

Middle Eastern Studies

Overview

The interdisciplinary major in Middle Eastern Studies (MES) provides an opportunity to study a region of historic and cultural importance whose current development is bound up with the political, economic, and cultural development of our own society. The Middle East encompasses the Arab world, Turkey, Iran, and Israel. This program is designed to allow students to study the culture and history of the region; its basic geographic, demographic, and ethnographic characteristics; recent political, economic, social, and cultural changes; and at least one of the major Middle Eastern languages of today.

Middle Eastern Studies is administered by the International & Area Studies Academic Program (IAS) (<http://iastp.berkeley.edu>).

Undergraduate Programs

Middle Eastern Studies (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2016-17/undergraduate/degree-programs/middle-eastern-studies>) : BA, Minor

Graduate Program

There is no graduate program in Middle Eastern Studies.

Middle Eastern Studies

M E STU 10 Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Spring 2015

This course is a lower division introduction to the study of the contemporary Middle East and North Africa, with emphasis on historical trajectories, political, social, and cultural transformations, and religious phenomena. It covers topics related to the Arab world, Turkey, Iran, and Israel from an interdisciplinary perspective. The intended audience for the course is Middle Eastern Studies majors, prospective majors, and minors, for whom it fulfills the lower division requirement, as well as students in other majors interested in the Middle East.

Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies: Read Less [-]

M E STU 20 Perspectives on the Middle East 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2014, Spring 2014, Fall 2013

A weekly seminar including guest speakers on (1) ethnic perspectives (Persians, Arabs, Turks, Israelis); (2) religious perspectives (Islam, Christianity, Judaism); and (3) disciplinary perspectives (anthropology, sociology, etc.). The seminar introduces students to the work of several major Berkeley Middle East scholars. The class has no prerequisites and admission preference is given to lower division students and prospective Middle Eastern majors.

Perspectives on the Middle East: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Perspectives on the Middle East: Read Less [-]

M E STU 24 Freshman Seminar 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2015

The Freshman Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small seminar setting. Freshman seminars are offered in all campus departments, and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment is limited to 15 freshmen.

Freshman Seminar: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

Freshman Seminar: Read Less [-]

M E STU 98 Directed Group Study for Lower Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2010, Spring 2009, Fall 2007

Seminars in various fields of Middle East studies designed to introduce beginning undergraduates to problems of importance to students interested in the Middle East. Topics vary from semester to semester.

Directed Group Study for Lower Division Students: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with different instructor. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of directed group study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Directed Group Study for Lower Division Students: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

M E STU 102 Scope and Methods of Research in Middle Eastern Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2015, Fall 2014

Required for all students majoring in Middle Eastern Studies, open to all students in International and Area Studies Teaching Program focusing on the Middle East interdisciplinary research strategies for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data. Course integrates the study of the fundamental theories of social science, with the practical techniques of social science research methods.

Scope and Methods of Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for 102 after taking Political Economy of Industrial Societies 102, or International and Area Studies 102 or 118.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Instructor: Gottreich

Scope and Methods of Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

M E STU 109 Model Arab League 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Spring 2014, Spring 2013

The Model Arab League is a simulation of the League of Arab States similar to the Model United Nations. Class meetings will be for familiarization of relevant political perspectives within the context of the Arab world. Students learn parliamentary procedure and to prepare resolutions. Each student is assigned to a committee and is responsible for participating in the development of the committee's resolution and its presentation at the Model Arab League.

Model Arab League: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Model Arab League: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

M E STU 120 Selected Topics--Middle Eastern Studies 3 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2013 3 Week Session, Summer 2012 10 Week Session, Summer 2012 3 Week Session

Interdisciplinary study of selected topics in Middle Eastern studies.

Each offering will focus on specific issues or topics concerning one or more areas of the Middle East. Through lectures, discussions, and multimedia presentations, students will explore a variety of perspectives relating to the subject matter of the course. Students will be expected to successfully complete various writing assignments or short projects, and written exam(s).

