

CIVILIZATION SEQUENCE PROGRAM

A. SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

The number of students taking CVSP courses each year (including the summer) has remained around 3,500 since 2005-06. Demand has been greater this year for the core Sequence-I courses (64 sections of CVSP 201, 202 and 205 with about 26 students each) than Sequence-II (43 sections of CVSP 203 and 204). We have the capacity to offer another five sections of CVSP 205 and four sections of CVSP 203 in Fall and Spring semesters. Beyond that, it is difficult to see how we could meet any increase in student demand since the capacity of Bathish auditorium, where we hold common lectures, limits us to ten sections of a core course.

We are conscious that CVSP is at the heart of the General Education policy of the university and has a correspondingly great obligation continually to improve the quality of our offerings. The ongoing process of reviewing the reading lists of our core courses CVSP 201 to 206 has led this year to two proposals. The readings in CVSP 201 were reduced to eight by taking Thucydides out of the previous list of readings and by substituting *Antigone* for *Oedipus* and *Crito* for *The Apology*. The idea behind these two moves was both to enable more time to be spent on each reading and to expand the pool of possible readings, for slow rotation into and out of those selected in any one year, since each reading reverberates differently with others: *Antigone* worked well as an alternative to *Oedipus*; *Crito* perhaps less so, although some teachers valued its accessibility for students. Next year, a new reading from Herodotus will be introduced as a historical component different from literature and philosophy, one that bridges both East and West and myth and reason. In CVSP 205, which combines 201 and 202, the proposal is to reintroduce readings from the scriptures.

Variety in Sequence-I and Sequence-II courses is obtained with individual courses numbered CVSP 207 and 208. This year two new courses were added to the range, CVSP 207H (Human nature: ancient, medieval and renaissance) and CVSP 208G (Gender and cultural production, early modern to the present). In addition a number of experimental CVSP 295 courses were offered on Russian literature, world theater, readings on violence in the twentieth century, decadence, and absurdity.

Language classes offer a different kind of variety, although they do not count as humanities. Classes in elementary French have been offered for many years, but for the second year classes in Chinese were also offered by a teacher sent by the Chinese government. These classes have proved popular as electives.

As for what goes on in the classroom, a series of workshops on teaching skills was held over the two semesters. The focus this year was on the assessment of course learning outcomes and whether there should be some kind of uniform guidelines for final exams in multi-sectional courses like CVSP 201 to 205. It was felt that a check list of the kinds of questions to ask would be useful but should not compromise the freedom of teachers to assess in their own ways. A feeling was expressed against too much policing.

Finally, all course schedules and reading lists were uploaded into Moodle at the start of the Fall semester and teachers experimented with this as a means to enhance student learning. Some teachers like Moodle, others feel that the main task is to persuade students to read the primary texts rather than notes about the texts. All common lectures were videotaped by Rabih Mahmassani of the Academic Computing Center during the Fall semester and uploaded both into Moodle and onto the CVSP website as a further resource for students.

CVSP Forum and CVSP Brown-Bag seminars.

Both venues, one reaching outside the university, the other internal, were in abeyance in 2008-09.

B. PERSONNEL

1. Faculty Members

Bornedal, Peter ¹	Professor	Ph.D.
Jarrar, Maher	Professor	Ph.D.
Moussalli, Ahmad*	Professor	Ph.D.
Saumarez Smith, Richard	Professor	Ph.D.
Genz, Hermann*	Associate Professor	Ph.D.
Harb, Serine*	Associate Professor	Ph.D.
Hout, Syrine*	Associate Professor	Ph.D.
Meloy, John*	Associate Professor	Ph.D.
Myers, Robert*	Associate Professor	Ph.D.
Wilmsen, David*	Visiting Associate Professor	Ph.D.

¹ Second semester. on medical leave.

* Part-time.

