Tufts University

Middle Eastern Studies Major

Fall 2014

Course Listing
Middle Eastern Studies
Interdisciplinary Major
Fall 2014

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.

The Middle Eastern Studies Major has recently been modified in respect of the course requirements, with particular reference to the language requirement, which has been relaxed. Students who matriculate in fall 2014 will have to conform to the new revised requirements. Students who matriculated in fall 2013 or earlier may choose to conform to the old requirement or the new ones as they prefer.

Revised Requirements of the Major

(mandatory for students matriculating in fall 2014; optional for those matriculating in Fall 2013 or earlier):

The Middle Eastern Studies major comprises twelve courses:

i. Four courses of a Middle Eastern language, (level 3-4, or equivalent). Students who have demonstrated language competence through level 3-4 by a placement test must take two advanced language courses and either two semesters of a second Middle Eastern language or two other courses listed in section b.

ii. Six courses in Middle Eastern studies—chosen in consultation with an advisor—from an approved list updated by the Middle Eastern Studies program annually. Three courses must be chosen from each of the following two groups:

   A. art history, religion, literature, Judaic studies, music, and
   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 one course in each of two Middle Eastern cultures. Two of these courses may be more advanced language courses (21-22 and beyond).

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

iv. One advanced research course, such as thesis honors, a seminar, or advanced directed study.
Previous Requirements of the Major

(these apply only to students who matriculated in Fall 2013 or earlier, but they may choose to conform instead to the new requirement)

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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ARB 1  Elementary Modern Standard Arabic  Mult. Sections  See Dept.
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.
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 5  Colloquial Arabic: Levantine  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 21  Arabic Reading Composition and Conversation  Mult. Sections  See Dept.
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 121  Advanced Modern Standard Arabic  Mult. Sections  See Dept.
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.

ARB 55  Cultural History Of the Modern Middle East  J+tr  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 177-02 & ILVS 55.

ARB 91-01  Arab and Muslim Americans  12w  Abowd
This course is an exploration into the diverse cultures, politics, and experiences of Arab and Muslim Americans. Students will examine varied historical, sociological, and cultural sources from across a range of political contexts. This course will highlight the intersecting and divergent lives of Arabs and Muslims in the United States, from the early immigrant experiences of the late 19th Century to more recent dimensions of life in a post-“9/11” America. These different times, places, and peoples will explore how Muslims and Arabs in the US with a particular emphasis on the racial, gender, and class experiences of these communities over the last several decades. Questions of diaspora will be discussed as we probe the exilic dimensions of life for Arabs and Muslims through a range of literary and cinematic traditions. This course will bring together writings on these peoples and themes from the social sciences, humanities, realms of fiction, and worlds of film. Readings include works by Khalil Gibran, Edward Said, Naomi Nye, Rabih Alameddine, Jack Shaheen, Evelyn Alsultany, Nadine Naber, Amine Rihani, and others.
Like a poem, a city must be “read” or experienced repeatedly if one is to capture its many nuances, multiple meanings, and layered symbolism. This course explores the fascinating realms of city life and urban politics in the Modern Middle East through the literature and cinema of the region. The Middle East is the site of some of the oldest and most culturally significant cities in the world. These urban centers have been crucial in, among other things, helping to bring into existence the three major monotheistic traditions, some of the world’s first universities, and among its very earliest civilizations and writing systems. In the last two hundred years, cities of the region have become places where movements for national liberation, anti-colonial resistance, and struggles for women’s and workers’ rights have arisen in exciting ways. Most recently places like Cairo, Damascus, Tunis, and Tehran have been sites of amazing popular struggles for democracy and social justice. This course will explore a range of topics related to Middle East urban experiences from the rise of colonial domination and modern forms of governance in the early 1800s to the “Arab Spring” revolutions and revolts since 2011. Visual culture, films, new media, and popular culture more generally will be central components of this course. We will strive to discover the richness of urban diversity and the human potential for political and social transformation. This course will combine historical and ethnographic accounts with literary and visual representations of Middle East cities. We will read such pathbreaking authors as Orhan Pamuk, Edward Said, Amoz Oz, Aseel Sawalha, Ghada Samman, Leila Ahmed, Minoo Moallem, and Salim Tamari.

