A. SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

In 2013-2014 Peter Shebay’a continued serving as Assistant director.

Two new Visiting Assistant Professors for the period of two years joined CVSP: Emily J. O’Dell (PhD in Egyptology and Western Asian Studies, Brown University, 2008) and Hussein Abdulsater (Islamic Studies, Religious Studies, Theology and Ethics, Yale University, 2013). Professor Courtney Fugate was on leave for a one year fellowship at Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry at Emory University. Mahmoud Youness (MSc in Neural and Behavioral Sciences, University of Tübingen, The Max Plank Research School of Neural and Behavioral Sciences) joined CVSP as part-time instructor. Two new faculty members will be teaching with us starting next Fall as part-time Lecturers: Dr. Nadia Bou Ali (Ph.D. Modern Arab Thought and Nationalism, Oxford), and Dr. Eric Goodfield (Ph.D. Department of Political Science, New School for Social Research, New York); as well as three new part-time Instructors: Pamela Chrabieh (Ph.D. Theology/Sciences of Religions, University of Montreal, Quebec, Canada), Tony Nasrallah (Ph.D. in History, SOAS) and Omar Talhouk (Philosophy department, AUB).

Two new courses were added to our offerings this year under special topics (295):

1. Emily O’Dell: Ancient Egypt & Nubia; with field-trips to the following places for on-site learning experiences: Byblos, Baalbek, the National Museum, Nahr al-Kalb, Sudan House, and the AUB Museum.


Blended teaching (Hani Hassan)

This year, and building upon his experience of last year, Hani Hassan once again offered one section of CVSP 202 in blended format in the Spring semester, 2013 - 2014 semester. He made some adjustments to the design of the course in light of student input of last year, though the overall format remained more or less the same. Briefly, the course was divided roughly between 70% handled in the normal face-to-face (F2F) discussion sessions, and 30% moved onto the online environment. The online portion of the course consisted of various forms of student-centered learning activities, including online assignments, forums, glossary, and group wiki entries. These learning activities are designed in a way that they are
both rooted in the F2F sessions, and flow back into them; and in the online
context the role of the teacher becomes more of a moderator and facilitator, and
the learning itself is shifted onto the student engagement in the activities.

**PLO’s and Student Surveys** (William Merrifield):

After much work and discussion in 2012-2013, in the Spring of 2013 we initiated
the first phase of our PLO assessment plan by assessing of PLO II and PLO III in
CVSP 201 and 202 using both indirect and direct methodology.

This Fall we continued our assessment of PLO II and PLO III in the remaining
two core courses, CVSP 203 and CVSP 204, using the same methodology. Our
intention was to compare the results across our four core courses in order to get a
sense of whether or not there is a progression of skills from 201 through 204 or if
students score similarly across the four courses in regards to these particular
outcomes.

The indirect method involved an in-class course survey administered to the
students with two embedded questions about PLO II and PLO III. The direct
method involved faculty embedding questions into the semester final through
which each faculty member could directly assess PLO II and PLO III using rubrics
developed by the CVSP assessment committee. Each faculty member was then
requested to supply a copy of the question used for the assessment. As the types of
questions that are assessed in a CVSP course may be viewed as subjective, it was
requested that each faculty provide two samples of student work. Unlike the Spring
of 2013, it was decided to not include the quality control step of cross-grading by
other faculty to see if there is any indication of a significant discrepancy between
faculty assessments. This decision was taken because of a negative response by
faculty to this step.

Our intention, as stated in the last report, was also to begin the program review
process during this calendar year based upon the assessment committee’s four-
phase plan which was proposed to the core committee the previous year.

In the Fall, the director of CVSP made the decision to postpone the program
review process believing that there was/is not a suitable atmosphere among the
faculty that would lead to this being a productive exercise. As such, no work was
done towards a program review this year.

After an unsuccessful Fall assessment process, it was decided it would not be
productive to attempt to assess PLO IV and PLO V in the Spring. This decision
was taken because PLO IV and PLO V require more active faculty participation in
terms of potentially changing the way faculty write certain final questions. It was
determined that it would be better to discuss PLO IV and PLO V with the faculty
during the Spring retreat so that they would have the summer to think through how to incorporate questions by which we can assess these two PLOs.