Wrisley, David	Associate Professor	Ph.D.
Clary, Amy*	Visiting Assistant Professor	Ph.D.
Du Quenoy, Paul*	Assistant Professor	Ph.D.
Gallagher, Robert	Assistant Professor	Ph.D.
Mejcher-Atassi, Sonja	Assistant Professor	Ph.D.
Newson, Paul*	Assistant Professor	Ph.D.
Sharif, Malek*	Visiting Assistant Professor	Ph.D.
Amyuni, Mona	Senior Lecturer	Ph.D.
Nassar, C. Suhail*	Senior Lecturer	Ph.D.
Shebaya, Peter	Senior Lecturer	M.A.
Bualuan, Hayat	Lecturer	Ph.D.
Faddoul, Atif	Lecturer	Ph.D.
Maktabi, Hadi*	Lecturer	Ph.D.
Rihan, Mohamad*	Lecturer	Ph.D.
Sabra, George*	Lecturer	Ph.D.
Abou Zaki, Said*	Instructor	M.A.
Arasoghli, Aida	Instructor	M.A.
Dibo, Amal	Instructor	M.A.
Hassan, Hani	Instructor	M.A.
Khoury, Samira ²	Instructor	M.A.
Kuang, Yafeng	Visiting Instructor	M.A.
Lee, Sean*	Instructor	M.A.
Samaha, Raid	Instructor	M.A.
Tomeh, Edmond	Instructor	M.A.

2. Graduate Assistants

Fall semester	Spring semester
Cortbawi, Rima	Cortbawi, Rima
Yukin, Eugene	Yukin, Eugene

3. Non-Academic Staff

Khairallah, Randa	Secretary
-------------------	-----------

² First semester, on unpaid leave.

* Part-time

Daniel, Jad	Technical Service Assistant
-------------	-----------------------------

C. TEACHING

1. Student Enrollment in Courses

Summer Semester 2007-08

CVSP 201	4 sections	97 students
CVSP 202	5 sections	110 students
CVSP 203	3 sections	68 students
CVSP 204	3 sections	60 students
CVSP/French 201	1 section	21 students
Total	16 sections	356 students

Fall semester 2008-09

Core Curriculum courses (Sequence I and Sequence II)

Total Sequence I	30 sections	771 students (previous year 823)
CVSP 201, 202, 205	27 sections	699 students
CVSP 207C, E	3 sections	72 students
Total Sequence II	20 sections	476 students (previous year 448)
CVSP 203, 204	17 sections	401 students
CVSP 208D, G	3 sections	75 students
Combined total	50 sections	1247 students (previous year 1265)

Elective Courses

CVSP 111, 112	3 sections	64 students
CVSP 216, 250, 251	3 sections	46 students
CVSP 295D, DR, G	3 sections	24 students
CVSP/French 201, 202	2 sections	47 students
CVSP/Chinese 201, 202	3 sections	41 students
Total	14 sections	222 students (previous year 221)

Grand semester total 64 sections 1469 students (previous year 1492)
Total number of credit hours: 192 (previous year 180)

Spring Semester 2008-09

Core Curriculum courses (Sequence I and Sequence II)

Total Sequence I	29 sections	761 students (previous year 654)
CVSP 201, 202, 205	28 sections	738 students
CVSP 207H	1 section	23 students
Total Sequence II	21 sections	533 students (previous year 672)
CVSP 203, 204	19 sections	479 students
CVSP 208D, G	2 sections	54 students
Combined total	50 sections	1294 students (previous year 1326)

Elective Courses

CVSP 110, 112	4 sections	101 students
CVSP 217, 250, 251	3 sections	70 students
CVSP 295I, J	2 sections	40 students
CVSP/French 201, 202	2 sections	47 students
CVSP/Chinese 201, 202	3 sections	57 students
Total	14 sections	315 students (previous year 246)

Grand semester total 64 sections 1609 students (previous year 1469)
Total number of credit hours: 192 (previous year 189)

Total both semesters 128 sections 3078 students (previous year 3053)
Total no. of credit hours for both semesters: 384 (previous year 369)

