Major Requirements & Options

Admission

NELC is an open major, which means that UW students in good academic standing may declare this major at any time and that the major has no prerequisites. To declare the major, students must meet with the NELC Undergraduate Advisor.

Students are encouraged to begin Near Eastern language courses as early as possible in order to complete NELC degree requirements in a timely manner. Students who are planning to transfer to UW should meet or communicate with the NELC Undergraduate Advisor before transferring in order to best prepare to enter NELC at UW.

NELC Major Options

(NELC modified its major requirements, effective Summer 2015. If you are a NELC major who declared before Summer 2015 please contact the NELC advisor for the previous requirements.)

The Department currently offers three Bachelor of Arts degree options. Below you will also find Degree Plan Worksheets, which you can use to help you keep on track.

1. Languages and Cultures
2. Comparative Civilizations
3. Hebrew Bible & Ancient Near Eastern Studies

Near Eastern Studies - Languages and Cultures (72 credits)

Note: Courses cannot be duplicated and used in multiple areas of the degree.
Twenty-two (22) credits must be taken in-residence at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

Degree Plan Worksheet (PDF)

1. Gateway to the Near East (NEAR E 101).
2. Introductory NEAR E Course. One introductory (200 Level) course on the Near East.
3. Two years or its equivalent (as evidenced by an examination) of one of the following Near Eastern languages: Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Modern Hebrew, Uzbek (or other appropriate languages approved by the Undergraduate Advisor).
4. 10 credits of advanced literature courses (400 Level) in one of the core languages (this requirement can be satisfied only after the student has successfully completed the primary language requirement above).
5. Senior Seminar (NEAR E 491). All seniors are required to take a Senior Seminar class during their final Autumn quarter.
6. 20 credits of supporting coursework from the following categories:
   a. Additional advanced literature courses in the student's primary NELC language
   b. Courses in a second Near Eastern language (not to exceed 15 credits)
c. Approved relevant exceptions (not to exceed 15 credits)

Note: NEAR E 498 (Senior Essay, 5 credits) can be used here if student prefers.

Near Eastern Studies - Comparative Civilizations (72 credits)

Note: Courses cannot be duplicated and used in multiple areas of the degree. Twenty-two (22) credits must be taken in-residence at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

Degree Plan Worksheet (PDF)

1. Gateway to the Near East (NEAR E 101).
2. One introductory (200-level) course on the Near East.
3. Two years or its equivalent (as evidenced by an examination) of one of the following Near Eastern languages: Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Modern Hebrew, Uzbek (or other appropriate languages approved by the Undergraduate Advisor).
4. Senior Seminar (NEAR E 491). All seniors are required to take a Senior Seminar class during their final Autumn quarter.
5. Senior Essay (NEAR E 498). All seniors in this track are required to write a Senior Essay during their final Winter or Spring quarter following the Senior Seminar (NEAR E 491).
6. Twenty-five (25) credits of upper division supporting NEAR E courses at the 300-level or above (a maximum of 15 credits of approved exceptions is acceptable).

Near Eastern Studies - Hebrew Bible & Ancient Near East (72 credits)

Note: Courses cannot be duplicated and used in multiple areas of the degree. Twenty-two (22) credits must be taken in-residence at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization.

Degree Plan Worksheet (PDF)

1. Gateway to the Near East (NEAR E 101).
2. Two NEAR E Courses:
   a. Introduction to the Ancient Near East (NEAR E 201)
   b. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (NEAR E 202)
3. Two years, or its equivalent as evidenced by examination, of Biblical Hebrew coursework at the 100- and 200-levels. 15 credits at each level for a total of 30 credits.
4. Senior Seminar (NEAR E 491). All seniors are required to take a Senior Seminar class during their final Autumn quarter.
5. Twenty-five (25) credits of supporting coursework from the following categories:
   a. Advanced literature: 300- or 400-level courses from NEAR E or language prefixes
   b. Other language courses such as Ugaritic or Egyptian (must not exceed 15 credits)
   c. Approved relevant exceptions (must not exceed 15 credits)

Note: NEAR E 498 (Senior Essay, 5 credits) can be used here if the student prefers.
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