MIDDLE EAST AND ISLAMIC STUDIES MINOR

College of Liberal & Creative Arts
Dean: Dr. Andrew Harris
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Program Scope

The Middle East and Islamic Studies minor 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. The 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.

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

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.

MOHAMMAD RAMADAN SALAMA (2005), Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures; B.A. (1990), M.A. (1998), University of Ain Shams, Al-Alsun Faculty, Cairo; M.A. (2000), Ph.D. (2005), University of Wisconsin, Madison.

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


Associate Professor

MAZIAR 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.

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


DINA A. IBRAHIM (2003), Associate 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.


Assistant Professor


Middle East and Islamic Studies Minor — 18–22 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 (9–11 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.
Code | Title | Units
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**Section A: History and Politics**
HIST 604 | Islamic World I: 500-1500 | 3
HIST 605 | Islamic World II: 1500 - present | 3
I R 324 | Middle East and North Africa in International Relations | 3
I R 335 | Muslim Societies in Transnational Perspective | 3
PLSI 410 | Middle East Politics | 4
**Section B: Arts and Culture**
ANTH 319 | Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa | 3
ARTH 417 | The Art and Architecture of Islam | 3
HUM 361 | Cultural Expression in Islam | 3
HUM 496 | Islam and the Poetics of Space | 3
PHIL 516 | Islamic Philosophy | 3
**Section A or B:**
MEIS 300 | Foundations in Middle East and Islamic Studies | 3
MEIS 301 | Islam: Interpretation and Practice | 3
**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.

**Code | Title | Units**
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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 (Istanbul) | 3
HUM/JIS 377 | | 3
HUM 496 | Islam and the Poetics of Space | 3
JS/CINE 408 | Israeli Cinema | 3
JS/HUM/PHIL 501 | Judaism, Christianity, and Islam | 3
MUS 530 | Musics of the Middle East and India | 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 | 4
PRSN 260 | Persian Culture and Civilization in English | 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.