

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA STUDIES

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The Minor in Middle East and North Africa Studies (18 credits)

The minor in Middle East and North Africa studies is an interdisciplinary program that provides a foundation of knowledge of Middle Eastern and North African history, politics, cultures, languages, religions, and peoples as well as enhances student understanding of European and American interactions with culturally diverse and politically important regions of the world. The Middle East and North Africa encompasses vast regions (from Morocco on the Atlantic Ocean to Iran on the Persian Gulf) with diverse cultures, languages, and ethnicities. The minor provides students with a framework to understand the development of the contemporary Middle East and North Africa against the background of a long and vibrant history and the diversity of the region's religions, ethnic groups and cultures.

Program Objectives

1. Promote a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of the Middle East and North Africa;
2. Introduce and enhance understanding of the history, cultures, politics, and religions of the Middle East and North Africa;
3. Encourage inter-cultural dialogue that could help bridge the divide between East and West; and
4. Provide a program that will formally document a student's concentrated study of the Middle East and North Africa.

Program Requirements

1. Core requirement: IDST 265.
2. ARAB 101, 102. Students may count another Middle Eastern language (Persian, Hebrew, Turkish) if they can provide documentation of accredited academic courses taken domestically or abroad. Native speakers may have this requirement waived at the discretion of the director.
3. One elective course (3 credits) at any level from the following approved list.
4. Three additional elective courses (9 credits) from the following approved list at the 300-400 level. Courses from three different disciplines must be represented in the 9 credits.
5. Certain independent study, special topics courses, and study abroad courses focusing on Middle Eastern topics may count toward the minor as determined by the director.

THE CURRICULUM IN MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA STUDIES

IDST 265. Introduction to Middle East and North Africa Studies

This course focuses on the Middle East and North Africa as a complex cultural area. It explores the major intellectual, political, social and cultural issues and practices, concentrating on the Fertile Crescent, Egypt, Turkey, the Arabian Peninsula, and Iran. The course discusses major issues such as women and gender, regional conflicts, and religion and politics, among others placing them in the broader framework of the modern Middle East and addressing recent developments in the region and its outlook for the future. This course is required for students in the minor, but is open to all interested students.

Core

ARAB 101	Beginning Arabic I
ARAB 102	Beginning Arabic II
IDST 265	Introduction to Middle Eastern and North African Studies

Electives

ARAB 201	Intermediate Arabic I (or higher)*
ENGL 329	Modern Middle Eastern Literature
HIST 312	Ancient Egypt
HIST 365	History of Islam
HIST 375	History of Modern Middle East
HIST 376	Modern North Africa
HIST 403	Ancient Persia
HIST 479	De-colonizing the Middle East
MLAN 220	Gender in the Arab World
PHIL 349	Islamic Philosophy
POLS 322	Conflict and Peace Studies
POLS 329	International Human Rights
POLS 330	Middle Eastern Politics
POLS 338	Politics of Weapons Proliferation
POLS 380	Terrorism
POLS 410	Ethnic Conflict and Nationalism
RSTD 218	The Qur'an
RSTD 265	The Vision of Judaism
RSTD 270	The Vision of Islam
RSTD 361	Hebrew Bible

*if not used to fulfill requirement #3

Note: Special Topics courses in any of the disciplines will be considered as meeting the Middle East Studies minor requirements if content is applicable and approved by the program director.