This course will explore a range of topics related to the Middle East and human rights. We will examine debates about human rights in this much misunderstood region through literature and cinemas. These sources will be brought into conversation with perceptive scholarly writings and human rights reports generated by human rights activists working, writing, and producing visual representations in the Middle East. It will be one of the key challenges of this course to look critically at some of the taken-for-granted ideas about rights discourse and security, notions of freedom and liberty, and forms of discipline and punishment. Participants in this course will explore some of the practices of and politics around human rights as they intersect public culture, new media, and popular culture. By looking at some of the diverse communicities in the Middle East, we will acquire insights into how people in various places make sense of their lives and strive for justice. We will also examine how global forces shape their (and our) realities. In doing so, the course will seek to discover the richness of human diversity and the human potential for political and social transformation. Authors include Nawal Sa’adawi, Suad Amiry, Edward Said, Sadek al-Azm, Ibrahim Sarfaty, Ghada Samman, Hanan al-Shaiykh, Lila Abu Lughod, Hanan Ashrawi, and Leila Ahmed. Films include “Battle of Algiers,” “The Marriage of the Blessed,” “5 Broken Cameras,” and “Civilisees.”

A vast corpus of the sayings of Prophet Muhammad, Hadith constitutes the second most important source of Islamic learning to which Muslims turn in order to find answers to practically any important question. The goal of the course is to introduce students to the classical Arabic of this particular corpus, concentrating on the vocabulary, grammar and morphology most relevant to the understanding of Hadith. The course will use a frequency-based reader which is meant to ease students into the Arabic of this particular genre. Students will work with original Arabic texts during the entire course and will learn/review the grammar, morphology, and syntax of classical Arabic. Learning will be facilitated by the use of digital reading and studying tools. Students will also learn about the place of Hadith and Hadith sciences in the system of Islamic learning.
Prerequisites: Arabic 1 & Arabic 2, or instructor permission.
* FAH 28/128 * Medieval Art in the Mediterranean: Pagans, Jews, Christians, Muslims  
G+mw  
Hoffman
Integrated study of the shared art and culture of the Mediterranean from late antiquity through medieval times (3rd – 13th centuries CE). Architecture, painting, mosaic and luxury objects will be considered with a focus on continuities and dynamic cultural intersections across religious and political boundaries in European, Islamic, and Byzantine realms. Topics include the early church, synagogue, and mosque; figural and non-figural imagery in Pagan, Jewish, Christian, and Islamic contexts; relationships between secular and sacred and between majority and minority cultures. May be taken at the 100 level. Cross-listed as REL 28/128.

FAH 275  
Seminar: Orientalism and the Visual Arts  
T 1  
Hoffman
This course will explore Europe’s encounters with the “Orient” (i.e. the Middle East) from Medieval times to the present. We will study the visual representation of the Orient in light of the current theory and debate on Orientalism. How did travel, trade, crusades and colonization shape Europe’s perceptions and representation of the Middle East? We will explore appropriations and exchanges of material culture and art as well as the marvels and myths that formed the perceptions and misconceptions of these cultures. Topics will include the Crusades for the Holy Land; the Age of Discovery; 19th and 20th century European scholarship, archaeology, and display of Middle Eastern art; photography, orientalist painting and film.

HEB 1  
Elementary Hebrew  
Mult. Sections  
See Dept.
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.

HEB 3  
Intermediate Hebrew  
ARR  
Harari-Spencer
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.

HEB 21  
Composition and Conversation  
ARR  
Harari-Spencer
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.

HEB 121  
Composition and Conversation  
ARR  
Harari-Spencer
Continuation of Hebrew 22. The course will broaden the grammatical structures and vocabulary studied in Hebrew 22. It will concentrate on the written language and will teach students to understand unadapted texts, in particular literature and the press. Students will expand their knowledge of synonyms and the subtle differences between words. Vocabularies will substantially increase. By the end of the course, students should have a good command of most verbal and syntactical structures, including exceptions to the rules. Prerequisite: Hebrew 022 or consent of instructor.

HST 58  
The Byzantines and Their World  
TBD  
Proctor
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)
HST 70  The Middle East and North Africa to World War I  H+  Roberts
Course description: This course introduces students to the political and social history of the Middle East up to World War One. We will examine the basic features of Islam as a religion, the major Islamic empires, 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.

HST 97  Middle Eastern History  8r  Manz
Patriarchy and gender in the Middle East from the rise of Islam. Topics include women and marriage in the Qur'an, Islamic tradition and law; the impact of patriarchy on the lives of men and women; honor killing; issues of women and family in contemporary Islamic states. Beatrice Manz

HST177  The Maghreb since 1914  L+  Roberts
This course will examine the history of Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Western Sahara since the beginning of World War I in 1914. 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 in the light of the Arab uprisings since 2010/11 (Advances Special Topics Africa/Middle East)

