Optional Ph.D. Emphasis in Ancient Mediterranean Studies

Students pursuing a Ph.D. in the departments of Anthropology, Classics, History, or Religious Studies may petition to add an emphasis in Ancient Mediterranean Studies (AMS). AMS is an interdisciplinary program that offers graduate students the opportunity to bridge the traditional boundaries of the disciplines involved in the study of the Mediterranean regions from the Bronze Age to the early Middle Ages. AMS includes faculty from the departments of Anthropology, History of Art and Architecture, Classics, History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. Through the program, students have access to the broad range of course offerings and faculty in the participating departments, and can study alongside students in other disciplines.

Though students are encouraged to apply in their first year, applications may be submitted at any stage of the Ph.D. work and at any time during the year. Students must choose an emphasis advisor from the core AMS faculty, who will also serve on their thesis committees; this may be their departmental advisor, if s/he also serves in AMS. In addition to the AMS requirements below, students must satisfy the requirements of the Ph.D. in their home department. Work undertaken in satisfaction of departmental requirements may also be counted toward the AMS requirements.

1. General Historical Requirement. Students must successfully complete two courses in a period of history, or concerning a cultural complex, outside their main area of concentration. One of these courses must be a graduate seminar.

2. Disciplinary Requirement. Students must successfully complete two courses in methods or disciplines outside their main disciplinary focus. One of these courses must be a graduate seminar.

3. Ancient Mediterranean Language. Students are required to complete three years of combined study in one or more ancient Mediterranean languages appropriate to their area of concentration. Such languages could include Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic dialects (Syriac, Mandaic, Palestinian), Coptic, Egyptian hieroglyphics, Arabic, Old Persian, or Celtic. Upon approval of the steering committee, students working primarily in non-literate cultures will be able to substitute a commensurate amount of work in archaeological theory and method.

4. Common Core Seminar. Students will register for the core seminar for three quarters prior to their qualifying exams. Students will present once to the seminar, generally after advancing to candidacy.

5. Students petitioning to participate in AMS must write dissertations that focus on topics appropriate to AMS; generally at least one half of the dissertation should treat some aspect of ancient Mediterranean culture or society.

More information is available at www.ams.ucsb.edu.