MINOR IN MIDDLE EAST AND ISLAMIC STUDIES

College of Liberal & Creative Arts
Dean: Dr. Andrew Harris
Coordinator: Lucia Volk
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Program Scope
The Minor in Middle East and Islamic Studies is a multidisciplinary minor designed to provide undergraduate students with a broad understanding of the history, politics, and culture of the Middle East and Islamic world. Students are required to fulfill both core and elective requirements designed to give a background of the complexity and diversity of the region as well as offer more specific, in-depth studies of select issues of the region. This program covers regions and peoples from or in the Middle East from the founding of Islam in the seventh century to the present. In concert with the “Islamic Studies” aspect of this program, this minor also extends beyond the Middle East to those cultures, societies, and areas that are associated with the historical and current spread of Islam. Students can select from a variety of courses across multiple disciplines, including history, religion, politics, culture, art, music, language, and literature.

The minor is useful to students planning careers in politics and government, business, education, international organizations, journalism, and art, as well as for those who simply desire a better understanding of the Middle East and Islam. The multidisciplinary nature of the program also prepares students for further study in a number of academic fields at the graduate level.

The Middle East and Islamic Studies Minor consists of a core curriculum of three courses that deal with the region as a whole from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, plus three upper-division courses taken upon advisement.

Professor

FRED ASTREN (1996), Professor of Jewish Studies; B.E.S. (1979), University of Minnesota; M.A. (1989), Ph.D. (1993), University of California, Berkeley.

MOHAMMAD AZADPUR (2003), Professor of Philosophy; B.A. (1986), Bucknell University; M.A. (1993), University of Pittsburgh; Ph.D. (1999), University of Virginia.

SANJOY BANERJEE (1990), Professor of International Relations; B.A. (1976), Lehigh University; Ph.D. (1982), Yale University.

CAREL BERTRAM (2002), Professor of Humanities; M.A. (1988), University of California, Berkeley; Ph.D. (1998), University of California, Los Angeles.

BURCU AKAN ELLIS (2004), Professor of International Relations; B.A. (1994), Bilkent University, Turkey; Ph.D. (2001), American University.

DINA A. IBRAHIM (2003), Professor of Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts; B.A. (1994), M.A. (1996), The American University in Cairo; Ph.D. (2003), University of Texas at Austin.

ERAN KAPLAN (2011), Professor of Jewish Studies; B.A. (1994), Tel Aviv University; Ph.D. (2001), Brandeis University.


HAFEZ MODIRZADEH (1998), Professor of Music; B.A. (1983), San Jose State University; M.F.A. (1986), University of California, Los Angeles; Ph.D. (1992), Wesleyan University.

MAHMOOD MONSHIPOURI (2007), Professor of International Relations; B.A. (1975) Teachers’ Training University, Tehran, Iran; M.A. (1979), Allamah Tabataba’i University, Tehran, Iran; Ph.D. (1987), University of Georgia.


LUCIA VOLK (2003), Professor of International Relations; B.A. (1991), Stanford University; M.A. (1994), Georgetown University; Ph.D. (2001), Harvard University.

NICOLE WATTS (2003), Professor of Political Science; B.A. (1989), University of Virginia; M.A. (1992), University of London School of Oriental and African Studies; Ph.D. (2001), University of Washington.

Associate Professor


MAZARI BEHROOZ (2002), Associate Professor of History; B.A. (1982), Saint Mary’s College of California; M.A. (1985), San Francisco State University; C.Phil. (1989), Ph.D. (1993), University of California, Los Angeles.