Total all 3 semesters 144 sections 3434 students

D. RESEARCH

Bornedal, Peter

- 1. Article in press.** "Chiasmatic Reasoning: Strategies of Self-Immunitization in Jürgen Habermas". To appear in Hugh Silverman (ed.): *Chiasmatic Encounters* (IAPL's 2005 volume: Continuum, New York) (approx. 15 pages).
- 2. Lexicon articles in press.** To appear in *Nietzsche-Lexikon* (Wissenschaftlichen Buchgesellschaft, Darmstadt) editor Prof. Christian Niemeyer.
 - a. "Sklave, Sklaverei"** (approx. 3 pages);

- b. "Mittelmäßigkeit" (approx. 1 page).
- 3. **Book, accepted for publication:** *The Surface and the Abyss: Nietzsche as Philosopher of Mind and Knowledge*. Walter de Gruyter (Berlin/New York), 2010. (Approx. 600 pages.)

Bualuan, Hayat

1. **Article in press.** "Hanania al Munayyir , A Historian from Lebanon in 19th Century Bilad al Sham". To appear in *Parole de l'Orient* in 2010.
2. **Article in press.** "Mikhail Breik, a precursor of 19th Century Arab Renaissance". To appear in *Greek Orthodox Historiography*, University of Balamand., May 2009.
3. **Article in press.** "The Christians under Ottoman Rule in the Writings of Late 18th and Early 19th Century Historians of Bilad al Sham". To appear in Proceedings of a conference on *Discrimination and Tolerance in the Middle East* held jointly by L.A.U. and Orient Institut, June 2009.
4. **Work in progress.**
 - a. "Historiography in al Andalus till the Eleventh Century", an introduction to a new edition of my book *Tabaqat al Umam* (Categories of Nations) published in 1985. I am in the final stages of this project contacting publishing houses.
 - b. "Christian Historical Writing in the 18th Century", an introduction to an edition of Mikhail Breik, *Tarikh al Sham*, to be published by Dar al Nahar.in 2009.
 - c. I am working on a book entitled *Historical Thought in 18th Century Bilad al Sham*.

Gallagher, Robert

1. **Work in progress.**
 - a. 'Aristotle on *eidei diapheronto?*', *Brit. Journal of the History of Philosophy* (final acceptance received, forthcoming 2010-11).
 - b. 'Grace and Incommensurability: two *difficulties* in Aristotle's theory of reciprocal justice', under revision.
 - c. 'Aristotle's *peirastic* treatment of the *Republic*'.
 - d. 'Aristotle's theory of value'.
 - e. 'Marx's criticism of Aristotle's theory of value'.
 - f. 'Thomas' departure from Aristotle on the nature of privation'.
 - g. The alleged classical influences in the American founding.
 - h. '*Erōs, Philia* and *Phusis* in the *Republic*'.
 - i. 'A solution to the problem of "natural slavery" in Aristotle's *Politics*'.
 - j. The phenomenological critique of Mediaeval and modern metaphysics.

Jarrar, Maher

1. **Article in press.** “Abraham and the Sacrificial Son in José Saramago’s *The Gospel according to Jesus Christ* and Elias Khoury’s *Ka’annah Nā’imah: A Transtextual Attempt*.” To appear in *Festschrift Wadad al-Qadi*, eds. Ouyang, Wen-chin and Jonathan A. Brown, Leiden: Brill.
2. **Work in progress.**
 - a. “‘A Tent For Longing’: Mahmūd Darwīsh and *al-Andalus*”.
 - b. I am working on several entries for *A Biographical Dictionary of Islamic Culture and Civilisation*, London: IB Tauris, and *Encyclopedia of Medieval Chronicles*, Leiden and New York: E.J. Brill.