Instead of doing a Spring assessment it was decided to ask faculty to develop a pre/post course test for each of the four core courses. The purpose of the test is to assess what simple conceptual knowledge our students have of the authors/texts discussed in each course both before entering the course and upon completion of the course. This will allow us to assess PLO I which involves the acquisition of knowledge. Each course coordinator was asked to work with his/her course committee to prepare a test of two questions per author/text presented in the course to be presented at the Spring retreat to the faculty for approval. The goal is to administer these tests at the beginning and end of each course in the Fall and Spring semesters and then assess the results. These tests were submitted to the PLO assessment committee and discussed at the Spring retreat. The results of the assessment process were also discussed in the Spring retreat.

Assessment Plan for academic year 2014-2015

• Assess PLO I: Acquire knowledge of human thought and culture in different historical epochs, in 201-204 through the use of pre/post tests.

• Assess PLO IV: Evaluate various genres critically, in 201-204 through direct and indirect assessment (requires the development of rubrics).

• Assess PLO V: Formulate and synthesize creative and informed arguments in line with the standards of intellectual integrity in 201-204 through direct and indirect assessment (requires the development of rubrics).

Chinese language (Yafeng Kuang)

It is a pleasure to highlight the successes of AUB students and their excellent performance in HSK (also named Chinese TOFEL, it is a worldwide exam for testing non-Chinese speakers’ proficiency in Chinese language). For the third year, Mr. Yafeng Kuang students are scoring excellently in this exam. To give only one example, in 2013 all students studying Chinese passed the exam successfully. Two in Chinese 201: they scored 157, 177 and 152 in HSK level 1 respectively. Both the passing scores of HSK Level 1 and Level 2 are 120 out of 200 (60%). Other two students did excellent jobs as well: The first, after having completed last summer CHIN 201, he scored 143 out of 200 in Level 2. He therefore becomes the first student who successfully passed the HSK Level 2 after only completing 40 contact hours (equivalent to 1 semester/or 50 class hours), and creates a record in HSK history with the highest grade worldwide within the 50 class hours (usually the HSK Level 2 is for the candidate who completes 50 contact class hours at least).
The second scored 278 out of 300 (99 out of 100 in listening comprehension, 80 out of 100 in reading comprehension, and 99 out of 100 in the writing part.) accordingly, he is the first student who passed the HSK Level 3 after less than 80 contact hours in the HSK history and his score is highest one worldwide within 150 class hours (usually the HSK Level 3 is for the candidate who completes 150 contact class hours at least).

CVSP FORUM

Coordinators: Nader El-Bizri & Peter Bornedal. The CVSP Forum was associated with a conference held on November 20-21, 2013, at AUB under the sponsorship of the Anis Makdisi Program in Literature (AUB) in association with Centre d’Études Michel Henry (USJ) and the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (NDU). The title of the conference was: “Practicing Philosophy in Lebanon: Authors, Texts, Trends, Traditions,” and it corresponded with the UNESCO World Philosophy Day international events. Twenty three papers were delivered in Arabic, English, and French by academics in the diverse fields of philosophical research from across various universities and institutions in Lebanon.

CVSP Brown Bag

Coordinator: Robert Gallagher


B. PERSONNEL

1. Faculty Members

Bornedal, Peter  Professor  Ph.D.
Jarrar, Maher  Professor  Ph.D.
Saumarez Smith, Richard  Professor  Ph.D.
Harb, Sirene*  Professor  Ph.D.
Hout, Syrine*  Professor  Ph.D.
El-Bizri, Nader  Associate Professor  Ph.D.
Mejcher-Atassi, Sonja  Associate Professor  Ph.D.
Nassar, C. Suhail*  Associate Professor  Ph.D.
Wrisley, David*  Associate Professor  Ph.D.
Fugate, Courtney1  Assistant Professor  Ph.D.

* Part-time.
1 On paid research leave.
2. Graduate Assistants

   Fall Semester   Sonia-Lynn Gabriel
   Spring Semester Sonia-Lynn Gabriel

3. Non Academic Staff

   Khairallah, Randa Secretary

C. TEACHING

1. Student Enrollment in Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Fall 2013</th>
<th>Spring 2013-14</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sequence I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201,202,205</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>1067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>207a, 207l</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequence II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
D. RESEARCH

Abdulsater, Hussein

1. Articles in press


2. Work in progress

a. The Climax of Rationalist Theology in Buyid Shi‘ism (Book manuscript).

b. “History in the Straitjacket of Theology.”

