological Materials and Industries

Instructor(s): R. Mason

	Enr: 23							Mean
	Resp: 17							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	23	35	35	5	5.2
Explains	0	0	0	11	29	41	17	5.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	17	41	41	6.2
Teaching	0	0	5	11	23	41	17	5.5
Workload	0	12	18	50	12	0	6	3.9
Difficulty	0	0	6	62	18	6	6	4.4
Learn Exp	0	7	7	15	38	15	15	3.9

Students thought Mason was entertaining and enthusiastic. The class lectures were very interesting. In particular, students enjoyed the hands-on emphasis on learning that the class provided.

NMC 378H1S Themes in Modern Arab History

Instructor(s): J. Reilly

	Enr: 45							Mean
	Resp: 30							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	3	3	43	50	6.4
Explains	0	0	0	0	3	40	56	6.5
Communicates	0	0	0	0	6	36	56	6.5
Teaching	0	0	0	0	3	30	66	6.6
Workload	0	0	6	80	3	10	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	3	86	10	0	0	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	11	34	19	34	5.8

Students thought that Reilly was knowledgeable, well-organized and attentive. In particular they thought that he did a great job communicating his expertise in the classroom. He was passionate about the subject material and his lectures were engaging. He also did an excellent job answering questions.

NMC 381H1F Modern Islamic Thought

Instructor(s): A. Mittermaier

	Enr: 26							Mean
	Resp: 15							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	14	28	57	6.4
Explains	0	0	0	0	7	28	64	6.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	7	50	42	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	0	7	42	50	6.4
Workload	0	0	0	53	7	38	0	4.8
Difficulty	0	0	0	64	21	14	0	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	0	8	255	16	50	6.1

Students thought that the instructor was approachable and open-minded and helped them overcome biases. The lectures were interesting and well-organized. The readings were also interesting when understood. Students also expressed a desire for a tutorial.

NMC 387H1F Islamic Mystical Tradition

Instructor(s): T. Lawson

	Enr: 24							Mean
	Resp: 16							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	6	0	12	31	18	18	12	4.6
Explains	6	0	0	6	25	37	25	5.6
Communicates	6	6	0	6	12	31	43	5.9
Teaching	6	0	6	6	12	37	31	5.6
Workload	6	0	0	20	20	20	33	5.4
Difficulty	6	0	0	50	0	31	12	4.8
Learn Exp	7	0	0	7	14	42	28	5.6

Students found Lawson to be a great instructor with regards to his background of the course. He was easily accessible to students when in need of help. However some students felt that his lectures added more information than the readings did. There were some concerns with the large amounts of readings to do for the course. Overall, Lawson kept the course interesting and was thoroughly enjoyed by the students.

NMC 392H1F The Taj Mahal and Its Origins

Instructor(s): L. Golombek

	Enr: 21							Mean
	Resp: 16							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	6	6	33	33	20	5.5
Explains	0	0	0	6	40	20	33	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	6	53	26	13	5.5
Teaching	0	0	0	6	31	31	31	5.9
Workload	0	0	6	62	18	12	0	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	0	68	18	6	6	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	0	36	27	18	18	5.2

Students thought that Golombek was knowledgeable, approachable and willing to help. Some students found the marking scheme confusing. Likewise students felt that reading materials were difficult or impossible to access and that a class course reader should be sold in the bookstore.

NMC 473H1F Intellectuals of the Modern Arab World

Instructor(s): J. Hanssen

	Enr: 6							Mean
	Resp: 4							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	33	33	33	0	5.0
Explains	0	0	0	0	75	25	0	5.2
Communicates	0	0	0	0	25	25	50	6.2
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	25	75	6.8
Workload	0	0	0	33	0	33	33	5.7
Difficulty	0	0	0	0	33	33	33	6.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	4.5

Students thought Hanssen was approachable. They enjoyed the class discussions and thought it was a valuable learning experience.

NMC 478H1F Readings in the Modern History of Arab Societies

Instructor(s): J. Reilly

	Enr: 9							Mean
	Resp: 6							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	0	33	66	6.7
Explains	0	0	0	0	0	66	33	6.3
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	33	66	6.7
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	16	83	6.8
Workload	0	0	16	33	16	33	0	4.7
Difficulty	0	0	0	16	50	33	0	5.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	20	0	20	60	6.2

Students uniformly considered Reilly to be very helpful, supportive, capable and enthusiastic with regards to his role as a university instructor. He was found to be very able at communicating his ideas while respecting students' opinions. In addition, students said that he laid out his expectations of students very clearly and fairly. Overall people had a very positive opinion of Reilly and the class.

NMC 481H1S Muslim Gnostics and Mystics

Instructor(s): L. Silvers

	Enr: 9							Mean
	Resp: 6							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	16	33	50	6.3
Explains	0	0	0	0	0	66	33	6.3
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	6.5
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	6.5
Workload	0	0	0	50	16	33	0	4.8
Difficulty	0	0	0	33	0	50	16	5.5
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	7.0

Students thought Silvers was enthusiastic, helpful and generous. She was a good teacher who attended to different learning styles. Although the course material was advanced, students felt encouraged by her support.

