**Gateway Courses**

Suggested and/or Required Courses

- NEC 101: Historical Background to the Contemporary Middle East
- Middle East in Antiquity
  - Ancient Near East 103: Ancient Lives
  - Culture and Belief 23: From the Hebrew Bible to Judaism, From the Old Testament to Christianity
- Jewish Studies
  - Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding 29: Modern Jewish Literature
  - Culture and Belief 27: “Among the Nations:” Jewish History in Pagan Christian and Muslim Context
- Histories and Cultures of Muslim Societies (Islamic Studies)
  - Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding 54: For the Love of God and His Prophet - Religion, Literature and the Arts in Muslim Cultures
  - Religion 1806: The Vocabulary of Islam
- Modern Middle Eastern Studies
  - The Modern Middle East 100 (formerly Near Eastern Civilizations 100): Approaches to Middle Eastern Studies (required for concentration and secondary field)
  - Islamic Civilizations 170: Islam, Modernity and Politics

For a more complete listing, visit: [nelc.fas.harvard.edu/gateway-courses](http://nelc.fas.harvard.edu/gateway-courses)

**Sample Advanced Courses**

- ANE 117: Biblical Archaeology
- ARABIC 243: Advanced Reading in Classical Arabic
- PERSIAN 158: Modern Persian Poetry and Prose
- YIDDISH 115: The Yiddish Short Story
- ISLAMICV 158: Introduction to the Qur’an
- TURKISH 140: Introduction to Ottoman Turkish
- AKKAD 144: Akkadian Divination Texts
- JEWISHST 151: Introduction to Jewish Mysticism

**Sample Thesis Titles**

- Libya: Factors of a (Un?) Democratic Transition
- The Territory of War and the Territory of Islam: The Reconstitution of the World in the Statements of Osama Bin Laden
- Ashkenazi Revolution: The Politics of Reaction, Heresy, and Suppression in 1960s Israel
- Translating the Divine: … in the Greek and

**Continued...**

- Aramaic Texts of the Hebrew Bible
- From Mesopotamia to Michigan: Identity and Political Preferences of the Chaldean-American Diaspora

**Sample Faculty**

Research and/or Publications

Amr Ahmed:

Gojko Barjamovic:
- Publication: “A Historical Geography of Anatolia in the Old Assyrian Colony Period” (2011).

Shaye J.D. Cohen:
- Research: the boundary between Jews and gentiles and between Judaism and its surrounding cultures. What makes a Jew a Jew, and what makes a non-Jew a non-Jew? Can a non-Jew become a Jew, and can a Jew become a non-Jew? How does the Jewish boundary between Jew and non-Jew compare with the Jewish boundary between male Jew and female Jew?
- Publication: From the Maccabees to the Mishnah (1987; second edition 2006)

Malika Zeghal:
- Research focuses on Islamist movements and in the institutionalization of Islam in the Muslim world, with special focus on the Middle East and North Africa in the postcolonial period and on Muslim diasporas in North America and Western Europe. General interest in the circulation and role of religious ideologies in situations of conflict and/or dialogue.

William Granara:
- Specializes in the history and culture of Muslim Sicily. Has written on cross-cultural encounters between Islam and Christendom throughout the Middle Ages, as well as the poetry of Ibn Hamdis, Sicily’s most celebrated Arab poet. His work on literary criticism focuses on postcolonialism and cross cultural poetics.