3. Lectures and Conference papers


Bornedal, Peter

1. Articles in press

2. **Work in progress**

**Submitted**


e. Book Manuscript: *Nietzsche, Our Contemporary: Naturalist, Pragmatist, Psychologist.***


3. **Lectures and Conference papers**

a. Keynote/Invited Speaker, Russia: *Nietzsche’s Theories of Truth and Knowledge.* Center for Advanced Studies – Higher School for Economics, National Research University, Moscow. (Organizer, Prof. and Director Martin Gilman). March, 2014.

b. Invited Organizer of Seminar, Russia: *The End of Deconstruction?* Center for Advanced Studies – Higher School for Economics, National Research University, Moscow. (Organizer, Prof. and Director Martin Gilman). March, 2014.

c. Speaker at Local Conference. Lebanon: “Ethical and Unethical Discourse.” *Practicing Philosophy in Lebanon,* American University of Beirut, Beirut, November, 2013. (Organizer Prof. N. el Bizri)
El Bizri, Nader

1. Articles in press


2. Work in progress

BOOKS

a. *Occult Sciences in Pre-Modern Islamic Cultures*, co-edited volume of studies with Eva Orthmann.


ARTICLES

a. “Architectural Phenomenology and Heidegger’s Account of Dwelling.”

b. “The Conception of Place in the Physics Division of the Epistles of the Brethren of Purity.”

3. Lectures and Conference papers

Presented over 18 conference papers, invited public lectures, and keynotes in the past year in Lebanon, Greece, France and Britain.
Gallagher, Robert

1. Articles in press


2. Work in progress

BOOKS

a. An Introduction to Aristotelian Political Economy.

b. On Contradiction in Aristotle.

ARTICLES

a. Privation as cause (under revision).

Hassan, Hani

2. Work in progress

Working on Ph.D. thesis in Islamic philosophy (Lebanese University): “In Search of Arab-Islamic Philosophy: the concept, its study, and its ‘authenticity’.”

3. Lectures and Conference papers


Jarrar, Maher

1. Articles in press


d. “Ghulām Khalīl,” Encyclopaedia of Islam THREE.

e. “Al-Diyārbakrī,” Encyclopaedia of Islam THREE.


2. Work in progress


3. Lectures and Conference papers

a. Lecture at “Liberal Arts Education,” a seminar organized by the Center for Teaching and Learning (AUB), October 24, 2013.

Mejcher-Atassi, Sonja

1. Articles in press


2. Work in progress

BOOKS


ARTICLES


O’dell, Emily

1. Articles in press


2. Work in progress

BOOKS


ARTICLES


3. Lectures and Conference papers

a. “Mleeta: An Archaeology of Terror or War?,” The 19th Annual European Association of Archaeologists; Pilsen (Plzeň) Czech Republic, Fall 2013-2014


d. Lecture at the *Anis Makdisi Program in Literature & the Arts and Humanities Initiative* “Subversives and Saints: Sufism and the State in Central Asia,” Thursday 27 February 2014.

Saumarez Smith, Richard

2. Work in progress


Sharif, Malek

1. Articles in press

a. “Fleeing Lebanon and Breaking the Law, Emigration and Criminality in late Ottoman Beirut,” in *A Lord of many mansions*, Denkschrift for Kamal S. Salibi, edited by


2. Work in progress

BOOKS

a. A social history of medicine and the medical profession in the Arab provinces of the Ottoman empire from the late 18th until the early 20th Century.

b. Currently translating and critically editing a memoir of an Arab officer in the Ottoman army during WWI. (Expected date of publication January 2015, negotiations with a publisher are complete)

ARTICLES

a. “East and West Beirut in the late Ottoman period.” (Date of delivery September 2014, in the 3rd meeting of the Tokyo-Beirut Urban Studies Project Human Mobility and Multi-ethnic Coexistence in Middle Eastern Cities.

b. “WWI in the memoirs of Arab and Turkish Women.” (Date of delivery November 2014).


d. “Local, Imperial and Global Intersections in the Contemporary Historiography of the Late Ottoman Period,” in The Local Histories of Lebanon Revisited, edited by Mohamed Rihan and Malek Sharif, envisaged date of publication: 2015.

