

**Department of Near Eastern Studies:
Ancient Language Reading Group Guidelines & Policies**

Advanced ancient language “Reading Groups” are periodically hosted in the department. Each Reading Group is organized by one or more NES faculty (ladder or continuing lecturer), one of whom also serves as the moderator of the Reading Group. Activities of the Reading Groups center on reading and discussing original ancient texts and related scholarly articles for research purposes. Reading Groups are informal and are offered on an irregular basis; they do not constitute and are not intended to replace regular classes. No academic credit is offered for participation in a Reading Group, nor is participation required for any departmental program. The exact subject matter and syllabus of each Reading Group are set by the moderator, who also is responsible for the administration of the Reading Group.

Reading Group participants are expected to have the necessary linguistic and technical skills required for active participation in the group. NES Reading Groups are open to UCB and GTU students and faculty, as well as to post-docs and visiting scholars of the two institutions. Students who wish to participate must demonstrate an advanced knowledge of the relevant language, equivalent at a minimum to post-M.A. competency. At his or her discretion, the moderator may require a student to take an exam in order to establish the level of the student's language skills. The moderator and two other members of the reading group designated by the moderator will assess the competency level of the exam. Anyone not affiliated with UCB or the GTU (such as an independent scholar) who possesses the requisite skills may attend the Reading Group with the permission of the Reading Group moderator.