Selected Topics--Middle Eastern Studies: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Summer: 3 weeks - 14 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Selected Topics--Middle Eastern Studies: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

M E STU 130 Cross-Listed Topics 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2015

This course is designed to accommodate cross-listed courses offered through other departments, the content of which is applicable to Middle Eastern Studies majors. Content and unit values vary from course to course.

Cross-Listed Topics: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Cross-Listed Topics: [Read Less](#) [-]

M E STU 150 Advanced Study in the Middle East 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016

Advanced research in current issues of Middle Eastern Studies. Seminars will focus on specific areas or topics with appropriate comparative material included. A major research project is required as well as class presentations. Topics to vary from semester to semester.

Advanced Study in the Middle East: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of seminar per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Advanced Study in the Middle East: [Read Less](#) [-]

M E STU 190 Senior Thesis 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016

With the guidance of a faculty member of the program, the preparation and presentation of a senior thesis pertaining to the student's individual area of concentration within the Middle Eastern Studies major. Final paper required. Units determined on consultation with instructor.

Senior Thesis: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Senior standing, one year of language in the major, at least fifteen upper division units in the major, Near Eastern Studies 10

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Senior Thesis: [Read Less](#) [-]

M E STU 194 On-Line Research and Digital Production for Middle Eastern Studies 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014

This workshop is intended for Middle Eastern Studies majors undertaking senior theses projects. It should be taken in the spring semester, while students are enrolled in MES 190/H195: "Senior Thesis in MES." Students in this workshop will explore online research tools and web-building techniques with an aim to complement their theses with multimedia websites that disseminate their findings and demonstrate their capacity for research to a wider audience. Moreover, the study of these tools, techniques, and publishing platforms will enable students to hone their digital literacy in an increasingly connected online world.

On-Line Research and Digital Production for Middle Eastern Studies:

Read More [+]

Objectives Outcomes

Course Objectives: Students will study the contemporary social, cultural, and media phenomena in the Middle East that are changing the processes of research and information production, along with the habits of information consumption, in this revolutionary media moment. Tools for the retrieval of information and sources are indispensable. Through regular and strategic social media activity, students will participate in global conversations regarding breaking news and events relevant to their theses topics. Students will learn how to weave traditional research and new publishing methods into cohesive, informative, and interactive web packages.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Build a multi-page website using a content management system (CMS) to design, publish and organize thesis activity
- Write, photograph and edit scholarly content for academic and public consumption
- Use the Internet (and social media) as a research tool for discovering information/resources, evaluate the legitimacy of sources, and attribute appropriately
- Present information and research findings in digitally interactive and visual formats

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of workshop per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

On-Line Research and Digital Production for Middle Eastern Studies:
Read Less [-]

M E STU H195 Honors in Middle Eastern Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016

This course is the second of a two-semester senior honors program and culminates in the completion of a senior thesis. The thesis project begins with 102, which must be successfully completed before enrollment in H195. During this semester, an honors thesis of approximately 50-75 pages is completed under the direct supervision of the instructor of the Honors seminar program in International and Area Studies and a faculty member appropriate to the student's interest.

Honors in Middle Eastern Studies: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 102 or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Honors in Middle Eastern Studies: Read Less [-]

M E STU 198 Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2013, Fall 2012, Summer 2012 10 Week Session Seminar for the group study of selected Middle Eastern related topics not covered by regularly scheduled courses. A written proposal must be approved by a Middle Eastern Studies faculty adviser. Final paper required. Units determined on consultation with instructor.

Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of directed group study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students: Read Less [-]

M E STU 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Spring 2017, Summer 2014 10 Week Session

For students wishing to pursue an interest not represented in the curriculum by developing an individual program of study and research supervised by a faculty member. A written proposal must be approved by a Middle Eastern Studies faculty adviser. Final paper required. Units determined on consultation with instructor.

Supervised Independent Study and Research: [Read More \[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-5 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Middle Eastern Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Supervised Independent Study and Research: [Read Less \[-\]](#)