3. Lectures and Conference papers


E. OTHER STAFF ACTIVITIES

Abdulsater, Hussein

1. CVSP common lectures

CVSP 202: Introduction to Classical Islamic Thought (Fall and Spring)

2. Service


Borneidal, Peter

2. Service


El Bizri, Nader

1. Service

a. CVSP Faculty Promotion Committee

b. CVSP Core Committee

c. Coordinator, CVSP 202

d. Coorganizer CVSP Forum, *Practicing Philosophy in Lebanon*, American University of Beirut, Beirut (with Prof. Peter Borneidal)

e. Coordinator, MA in Islamic Studies

d. CAMES Steering Committee (acting director, Fall 2013-2014)

f. Committee member, *Arts & Humanities Initiative*
g. Director, *Anis Makdisi Program in Literature*

h. Member of the Qur'anic Studies Search Committee at the *Arabic Department*

i. Jabre Khwarizmi Chair and Directorship Search Committee (chair).

j. Taught at CAMES and supervised as well as reader of MA theses in Philosophy and Middle Eastern Studies and Urban Design.

**Gallagher, Robert**

2. **Service**

a. Coordinator, CVSP Brown Bag

b. Member, University Senate Board of General Education

c. Member, University Senate Library Committee

d. Member, Faculty of Arts and Sciences Library Committee

e. Supervisor, Ph.D.: Rafael Pero, University of Navarra, Spain; approved Testina Topic: “On the representability of Aristotle’s concept of reciprocity”

**Hassan, Hani**

1. **CVSP Common lectures**

a. The Enlightenment, CVSP 203

2. **Service**

a. Coordinator, CVSP 203 core committee

b. Offered a section of CVSP 202 in “blended course” format (Spring 2012-2013)

c. Secretary, CVSP general meetings and retreats

d. Director of the AUB MEPI – Tomorrow’s Leaders Program (as of Feb. 2014)

e. Faculty advisor, FAS SRC
f. Faculty advisor, AUB Communication Club

g. Faculty advisor, AUB Human Rights and Peace Club

h. Faculty advisor, AUB Latino Dance Club

i. Faculty advisor, AUB Museum of Censorship Club

j. Host and MC of the WAAUUB Quiz Nights

**Jarrar, Maher**

2. Service

a. Director, *Civilization Sequence Program*

b. Chair, *Arts & Humanities Initiative – Mellon Grant*

c. Associate editor, *Al-Abhath: Journal of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the American University of Beirut*

d. Member, Academic Committee, *Zaki Nassif Music Program*

e. Ph.D. supervisor, *Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures*

f. Member, Promotion Committee, *Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures*

g. Advisor, MA Thesis, *Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures*

h. Advisor, MA Thesis, *Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures*

i. Reader, MA thesis, *English Department*

**Mejcher-Atassi, Sonja**

1. CVSP common lectures
2. Service

a. Coordinator, CVSP 204

b. Advisor, FAS Freshman and majorless students

c. Member, General Education Board

d. Advisor/Member of Committee of MA theses:
Laura Metzler, “The Trajectory of Lives: DNA and Genetics in the Work of Saloua Raouda Choucair,” CAMES, AUB (Member of Committee), defended 05/05/2014

e. “Political participation and citizenship in cultural practices: A Conversation between Akram Zaatari and Charif Kiwan on ABOUNADDARA (film screening, discussion, workshop),” AUB workshop organized in cooperation with the Arts and Humanities Initiative and the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, AUB, and the School of English, Kent University, 11-12.04.2014 (research, concept, organization)
http://www.kent.ac.uk/english/research/commonground/index.html

f. Advisor/Member of Committee of PhD theses
Felix Lang, “A twofold ‘imperative to remember’ – The Lebanese post-war novel,” CNMS, Phillips University Marburg, Germany (member of committee; advisor: Friederike Pannewick), defended 07/03/2014

g. Member, thesis committee : Mathilde Chèvre, “RENAISSANCE ENFANTINE: La création arabe en littérature pour la jeunesse depuis 1967, reflet et projet des sociétés (Egypte, Liban, Syrie),” Université d’Aix-Marseille, France (member of committee; advisor: Richard Jacquemond), defended 06/12/2013

h. Reader/Referee for Journal of Arabic Literature, Vienna University, German Research Foundation (DFG)

Merrifield, William

2. Service

a. Coordinator for the PLO’s CVSP committee.

b. Coordinator, taskforce to rethink CVSP structure.
c. Designed and conducted CVSP 202 course and lecture surveys.

