Courses

ANEE 107. Introduction to the Ancient Near East and Egypt. 3 Units.
This is an introduction to the history and culture of the Ancient Near East and Egypt, a land spanning from modern Iraq to Egypt that was home to the earliest known societies in written history. In this course we will learn about the relatively recent discoveries of these ancient civilizations, the first deciphering of their scripts, about the political, social, and cultural history of the peoples who gave rise to the Babylonian, Assyrian, and Egyptian empires (besides other Levantine and Anatolian powers and smaller nations such as Israel). Various aspects of the literary/scientific production of these societies will also be discussed, while reflecting upon their cultural legacy. Offered as ANEE 107 and HSTY 107. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.

ANEE 210. Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian Literature. 3 Units.
This course offers a broad survey of Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian literature. We will explore the rich heritage of narrative and mythological compositions through which the Mesopotamians and Egyptians tried to explain the natural phenomena, the religious beliefs and the history of the world around them. Examples of this include myths of creation, stories about gods, the great Flood, the Epic of Gilgamesh, the story of Sinuhe and many others. Other genre of literature will be explored such as the most ancient Legal Codes in history, Pyramid Texts, Wisdom Literature and Proverbs, Love Poetry and Humoristic compositions. Finally, some time will be devoted to the relation of these literatures with the texts that were composed in the Levant, where the alphabet was envisioned, and with the Bible, which grew within this Near Eastern context. All the texts will be read in English translation. Offered as ANEE 210 and CLSC 210.

ANEE 320. Gods and Demons in the Ancient Near East and Egypt. 3 Units.
The roots of many modern religious, literary, social, and political notions reach deep into the fertile soil of Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian cultures, which developed as early as the fourth millennium BCE and flourished until the Hellenistic period. In this course we will examine various components of the religious, divinatory and magical systems of these cultures, and reflect upon their relationship with the stories that are found in the Hebrew Bible. We will learn (through a critical analysis of a selection of ancient texts) about ancient Mesopotamian and Egyptian deities, demons, myths, and magical rituals. We will also explore notions of creation, cosmic order, the human condition, death, afterlife, divine favor, and a wide variety of beliefs that, while often contradictory to modern ways of thinking, combined into unified religious systems. Offered as ANEE 320, RLGN 320 and RLGN 420.

ANEE 337. Ancient Medicine. 3 Units.
This course offers a general survey of the history of medicine from its origins in pre-historical times to Galen (2nd c. CE) with a view to gaining a better understanding of the path that eventually lead to modern medical practice. The various medical systems considered, including the ancient Babylonian, Egyptian, Jewish, Chinese, Ayurvedic, Greek and Roman traditions, will be examined through the study of primary and secondary sources, while key conceptual developments and practices are identified within their cultural and social context. Special issues, such as epidemics, women’s medicine, and surgery, are also explored and discussed. Offered as ANEE 337, CLSC 337, CLSC 437, HSTY 337, and HSTY 437. Counts for CAS Global & Cultural Diversity Requirement.