Mejcher-Atassi, Sonja

1. **Article in press.** “On the Necessity of Writing the Present. Elias Khoury and ‘the Birth of the Novel’ in Lebanon”. To appear in: Angelika Neuwirth, Andreas Pflitsch and Barbara Winckler (eds.). *Arabic Literatur, Postmodern*. London: Saqi Books, 2009, c. 10 pages.
2. **Article in press.** “The Forbidden Paradise. How Etel Adnan Learned to Paint in Arabic”. To appear in: Angelika Neuwirth, Andreas Pflitsch and Barbara Winckler (eds.). *Arabic Literatur, Postmodern*. London: Saqi Books, 2009, c. 10 pages.
3. **Articles submitted.**
 - a. *Collecting Practices in the Arab Middle East*, eds. Sonja Mejcher-Atassi and John Pedro Schwartz. Proposal including sample chapters submitted to Routledge in February 2009.
 - b. “From Verbal to Visual Reading: Modern Arabic Book Art” (working title), to be submitted to refereed journal *Middle Eastern Literatures*. The article addresses a readership interested primarily in Arabic literature and art, examining their interrelationships in modern Arabic book art.
 - c. “Encounters of Word and Image in Modern Arabic Literature: Theoretical Questions” (working title), to be submitted to refereed journal *Word and Image*. The article addresses a readership interested primarily in interarts studies, not necessarily familiar with the Arab Middle East. Its aim is to adapt the insights of a Western discipline, namely interarts studies, to the study of the modern Arab Middle East and to think critically about the problems involved in such adaptation. As Western disciplines are increasingly opening up to non-Western contexts, the article promises to trigger further comparative analysis.
 - d. Revision of my D.Phil. thesis “Reading Across Modern Arabic Literature and Art. Three Case Studies: Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, Abd al-Rahman Munif, Etel Adnan” (Oxford 2005) to be published by Reichert, Germany.
4. **Work in progress.**
 - a. **Interarts Studies and Modern Arabic Book Art (*livres d’artiste*)**. The project explores the applicability of interarts studies to Arabic literature and art. Interarts

studies is an interdisciplinary field of research in Comparative Literature that has developed in close interaction with Art History.

- b. Collecting Practices in the Arab Middle East.** The project emerged out of my growing interest in modern art from the Arab Middle East and the problems I have faced in collecting material. It is highly inspired by Museum and Collection Studies, a field of inquiry that has expanded significantly in Europe and America over the last decade.

I have been able to complete a first step of the project with the conference I organized on “Collecting Practices in Lebanon: Alternative Visions of the Past” in May 2008 at AUB and the publication I am currently working on together with my colleague in the English Department at AUB John Pedro Schwartz. The publication expands the topic to Collecting Practices in the Arab Middle East, providing case studies of different countries. The book proposal, including sample chapters, was submitted to Routledge in February 2009.

Samaha, Raid

- 1. Work in progress.** I am working on the nature of scientific explanation and its relation to causality.
 - a.** “Singular causality”, to be submitted to *Analysis*.
 - b.** “Counterfactuals and evidence”, to be submitted to the *British Journal of the Philosophy of Science*.

Saumarez Smith, Richard

- 1. Book in translation.** *Governing property, ruling the modern state: Law, administration and production in Ottoman Syria*, by Martha Mundy and myself (IB. Tauris, 2007), is in process of being translated into Arabic by Dar al-Kitab al-Jadid, Beirut.

Wrisley, David

- 1. Work in progress.**
 - a.** “(Re)collecting Beirut 1830-1860: Rabih Jaber’s *Beyrut: Medinat al-‘Alam*,” book chapter for an edited volume *Collecting Practices in the Middle East*, Eds. Sonja Mejcher-Atassi and John Pedro Schwartz.
 - b.** “Illumination between Multi-Confessional Debate and Evangelization: Jean Germain’s *Debat du Chrestien et du Sarrasin* (BnF fr. 948)”, commissioned article for *The Social Life of Illumination*, Eds. Kathryn Smith, Joyce Coleman and Markus Cruse, Turnhout: Brepols.

- c. “Traduire le débat ‘abbasside à la cour de Bourgogne: le Débat du Chrétien et du Sarrasin (1450) de Jean Germain”, article for submission to *Travaux de littérature* 23, special issue “Les écrivains français et le monde arabe” (30000 characters)
 - d. “The Prise d’Alexandrie”, a chapter commissioned for *A Companion to Guillaume Machaut – An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Master* for Brill’s Companion to Medieval Culture Series, eds. Deborah McGrady and Jennifer Bain (9000 words)
- 2. Applications for Research Grants:** Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin/Brandenburg Academy of the Sciences, Europe in the Middle East-The Middle East in Europe, “The 15th century court of Burgundy and the Eastern Mediterranean,” 2009-10 (\$25000, not awarded).