**O’dell, Emily**

Archaeological Field-Work

a. In the summer of 2013, I did archaeological field-work in Merv, Turkmenistan. I excavated a medieval Islamic bazaar using British archaeological field techniques, and helped to preserve medieval Sufi shrines. I also acted as a translator and educator for the Turkmen archaeologists with whom I collaborated.

b. In December 2013, I excavated an ancient Nubian temple in Sudan. I also conducted an anthropological project on the Sufi Sudanese workmen on our site, which will be published this summer. I am now trying to organize a field-research project for AUB students in Sudan for next year.

**Saumarez Smith, Richard**

2. Service

a. Advisor, FAS Majorless students

b. Special Student Advisor.

c. Chairperson and member, FAS promotion committees.

**Sharif, Malek**

1. Common Lecture

a. *John Locke and his concept of property in its historical context*, CVSP 203.

2. Service

a. Associate researcher of the Tokyo-Beirut Urban Studies Project “Human Mobility and Multi-ethnic Coexistence in Middle Eastern Cities”, initiated by Prof. Hidemitsu Kuroki, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.
b. Affiliated researcher in the project “Europe from the Outside” of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Institute for Oriental and Asian Studies at the University of Bonn.

**Shebay’a, Peter**

2. Service.

a. Assistant director

b. Coordinator, CVSP 201 and 205

**F. PUBLICATIONS**

**BorneDAL, Peter**


**El-Bizri, Nader**

1. Books


2. Articles

“Philosophising at the Margins of ‘Shi’i Studies’: Reflections on IbnSīnā,” in *The


Gallager, Robert

1. Articles


Mejcher-Atassi, Sonja

2. Articles


O’Dell, Emily

1. Books


2. Articles


Saumarez Smith, Richard

1. Books


2. Articles


Sharif, Malek

Monograph
Refereed Encyclopedia Entrees


G. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

For some time now CVSP faculty have been proposing a change in the name of the Program: Civilization Studies would replace the current nomenclature. The reason for this is that internationally this would help describe the actual academic situation for our professors. As it stands at present, no one seems to use the term Civilization Sequence in any other university we are familiar with. Moreover, the sequence aspect of our Program has been eroded in FAS with the reduction to only two required courses. In other faculties this has been reduced to zero in some cases.

In a previous study by Peter Shebay’a on the history of the Program, he found that the first recorded name that we have was Department of General Education (known as ‘GE’ for many years). It then became Cultural Sequence Program for one academic year, but then by 1966 it had become Cultural Studies Program (known beyond that as ‘CS’). The last change came in 1978 when it had adopted the name of Civilization Sequence Program. The new name will be Civilization Studies Program.

Instead of organizing the anticipated forum on the topic of humanities education and curricula, some CVSP faculty members participated in two separate activities on the meaning and objectives of liberal education at AUB: 1) A two day seminar organized by the Center for Teaching and Learning; 2) A workshop organized by the Arts and Humanities Initiative “Towards Critical Pedagogy in Liberal Education,” which proposed to reframe the debate on the meaning of liberal education at AUB and its structural conditions through the terms of critical pedagogy and interdisciplinary knowledge production.

In 2014-2015 CVSP will be hosting two experimental courses that were developed by faculty members from AUB and AUC. The teaching partnership between both Universities was instigated by Provost Dallal. Logistics were discussed with Dean Patrick McGreevy of AUB and Dean Nathaniel Bowditch from AUC during the latter’s visit to AUB in February 2014. The Arts and Humanities Initiative-Mellon
Grant has been facilitating the process and coordinating the project. The courses will be cross-listed with other departments on campus and will be taught simultaneously in both Universities. Skype-lectures as well as other methods of co-teaching with technology will be considered; faculty from both Universities will be teaching for three weeks in the other institute. We hope that this will prove to be an impressive experiment which will invigorate the collaboration between our institutes and provide a unique opportunity to embark on new interdisciplinary courses.

Maher Jarrar

Director