Tufts University
Middle Eastern Studies Major

Fall 2013
Course Listing
Middle Eastern Studies
Interdisciplinary Major
Fall 2013

Program Director: Hugh Roberts, Edward Keller Professor of North African and Middle Eastern History

Middle Eastern Studies is an interdisciplinary program that encourages breadth in coursework and significant immersion in one or more Middle Eastern cultures. The program gives students an opportunity to study the history and culture of the Middle East, as well as areas of the world whose territories were part of Middle Eastern empires or were under the influence of Middle Eastern civilizations in pre-modern and modern times. Study abroad is highly recommended.

Requirements:

The Middle Eastern Studies major comprises ten courses:

Two courses in a Middle Eastern language (level 121-122, or equivalent). Students who have demonstrated language competence through level 121-122 by a placement test must take two advanced language courses, two semesters of a second Middle Eastern language, or two other courses listed in section b. for a total of ten courses.

Six courses in Middle Eastern Studies chosen in consultation with an advisor, from an approved list updated by the Middle Eastern Studies program annually. These courses must include three from each of the following two groups.

A. Art history, religion, literature, Judaic studies and music

B. Anthropology, history, political science

These courses must include at least one course in pre-modern and one course in modern Middle Eastern Studies. They must also include at least one course in each of two Middle Eastern cultures.

One course that relates Middle East to other regions of the world.

One advanced research course, such as thesis honors, a seminar or advanced directed study.

For Further Information Contact:
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Or visit the Middle Eastern Studies website at: http://farescenter.tufts.edu/students/MESmajor.asp
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<td>JS 73</td>
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<td>JS 91-01</td>
<td>Ladino Language and Culture</td>
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<td>JS 132</td>
<td>The Book of Genesis</td>
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<td>JS 159</td>
<td>Contemporary Jewish Fiction</td>
<td>F+ tr</td>
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<td>MUS 54-01</td>
<td>Music &amp; Prayer In The Jewish Tradition</td>
<td>H+ tr</td>
<td>Summit</td>
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<td>MUS 92</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 95-01</td>
<td>Klezmer Ensemble, The Jumbo Knish Factory</td>
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<td>PS 21 *</td>
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<td>Introduction to the Hebrew Bible</td>
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<td>Sufism</td>
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For Further Information Contact: Hugh Roberts x 72316 Email: Hugh.Roberts@tufts.edu or visit: http://farescenter.tufts.edu/students/MEStmajor.asp
ARB 1  
Elementary Modern Standard Arabic  
Mult. Sections  
See Dept. Listing  

Introduction to Modern Standard Arabic. Communicative approach through development of four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. No previous knowledge of Arabic language or script required.

ARB 3  
Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic  
Mult. Sections  
See Dept. Listing  

A continuation of Elementary Modern Standard Arabic. Communicative approach with particular emphasis on active control of Arabic grammar and vocabulary; conversation; reading, translation and discussion of selected texts. The course includes oral presentations and short papers in Arabic. Weekly meetings include 2 regular classes and one conversation class. Prerequisites: Arabic 2 or equivalent.

ARB 21  
Arabic Reading Composition and Conversation  
Mult. Sections  
See Dept. Listing  

Emphasis on active control of vocabulary and grammar. Intensive practice in communication, reading, writing, and translation. The course includes oral presentations, short papers and a creative project. Weekly meetings include 2 regular classes and one conversation class. Prerequisite: Arabic 4 or equivalent.

ARB 91-08  
Introduction to Levantine Arabic  
ARR  
Zendah  

Introduction to the spoken Arabic used in the Levant (Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine). The course will focus on day-to-day conversations by starting with daily basic expressions and commonly used verb structures to more complex conversations and sentence forming. Students will also gain exposure to pressing cultural issues and debates in the Levant region Pre-requisite: Enrolled in or have completed Arabic 3.

ARB 121  
Advanced Modern Standard Arabic  
Mult. Sections  
See Dept. Listing  

This course will offer readings and discussions in Modern Standard Arabic. The textbook Media Arabic (Alaa Elgibali et al) is the main source. Articles dealing with a variety of topics will be explored, including Islam and politics, Arabic folklore, Arabs and the West, Modern Arabic poetry, development in Arab developing countries, and Arabic feminist writers. Grammatical structures will be discussed in the context of articles addressing these issues. The course will also use audio-visual materials. In Arabic. Taught in English.