E. OTHER STAFF ACTIVITIES

Amyuni, Mona

- 1. **CVSP common lectures.** Solzhenitsyn, Tayeb Salih.
- 2. **Service.** Coordinator of CVSP social activities; CVSP 204 coordinator.

Arasoghli, Aida

- 1. **CVSP common lectures.** Tayeb Salih

Bornedal, Peter

- 1. **CVSP common lectures.** Nietzsche, Freud-I.

Bualuan, Hayat

- 1. **CVSP common lectures.** Gilgamesh, Ibn Khaldun.
- 2. **Conferences.** “Hanania al-Munayyir, a Historian in 19th Century Bilad al Sham”, paper presented at Symposium Syriacum and conference on Arab Christian Studies in Granada, Spain, September 2008.

Dibo, Amal

- 1. **CVSP common lectures.** De Beauvoir.

Gallagher, Robert

- 1. **CVSP common lectures.** Crito, Introduction to Aristotle, Plato-I, Aquinas.

2. Service.

- a. Chair of CVSP ad-hoc committee on General Education; coordinator of book orders.
- b. FAS Freshman advisor.
- c. FAS Library committee, Fall 2008-09.

Hassan, Hani

1. Common lectures. Ibn Rushd, Nietzsche.

2. Service.

- a. Secretary of CVSP general meetings.
- b. Member, CVSP committee on teaching skills, in which connection I attended workshops on Course Learning Outcomes and on Moodle-I organized by CTL.
- c. Advisor to the AUB Drama club and the AUB Human Rights and Peace Club.
- d. Assistant Director of the theater production of “Troy: The mother of all wars” in May 2009.

Jarrar, Maher

1. Common lectures. Introduction to Islam/al-Muhasibi, Introduction to Islam/al-Ghazali, Karl Marx.

2. Service.

- a. CVSP 205 coordinator.
- b. Director, Anis K. Makdisi Program in Literature.

3. Conferences. I participated in a panel at Abu Dhabi International Book Fair as member of the jury of Beirut39 to launch the literary programme, March 20-22, 2009.

Khoury, Samira

1. Common lectures. Al-Ghazali.

Maktabi, Hadi

1. Lecture. “In the Footsteps of Majnoun: The Impact of Islamic Painting on Oriental Carpets.”, given to the AMPL, 11 March 2009.

Mejcher-Atassi, Sonja

1. Common lectures. Thomas Mann.

2. Service.

- a. Chair of the CVSP Teaching Skills Committee.

- b. Representing CVSP in a workshop on Developing Course Learning Outcomes (27.2., 6.3., 27.3. 2009), organized by the Center for Teaching and Learning and the University Learning Outcomes Coordinating Committee, AUB.
- c. FAS member of Library Committee, from Fall 2008.

Sabra, George

1. **Common lectures.** Augustine-II, Luther.

Samaha, Raid

1. **Common lectures.** Bacon, Descartes, Enlightenment-II (Bentham).
2. **Service.** CVSP 203 coordinator.

Saumarez Smith, Richard

1. **Common lectures.** Odyssey-II, Aristotle's ethics, Machiavelli, *The Tempest*, Hobbes, Locke, and Enlightenment-I (Adam Smith and Kant).
2. **Service**
 - a. Director of CVSP.
 - b. University Senate, secretary.
 - c. FAS Advisory Committee.
 - d. FAS Majorless Advisor.

Shebay'a, Peter

1. **Common lectures.** Introductory lecture to CVSP 201, Antigone, Introductory lecture to CVSP 202, Augustine-I, Dante-I, Dante-II, Faust-II, Freud-I, Freud-II, Beckett.
2. **Service.**
 - a. Acting Director, CVSP; CVSP 202 coordinator.
 - b. Director of a major theater production in May 2009, "Troy: The mother of all wars", a contemporary adaptation of Euripides' *Iphigeneia at Aulis*. Presented as a multi-media exploration of the satirical political dimensions that add to the richness of the tragic heart of the play.

