Antiquity for Modernity
Reimagining Learning and Curriculum in Ancient Mediterranean & Near Eastern Studies (AMNE)
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The Project
From 2019-2022, the Department of Classical, Near Eastern & Religious Studies embarked on a major curriculum renewal project as part of our transformation into a new Department of Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies. The project completely re-imagined our signature pedagogies, values, and Major, Minor, and Honours degrees.

This project stemmed from three main priorities expressed by student and faculty stakeholders at the outset:
1) Creating a more coherent, flexible, student-led learning experience
2) Promoting true interdisciplinary learning and helping students to articulate the value of that learning
3) Reimagining how the study of the ancient Mediterranean & Near East can promote equity and social justice within our fields and beyond

The Challenges

**History**
AMNE was born from a departmental merger, and represents many fields and sub-disciplines, from Classical languages and literature (Greek, Latin, Biblical Hebrew, Arabic), to history, to archaeology, to religious studies; we were a multidisciplinary “fruit salad”

**Divisions**
Previously, students specialized in one of five distinct streams, spread across 8 course-codes; they reported experiencing disciplinary and social fragmentation

**Ecosystem**
The creation of a new, interdisciplinary Program in the Study of Religion created confusion and redundancy among public and student stakeholders over where to study religion at UBC and the paths available to them

The Results

New departmental teaching identity and program-level outcomes

A new program structure, with a single stream, with interdisciplinary interconnections among courses and clearer scaffolding across a unified AMNE course code.

Students explore and direct their learning with the help of an online advising tool that helps them connect courses.

Two required courses at the 2nd and 3rd year levels create shared touch-points of interdisciplinarity and social impact:

**AMNE 200:** Approaching the Mediterranean & Near East

**AMNE 300:** Uses & Abuses of Antiquity

The Process

**visioning identity & signature pedagogy**

**defining program outcomes**

**critical reflection & synthesis**

**multiple, concrete options & consensus**

**iterative small group listening & discussion sessions**

Next steps

Evaluate impact on student experience and learning through informative survey and discussion

Develop career-oriented workshop series in partnership with Student Association, alumni, and Arts Career Services office to help students articulate goals and values of AMNE degree

Develop a new 1-year post-baccalareate program in AMNE