ARB 55  
Cultural History in the Modern Middle East  
K+ mw  
Rastegar  

This lecture-based introductory survey course introduces students to the major trends and developments in cultural activities (music, cinema, literature, and the fine arts) across the Arab world, Turkey and Iran, from the nineteenth century to the present day. Following each of these fields of artistic expression, this course presents a broad overview of how artists, writers, musicians and others both influenced and reflected political and social changes in their societies. Students will not only learn about the major cultural figures of these societies, but also will come to understand the history of the region in a rich and multifaceted way. Themes examined will include: innovation and reform, political resistance, revolutionary ideologies, the rural-urban divide, transformations of gender roles, the rise of youth cultures, new religious movements, and reactions to consumerism and globalization. Cross-listed with HIST 177-01 & ILVS 55.

ARB 91-01  
The City as Poem: Cultural Politics and Middle East Urban Life  
M+mw  
Staff  

This course offers a cultural, historical, and literary exploration into the cities of the Middle East. Students will look at the importance of urban centers to colonial power and the birth of modernity, to the rise of urban rebellions against foreign rule and—in recent years with the “Arab Spring”—against post-colonial regimes. We will examine the centrality of literature and film in the making and representation of Middle East urban life. The class will challenge participants to “read” the city and urban space as one might a poem, exploring the diverse and shifting layers of meaning and inspiration found in places such as Cairo, Damascus, Algiers, Istanbul, Beirut, Tehran, and Jerusalem. We will approach city life in the Middle East by engaging a range of literary and filmic representations produced by those residing in the region. Students will also be introduced to several key theorists on urban life, including Michel de Certeau, Walter Benjamin, Janet Abu-Lughod, and David Harvey. This course will equip students with the skills to better understand cities in a region that produced among the very first urban centers in the world.
Performance of both classical and folk Arabic music. The maqām micro-tonal scale system as applied to both Western and Arabic instruments. Improvisation, form, style, rhythmic cycles, as well as Arabic vocal diction. Some Arabic ouds (lutes) to be made available. One half-course credit. Cross listed MUS 92. In Arabic.

ARB 155/R  Post-Colonial Cinemas  L+ tr  Rastegar
This course offers an overview of the intersection between world cinema and the conditions of colonialism and postcoloniality. Beginning with readings and viewings on representations of the non-Western world in early cinema, the course will then move to examine the development of cinemas of resistance and in particular the articulation of Third Cinema in the context of the Cold War. The second half of the course will examine the emergence of postcolonial themes in cinema, examining the treatment of questions such gender and identity, social subalterns, engaging with orientalism, diaspora identity and a range of other issues. Central to the course will be the question: what aesthetic innovations in cinema may be related to the engagement with postcolonial issues? Film Screenings Wednesday 7:30-9:30.

CLS 26  Ancient Egypt: Civilizations of The Nile & Near East  K+ mw  Harrington
This course is an exploration of the civilizations of Ancient Egypt and the Near East, examining their art, architecture, and history. We will examine the close interplay between the religion of the Egyptians and their funerary practices, including the development of the pyramid tombs and the practice of mummification. The pharaoh served as an incarnate link between the eternal gods and the world of mortals; the pharaoh's victories and virtues filled the temples, but the tombs of ordinary Egyptians were filled with images of their own aspirations for eternal life. Hieroglyphic texts recorded diplomacy and sacred ritual, as well as literature and science, while dynasties rose and fell, just as cuneiform texts did in Mesopotamia and beyond. We will examine the internal and external relations of Egypt in the context of a world system that included the kingdoms and empires of the Near East and the Mediterranean: from the Sumerians, Assyrians, Hittites, and Babylonians, to the Persian Empire, Alexander the Great, and the Imperium Romanum. In each of these cultures, individuals competed to assert their identities within a shared system of meaning embedded in their art and architecture as well as their texts and social hierarchies. Satisfies the Arts, Humanities, and Social Science Distribution Requirements and the African Culture and Diasporas, Classical, and Middle Eastern Culture Area. Cross listed as Archaeology 26 and History 76.