ILVS 91-02  Resistance in Modern Iran  l+mw  Rastegar
This course presents an introduction to the study of modern Iran (from the late 19th century to the present day) as well as exploration of the concept of cultural resistance. Through engaging with a wide range of literary, visual, and cinematic texts, the course charts a path of cultural expression as a field of political and social resistance-both to a variety of forms of domestic authority (political tyranny, patriarchy, religious theocracy) as well as to the influence and hegemony of colonial and imperialist forces. The course begins with the early literary innovations that fed into the revolutionary forces of the 1906 Constitutional Revolution, through to the rise of nationalist and anti-colonialist ideals expressed in literary and visual arts in the mid-20th century, to the variety of voices that came together in the 1979 revolution, and ends with persistent expressions of cultural resistance-especially in Iranian cinema-in the post-revolutionary period. Alongside the reading and viewing of primary texts-short stories, poems, novels, works of visual art, cinema-we will read secondary works of cultural and social theory that address concepts of cultural resistance. In particular we will look to theorists and critics from Iran to provide frameworks for the study and analysis of the primary texts in the course.

JS 55  Tech & Jewish Oral Traditions  H+tr  Summit
The concept of oral tradition and its traditional transmission in the Jewish community. We consider why certain men and women increasingly see the performance of text as a key to authentic religious expression. In many congregations, across denominational lines, busy lay congregants spend hours every week preparing to “read Torah” and lead services at Sabbath worship. Many understand this performance of sacred text as a way to position themselves at the core of authentic religious experience. Increasingly, these oral traditions of chant and prayer are not learned through face to face interaction with cantors, rabbis or other teachers but from websites and computer programs such as “Haftutor,” “CyberTropes,” or “Navigating the Bible.” We examine how the application of these new technologies is changing the transmission, study, performance and cultural understanding of these sacred oral traditions. Cross-listed as MUS 55 and REL 55.

JS 73  Aspects of the Sephardic Tradition  L+tr  Ascher
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.
Ladino Language and Culture

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, films, and basic language materials. Some background in Spanish (or Ladino!) is helpful, but not essential. Cross-listed with SPN 91-01.

King David & Israelite Monarchy

King David was ancient Israel's most pivotal leader, who transformed Israel from a loose confederation of tribes to a dynastic monarchy with a capital in Jerusalem, fashioning a people into a nation in a more complex sense. The story of his acquisition and use of power is told in the biblical books 1 and 2 Samuel and the first two chapters of 1 Kings, which present a critique of kingly power and an examination of both the strengths and failings of Israel's first dynastic king. The course explores these and related biblical narratives, viewed in the light of modern historical and literary study, and cultural theory. Cross-listed with REL 136.

Arabic Music Ensemble

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 with MUS 92/ARB 91-04. In Arabic.

Sounds of Sufism

Exploration of the relationship between music and the sacred in Sufism and the veneration of Muslim saints. Interdisciplinary, ethnomusicological approach to sound, movement, and meaning in ritual through a consideration of Sufi treatises and ethnographic case studies from across the Islamic world.

Seminar: Political Culture in Comparative Perspective

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.

Seminar: Turkish Foreign Policy

This senior seminar investigates the determinants, mechanisms, and dynamics of Turkish foreign and defense policy. It combines three main elements: an investigation of the linkage between domestic factors – particularly competing conceptions of Turkish identity – and foreign policy; a chronological survey of Turkish security policy; and in-depth analyses of Turkey's relations with its primary interlocutors on the regional and global levels. As such, it is designed as a capstone research project enabling students to test out competing theoretical approaches (neorealism, liberalism, constructivism, etc.) in international relations theory.

Introduction to Hebrew Bible

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.
A Global History of Christianity to the Middle Ages

Development of Christianity as a world movement from antiquity through the medieval period. Study of key figures, events, and issues that helped shape Christian traditions in a variety of cultural, social and historical contexts. This course counts toward the Humanities or Social Sciences distribution requirement. CLST HIST 9

Introduction to Islam

Islam in its many facets. Pre-Islamic Arabia, the Prophet, the Qur’an, the prophetic traditions, tradition and customs, law, theology, major denominations, philosophy, and mysticism. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement, the World Civilization requirement, and the Middle Eastern Culture option.

Middle Eastern Studies Interdisciplinary Thesis/Project

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.

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For Further Information Contact:

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Program Faculty

Rana E. Abdul-aziz, GRALL
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Steven Hirsch, Classics
Bruce Hitchner, Classics
Eva Hoffman, Art and Art History
Fadi Jajji, GRALL
Ayesha Jalal, History
Richard Jankowsky, Music
Christina Maranci, Art & Art History
Beatrice Manz, History
Nimah Mazaheri, Political Science
Ina Baghdiriantz McCabe, History
Malik Mufti, Political Science
Kamran Rastegar, GRALL
Hugh Roberts, History
Joel Rosenberg, Judaic Studies Program
Enrico Spolaore, Economics
Souhad B. Zendah, GRALL

May 1, 2014