

AMNE
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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

Values

Our fields have long been entangled with forms of colonial and racist ideology & practice; we seek to actively combat those views and promote equity, diversity, and justice through our program

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



ORIENTS
students to regional history, geography, languages, cultures, and peoples



COHORTS
a community of learners with shared experience at an early stage



INTRODUCES
students to the entire AMNE faculty, and other course offerings, through mini guest lectures



BLENDS
“smoothie” interdisciplinarity in material, enquiries, and approaches



BUILDS
key analytical and communication skills through scaffolded activities



Scan for more details on our program identity, outcomes, and structure

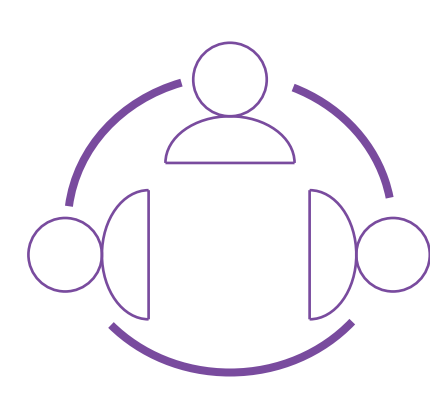


Scan for syllabus

AMNE 300: Uses & Abuses of Antiquity



REFLECTS
on the history and implications of our fields in critical ways



FOSTERS
a continued sense of learning in community



ASSESSES
our mediated relationship to antiquity and our responsibilities to respond to abuses of the past



COMMUNICATES
through public-facing work, including podcasts and blogs

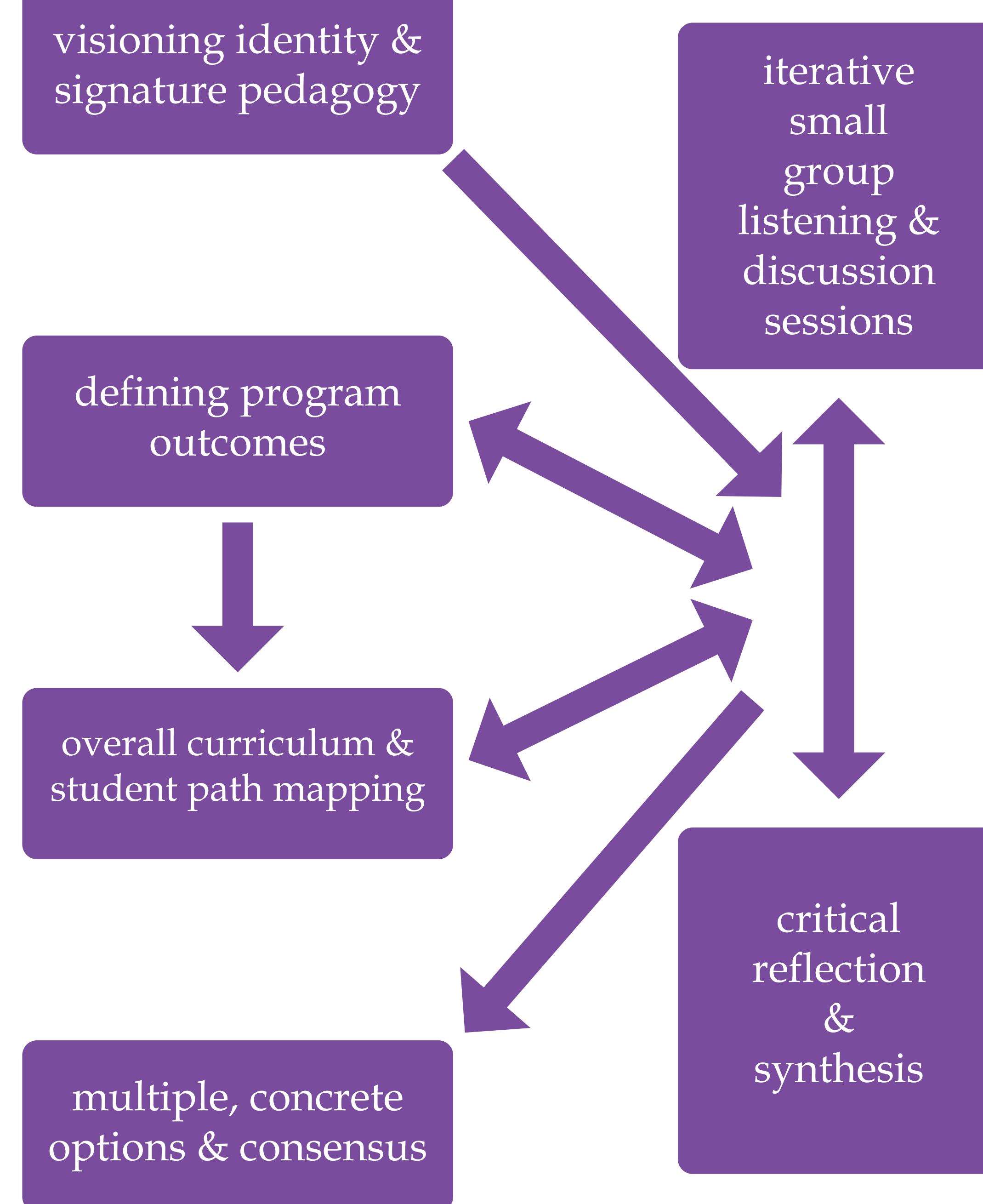


RECONCILES
through engagement with our fields' roles in settler colonialism and Indigenous voices



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The Process



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-baccalareute** program in AMNE