FAH 21/121  Early Islamic Art  G+ mw  Hoffman
A survey of the visual arts in Muslim lands from Spain to Central Asia between the seventh and thirteenth centuries, emphasizing the role of visual arts in the formation and expression of cultural identity. Painting, sculpture, architecture and the portable arts of ceramics, ivory, metalwork, and manuscript illustration will be considered. Topics will include the uses of figural and non-figural imagery; calligraphy and ornament; religious and secular art; public and private art; the art of the court and the art of the urban middle class; and the status, use, and meaning of the portable arts. May be taken at 100 level. Cross listed as Religion 23/121. Eva Hoffman (This course may be used to fulfill the pre-1700 requirement for the Art History major.)

FAH 92-03  The Arts of Armenia  D+ tr  Maranci
This course will explore the arts of Armenia from the fourth to seventeenth centuries CE. The churches, illuminated manuscripts, and relief sculpture of this region present a distinctive tradition which can be approached form many directions, both formal and contextual. The material raises broad questions regarding artistic style, function, theology, politics, and social history. In addition, the images and monuments reveal contact with the cultures of Georgia (former USSR!), Byzantium, the Sasanian and Islamic Near East, Europe, and even China. This course will thus introduce not only striking and understudied material, but also historical and theoretical issues of central importance to the study of art. (This course may be used to fulfill the pre-1700 requirement for the Art History major.)

FAH 123-01  Byzantine Art and Architecture  H+ tr  Maranci
Introduction to the art and architecture of the Byzantine empire, c. 326 to 1453. Considers a range of media, including icons, illuminated manuscripts, sculpture, church architecture, metalwork, ivories, and textiles. Location of these artistic traditions within their social and historical context, focusing on issues such as imperial ideology, patronage, art and devotion, secular art, classical revivals, cultural interaction, and the role of images in Byzantine society. (This course may be used to fulfill the pre-1700 requirement for the Art History major.)
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<td>Elementary Hebrew</td>
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<td>For students with no previous knowledge of Hebrew. Study of fundamental speech patterns, listening comprehension and oral ability. Progressively greater emphasis placed on reading and writing skills. An additional hour of class for practice and drills to be arranged.</td>
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<td>HEB 3</td>
<td>Intermediate Hebrew</td>
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<td>Continuation of Hebrew 002. The course teaches students intermediate-level Hebrew language skills, in particular with regard to the daily use of Hebrew as well as the understanding of articles written from the press and scientific journals adapted into simplified Hebrew. The course increases students’ vocabulary, adding an additional 800 words. From the course, students will gain command of the fundamental structures of Hebrew and its basic grammatical forms. Each lesson emphasizes all four skills – reading, listening comprehension, speaking, and writing – so that the students will feel comfortable to use their skills in the same manner. Prerequisite: Hebrew 002 or consent of instructor.</td>
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<td>HEB 21</td>
<td>Composition and Conversation</td>
<td>Harari Spencer</td>
<td>G+ mw</td>
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<td>Continuation of Hebrew 4. The course is intended to introduce students to “regular” Hebrew (vs. “easy” Hebrew) by exposing them to literature and scientific works as well as the press in the original Hebrew. Students become familiar with synonyms and the subtle differences between words, as well as expressions and idioms in Hebrew. Students should gain a good command of the various verbal structures including exceptions to the rules, and become familiar with many syntactical structures. Prerequisite for 021: Completion of Hebrew 004 or equivalent, or permission of the instructor.</td>
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<td>HST 58</td>
<td>The Byzantines and Their World</td>
<td>Proctor</td>
<td>G+ mw</td>
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<td>Examination of the history of the Byzantine Empire with emphasis on Byzantine interaction with and influence on the civilizations of Western, Eastern and Southeastern Europe, Armenia and the Middle East. Special attention to the influence of religion, art and ideas of political authority in the development of Byzantine civilization and the continuation of the Empire’s legacy. (Cross-listed as Classics 39) David Proctor  G+ M/W &amp; recitation</td>
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<td>HST 70</td>
<td>The Middle East and North Africa to World War 1</td>
<td>Roberts</td>
<td>E+</td>
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<td>This course introduces students to the political and social history of the Middle East up to World War One. We will examine the Ottoman empire, its system of rule, its strengths and weaknesses; European interests and encroachments in the region; the Ottoman reform process (tanzimat) in 19th century; the effort to modernize Egypt under Muhammad Ali; the region's incorporation into the larger world-economy; the development of an Islamic modernist response to the challenge of European power; the emergence of the 'constitutionalist' movement in the region and especially Iran; the evolving position of women and non-Muslims; and the emergence of nationalisms and other forms of identity, notably pan-Islamism, Turkism and Arabism.</td>
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<td>HST 74</td>
<td>Modern Armenia</td>
<td>Baghdiantz McCabe</td>
<td>1+ mw</td>
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<td>The uses of history in the formation of Armenian identity, nation, and nationalism. The Armenians of the Ottoman Empire, Iran, India, and other host societies. A comparative study of the ideas of nationality and Ethnicity, with a focus on revolution, ideology, and identity. Linkages between the massacre of Armenian people in 1915 and other mass killings and genocide in the twentieth century (examples extend to Kosovo in 1999). Ina Baghdiantz McCabe [formerly HST. 66]</td>
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This course will examine the history of Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Western Sahara since the end of World War II in 1945. It will consider how colonial rule and anti-colonial nationalism shaped post-colonial states and regimes; the character of social and economic development since independence; the role of minorities and especially the various Berber populations; the place of Islam; the impact of Islamist movements; foreign policies, relations and diasporas; the evolution of the state-society relationship and the experience of economic and political reform.