Minor in Middle East and Islamic Studies Minor - 18-21 units
All course work used to satisfy the requirements of the minor must be completed with a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

Core (9-10 units)
Complete at least nine units in the core by taking one course from Section A, one course from Section B, and a third course from either section. MEIS 300 and MEIS 301 may satisfy either Core Section A or B. Any core class taken beyond the required units can be counted towards the required elective units.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 380</td>
<td>Islamic World I: 500-1500</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 381</td>
<td>Islamic World II: 1500 - Present</td>
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I R 324  Middle East and North Africa in International Relations
I R 335  Muslim Societies in Transnational Perspective
PLSI 410  Middle East Politics

Section B: Arts and Culture

ANTH 319  Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa
ARTH 417  The Art and Architecture of Islam
HUM 361  Culture and Religion
HUM 496  Space and Architecture in the Islamic World
PHIL 516  Islamic Philosophy

Section A or B: 3

MEIS 300  Foundations in Middle East and Islamic Studies
MEIS 301  Islam: Interpretation and Practice

Electives (9-11 units)
In addition to the three core courses above, take a minimum of three additional courses as electives. Courses that are used to satisfy core requirements may not also be used as electives.

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<td></td>
<td>Select at least one course from Part I and at least one course from Part II. The third elective may be taken from either part I or II:</td>
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Part I: History and Politics

HIST 371  Islam In South Asia: From 1000 A.D. to the Present 3
HIST 372  India and the British Empire 3
HIST 380  Islamic World I: 500-1500 3
HIST 381  Islamic World II: 1500 - Present 3
HIST 382  History of Iran and Afghanistan 1500 - Present 3
HIST 383  Imperialism and Nationalism in the Recent Near East 3
I R 323  The Persian Gulf in International Relations 4
I R 324  Middle East and North Africa in International Relations 4
I R 326  South and Southeast Asia Foreign Relations 4
I R 335  Muslim Societies in Transnational Perspective 4
I R/MEIS 433  Model Arab League 4
JS/I R/PLSI 430  Israeli Democracy: Politics, Institutions, and Society 3
PLSI 410  Middle East Politics 4
PLSI/MEIS 431  Constructing Kurdistan 4
PHIL 436  Islamic Political Philosophy 3

Part II: Arts and Culture

ANTH 319  Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa 3
ARAB 102  Second Semester Arabic 4
ARAB 103  Third Semester Arabic 4
ARAB 104  Fourth Semester Arabic 4
ARAB 206  Intermediate Conversation 3
ARAB 300  Reading Qur’anic Arabic 3
ARAB 600  Modern Arabic Literature and Film in English 3
ARAB 650  Modern Arabic Fiction in English 3
ARTH 417  The Art and Architecture of Islam 3
CWL/HUM 424  Multicultural Middle Ages 3
CWL 430  Heroic Tales of the Mediterranean 3
HEBR 102  Second Semester Modern Hebrew 3
HEBR 201  Third Semester Modern Hebrew 3
HEBR 202  Fourth Semester Modern Hebrew 3
HUM 361  Cultural Expression in Islam 3
HUM 375  Biography of a City: United States Cities (Istanbul) 3
HUM/JS 379  Jerusalem 3
HUM 496  Space and Architecture in the Islamic World 3
JS 408/CINE 314  Israeli Cinema 3
JS/HUM/PHIL 501  Judaism, Christianity, and Islam 3
PHIL 516  Islamic Philosophy 3
PHIL 517  Islamic Mysticism 3
PRSN 102  Second Semester Persian 4
PRSN 103  Third Semester Persian 4
PRSN 104  Fourth Semester Persian 4
PRSN 206  Basic Persian Conversation 3
PRSN 260  Persian Culture and Civilization in English 3
PRSN 350  Advanced Persian 3
RRS/ARAB 450  Contemporary Arabic and Arab American Literature 3
WGS 565  Muslim Feminisms 3

Foreign Language Requirement
Students are strongly encouraged to develop proficiency in a Middle Eastern language or a language pertaining to the Islamic world and to commit to more than one semester of language studies. Therefore, second-semester language courses and higher will count towards elective units. Each student will discuss how to incorporate language into their minor during advising sessions.

Study-Abroad Courses
Students completing the Middle East and Islamic Studies minor are strongly encouraged to participate in study-abroad programs, whether through the CSU system or another approved study abroad program. SF State’s bilateral exchange with Koç University in Istanbul is particularly suited for MEIS minors. Please attend OIP’s informational sessions and then see a MEIS advisor.