COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction: Definition of Terms; The geography of Southwest Asia and Northeast Africa; Survey of history from the Neolithic to the fall of the Assyrian empire.

2. The Achemenid Persian Empire.

3. The Conquests of Alexander of Macedonia and the remaking of the Middle East.

4. The Ptolemaic Kingdom.

5. The Seleucid Kingdom.


7. The Problem of “Hellenization.”

8. The “Third World.” The Semitic speaking peoples between the Greco-Roman west and the Iranian east.

9. The Sasanian Persian Empire; The Byzantine-Sasanian balance of power.


READING LIST

Brosius, Maria. The Persians. An Introduction.
Chauveau, Michael. Egypt in the Age of Cleopatra.
Sartre, Maurice. The Middle East Under Rome.

Office Hours: Monday 11-12; Wednesday 1-2; or by appointment. HSS 4024