Introduction to the history and culture of the Sephardic Jews. The life and fortunes of the Sephardim in Spain and Portugal, their contributions to the exploration, settlement, and development of America, their folklore, and present attempts to preserve and promote their heritage will be considered. Focus on prominent and interesting Sephardic personalities from diverse countries and times, such as Maimonides, Dona Gracia Nasi, Judah Touro, Haim Isaac Carigal, and Elias Canetti. Cross-listed with REL 73.

Selected passages from the Talmud and rabbinic literature, Mishna, Gemara, Commentaries. Relevance to contemporary moral and ethical issues. Cross-listed with REL 87.

Introduction to the language known as Ladino and the culture of the Sephardic Jews who have spoken it for over 500 years. When they were expelled from Spain in 1492, Jews took this language with them, and it has been enriched through contact with languages encountered in their various lands of resettlement. Emphasis on the living language: understanding, speaking, and writing (including creatively). Texts will include proverbs, stories, and songs from the folk tradition as well as contemporary poems and songs, and basic language materials: grammar text and verb tables. Some background in Spanish (or Ladino!) is helpful, but not essential. Cross-listed with SPN 91-01.

A detailed study of the biblical book of Genesis, with special attention to the role the book played in postbiblical Jewish tradition. All texts read in English. No prerequisites. Cross-listed with REL 132.

An exploration of the novels and short stories of writers whose work has been at the center of literary life for the last half-century and promises to transport us arguing, laughing, and reflecting deeply into this century as well. Fiction by Saul Bellow, Cynthia Ozick, Philip Roth, Bernard Malamud, Anne Michaels, Primo Levi, and others. Cross-listed with ENG 159.

The role and function of music in Jewish worship and cultural identity. Focus on the Kabbalat Shabbat. Topics to include participation vs. performance in worship, music and historical authenticity in prayer, music and religious experience, and the invention and presentation of tradition. Liturgical music and dual culturalism in the American Jewish community.

Performance of both classical and folk Arabic music. The maqām micro-tonal scale system as applied to both Western and Arabic instruments. Improvisation, form, style, rhythmic cycles, as well as Arabic vocal diction. Some Arabic ouds (lutes) to be made available. One half-course credit. Cross listed MUS 92. In Arabic.
Old style and current Klezmer music, the celebratory art originating with the Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern Europe. Improvisation of lead melodies. Arrangements and instrumental roles. One-half course credit. Recommendations: Instrumental fluency (intermediate to advanced).