Wrisley, David

1. **Common lectures.** Lucretius, and Virgil or Virgil-II.
2. **Service.**
 - a. University Senate, member, Fall 2008

- b. Acting Chair, Faculty of Arts and Sciences Student Academic Affairs committee, Fall 2008
 - c. Freshman Adviser, Fall 2007-present
 - d. Member, Steering Committee for Faculty Symposium of the Presidential Inauguration, Spring 2009.
- 3. Conferences.**
- a. “The Alexandrian Expedition Seen from North and South” presented at the International conference “The Age of Philippe de Mézières: Fourteenth-Century Piety and Politics between France, Venice, and Cyprus,” University of Nicosia, Cyprus, June 10-15, 2009.
 - b. “Traduire un Moyen Orient sans frontières: la fiction historique de Rabee Jaber,” paper presented at International colloquium “Traduction, pluridisciplinarité et traversée des frontières”, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the University of Algiers Benyoucef Benkhada, Algiers, Algeria, 27-29 April 2009.
 - c. “The Lusignan Sack of Alexandria (1365) and Its Counter-narratives” (invited lecture and seminar) given at “Mediterranean Studies: East and West at the Center, 1050-1600” Mellon Seminar at UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Los Angeles, CA, 23 Feb 2009.
 - d. “Illuminating 1453: Constantinople, Jerusalem and the Duke of Burgundy”, given at international conference “Occident and Orient,” Nederlands Instituut in Turkije, Istanbul, Turkey, 25-26 June 2008.

F. PUBLICATIONS

Jarrar, Maher

1. “The *Arabian Nights* and the Contemporary Arabic Novel”, in *Arabian Nights in Historical Context: From Galland to Burton and Beyond*, eds. Saree Makdisi and Felicity Nussbaum. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, pp. 297-315.
2. “Basra Stinks! Al-Jāhiz on Odors,” in *Al-Jāhiz: A Muslim Humanist for our Time*, eds. Heinemann, Arnim, John L. Meloy, Tarif Khalidi, and Manfred Kropp. Wiesbaden: Ergon Verlag, 2009, pp. 269-281.

Mejcher-Atassi, Sonja

1. “‘Abd al-Rahmān Munīf wa-’l-fann al-hadīth: al-Sadāqa – al-tabādul al-ramzī wa-fann al-kitāb”, in Su‘ād al-Qawādirī Munīf (ed.), *‘Abd al-Rahmān Munīf*, 2008, Beirut: al-Mu’assasa al-‘arabiya lil-dirāsāt wa-’l-nashr/al-Markaz al thaqāfi al-‘arabī lil-nashr wa-’l-tawzī’, pp. 405-437.

Wrisley, David

1. "The loss of Constantinople and imagining crusade at the fifteenth century court of Burgundy", *al-Abhath* 55 (2007-08): 81-115.
2. "Prosifying Lyrical Insertions in the 15th-century *Violette* (Gérard de Nevers)", in *Poetry, Knowledge and Community in Late Medieval France*. Gallica Series. Eds. Rebecca Dixon and Finn E. Sinclair (Suffolk, UK: Boydell & Brewer, 2008), pp. 125-135.

G. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

In order to enrich the quality both of the core offerings (CVSP 201 to 206) and of individual courses in Sequence-I and Sequence-II (CVSP 207 and 208), CVSP embarked in 2008-09 on a five-year plan to recruit new faculty in the professorial rank. The goal is to change the proportion of professorial to non-professorial full-time members of CVSP over five years from three eighths to five eighths. Two positions were advertised in September 2008, both in early modern studies combining disciplinary interests in literature, cultural studies, history and/or philosophy. Two candidates were invited to present lectures at AUB after which both were offered positions. One wanted to defer taking up the position until September 2010 and had to decline the offer; the other has accepted and will join AUB in February 2010. We look forward to his joining CVSP and we look forward to further recruitment in varied fields of specialization over the coming years.

Director
R. Saumarez Smith