NML 110Y1Y Introductory Standard Arabic

Instructor(s): S. Ally

	Enr: 21							Mean
	Resp: 14							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	7	21	14	57	6.2
Explains	0	0	0	7	14	14	64	6.4
Communicates	0	0	0	0	14	7	78	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	0	14	14	71	6.6
Workload	0	0	0	35	21	21	21	5.3
Difficulty	0	0	14	35	42	0	7	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	0	9	9	18	63	6.4

Ally was personable and helpful. He was enthusiastic and knowledgeable in the subject matter. He also put a great deal of effort into making sure he was understood, The lessons were interactive, but some students would have preferred more opportunities practicing their speaking skills.

Instructor(s): A. Ali

	Enr: 19							Mean
	Resp: 9							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	0	33	66	6.7
Explains	0	0	0	0	0	44	55	6.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	55	44	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	12	87	6.9
Workload	0	0	0	11	33	33	22	5.7
Difficulty	0	0	0	33	44	22	0	4.9
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	16	33	50	6.3

Students thought that the course required a lot of work, but that it was well worth it.

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NML 211Y1Y Intermediate Standard Arabic I

Instructor(s): A. Ali

	Enr: 21							Mean
	Resp: 17 Retake: 100%							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	17	5	29	47	6.1
Explains	0	5	5	11	0	23	52	5.9
Communicates	0	5	5	5	0	23	58	6.1
Teaching	0	0	5	11	0	23	58	6.2
Workload	0	0	5	29	35	11	17	5.1
Difficulty	0	5	0	52	17	17	5	4.6
Learn Exp	0	0	0	23	7	38	30	5.8

Students thought Ali was very knowledgeable and effective. Some felt that he could have engaged the class in more practice.

NML 250Y1Y Introductory Biblical Hebrew

Instructor(s): A. Jones

	Enr: 11							Mean
	Resp: 11 Retake: 90%							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	10	70	20	6.1
Explains	0	0	0	9	27	36	27	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	40	60	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	0	27	27	45	6.2
Workload	0	0	9	45	36	9	0	4.5
Difficulty	0	10	0	40	40	10	0	4.4
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	10	40	50	6.4

Jones was enthusiastic, excited and dedicated to the subject material. He explained complicated concepts well. Class lectures were interactive and easy to follow.

NML 260Y1Y Introductory Persian

Instructor(s): A. Hojatollah Taleghani

	Enr: 11							Mean
	Resp: 8 Retake: 100%							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	50	25	25	5.8
Explains	0	0	0	0	12	62	25	6.1
Communicates	0	0	0	0	12	37	50	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	12	12	12	62	6.2
Workload	0	0	12	37	25	0	25	4.9
Difficulty	0	0	12	50	25	12	0	4.4
Learn Exp	0	0	0	28	28	42	0	5.1

The instructor was good at communicating and seemed to enjoy teaching. Some students who had prior knowledge of the language did not think that the tutorials were useful.

NML 270Y1Y Introductory Turkish

Instructor(s): M. Yasar

	Enr: 12							Mean
	Resp: 10 Retake: 100%							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	10	40	50	6.4
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	20	60	20	0	5.0
Difficulty	0	0	0	30	50	20	0	4.9
Learn Exp	0	0	10	0	10	10	70	6.3

Yasar was motivating, helpful and funny. He used different methods and examples to make the material easy to understand. He enjoyed teaching and made learning fun.

NML 340Y1Y Intermediate Egyptian

Instructor(s): R. Leprohon

	Enr: 6							Mean
	Resp: 5 Retake: 80%							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	0	20	80	6.8
Explains	0	0	0	0	0	20	80	6.8
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	7.0
Teaching	0	0	0	0	20	0	80	6.6
Workload	0	0	0	40	20	40	0	5.0
Difficulty	0	0	0	20	40	40	0	5.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	25	25	0	50	5.8

The course was demanding but equally rewarding. Leprohon was very enthusiastic about the material. Students enjoyed the structure and content of the class, and always felt free to ask questions.

NML 410Y1Y Advanced Standard Arabic

Instructor(s): A. Ali

	Enr: 12							Mean
	Resp: 12 Retake: 100%							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	9	18	72	6.6
Explains	0	0	0	0	0	27	72	6.7
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	36	63	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	27	72	6.7
Workload	0	0	0	63	27	0	9	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	0	54	18	18	9	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	12	50	37	6.2

Ali was encouraging and attentive to questions. He understood the different needs of students and was very patient.

NML 411H1F Readings in Arabic Newspapers

Instructor(s): A. Ali

	Enr: 20							Mean
	Resp: 19 Retake: 91%							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	25	31	43	6.2
Explains	0	0	0	6	0	43	50	6.4
Communicates	0	0	0	0	18	37	43	6.2
Teaching	0	0	0	0	12	37	50	6.4
Workload	0	0	0	35	0	28	35	5.6
Difficulty	0	0	0	21	14	21	42	5.9
Learn Exp	0	0	0	18	18	45	18	5.6

Students found Ali to be very approachable and thought he was an excellent instructor. However, there was a lot of course work and assignments and evaluations were weighed too heavily.

NML 460Y1Y Classical Persian Literature

Instructor(s): M. Subtelny

	Enr: 11							Mean
	Resp: 9 Retake: 100%							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	0	33	66	6.7
Explains	0	0	0	0	11	22	66	6.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	11	22	66	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	11	88	6.9
Workload	0	0	0	75	25	0	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	0	66	22	11	0	4.4
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	6.5

Subtelny was an enthusiastic and well-organized lecturer. The class was informative and students thought the instructor encouraged their desire to learn.