PS 21 * Introduction to Comparative Politics F+ tr Art
Theories and evidence in comparative politics, preparing students for upper-level courses that focus on specific regions, countries, and themes. Examination and evaluation of competing theoretical approaches to important phenomena in world politics, including democracy and democratization; revolutions; economic development; and ethnicity and ethnic conflict. Discussion of illustrative examples from different regions such as Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia, East Asia, South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

PS 121 * Seminar: Political Culture in Comparative Perspective 11 t Cruz
How cultural meanings and practices shape political struggles and institutions. Survey of culturalist theories of political dynamics and structures, and assessment of theories against a range of empirical case studies from Asia, the Middle East, Western Europe, Latin America, and the United States.

PS 172 U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East J+ mw Corbin
The evolution of American foreign policy toward the Middle East since World War II. Basic American interests in the region, and how the U.S. has pursued those interests in connection with issues such as conflicting nationalisms (including the Arab-Israeli conflict), the role of Turkey and Iran in the regional balance of power, and the Islamist revival. Implications of the Soviet Union’s collapse for future American policy in the Middle East. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

From the presidency of Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921) to that of Barack Obama, liberal internationalism has often been the framework adopted for the conduct of American foreign policy. Liberal internationalism stresses democracy promotion, the creation of an open and integrated world economy, and multilateralism to settle conflicts as the way best to provide for American national security. The invasion of Iraq in March 2003 was in good measure justified in terms of bringing the Middle East into such a system. Where did this thinking come from, how has it evolved over time, and what is its future likely to be in the hands of the new administration in Washington?

PS 189-05 Seminar in IR: Turkish Foreign Policy 2 w Mufti
This seminar studies the determinants, mechanisms, and main elements of Turkish foreign policy. It combines three main elements: an investigation of the relationship between domestic political dynamics - particularly competing conceptions of Turkish identity - and foreign policy; a chronological survey of Turkish diplomatic history; and in-depth analyses of Turkey's relations with its primary interlocutors on the regional and global levels.

REL 21 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible F+ tr Hutauff
We will study the Hebrew Bible to become familiar with the works of its individual authors, and to gain an understanding of the historical circumstances in which they wrote, as well as to survey the historical development of ancient Israel’s religious beliefs and institutions. Topics will include the life of Moses, the production of Israel’s codes of law, the construction of theological language and imagery, the rise of the monarchy and the temple, accounts of creation, psalms and wisdom literature, and the lives and legacies of the Israelite prophets. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement and the Judaic Culture option.

REL 153 Sufism E+ mw Garden
Sufism is often defined as “Islamic Mysticism.” It is further described as a practice through which a Sufi seeks the “annihilation of the self” and “union with the divine” through “spiritual exercises.” But what do any of these terms actually mean? This course aims to demystify Islamic mysticism. We will begin with a brief overview of the Islamic religious tradition from a Sufi perspective to see what is particularly Islamic about Islamic mysticism. We will then turn to Sufi psychology and practice, asking how Sufism sees human nature and how it seeks to perfect it and thereby bring it closer to God, the ultimate source of its existence. We will then look at concrete, historical expressions of Sufi thought and practice in the world, asking what happens when the quest for the eternal and ineffable is instantiated in flesh-and-blood human beings with worldly relations and concerns. We will then grapple with the question of how to describe the indescribable experience of the divine. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement and the Middle Eastern Culture option.
Middle Eastern Studies Thesis. Please see departmental website for specific details. The project required of students electing the interdisciplinary minor option. Either one-half or one course credit will be given at the discretion of the faculty members involved. Permission of Director.

NOTE: This list may be incomplete, and the class times are subject to change. Before you register, consult the listings in the course’s home department. Courses listed with an asterisk (*) are not exclusively concerned with Middle Eastern Studies material.

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Program Faculty
Rana E. Abdul-aziz, GRALL
Gloria Ascher, Judaic Studies Program
Amahl Bishara, Anthropology
Leila Fawaz, History
Elizabeth Foster, History
Ken Garden, Religion
Hedda Harari-Spenser, GRALL
Steven Hirsch, Classics
Bruce Hitchner, Classics
Eva Hoffman, Art and Art History
Ayesha Jalal, History
Richard Jankowsky, Music
Christina Maranci, Art and Art History
Beatrice Manz, History
Nimah Mazaheri, Political Science
Ina Baghdianz McCabe, History
Malik Mufti, Political Science
Kamran Rastegar, GRALL
Hugh Roberts, History
Joel Rosenberg, Judaic Studies Program
Enrico Spolaore, Economics

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