

Middle East and North Africa Studies, Minor

Director: Enaya Othman, Ph.D.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) encompasses the region from Mauritania in the west to Iran and Central Asia in the east, the Mediterranean in the north and Saharan and Sahelian Africa in the south. The MENA Studies program engages one of the most strategic regions of the world and its diasporas linguistically, culturally, historically, theologically, politically, socially and economically. The program utilizes interdisciplinary approaches to provide students with holistic knowledge about the home of the three Abrahamic religions and the world's oldest civilizations. Students majoring or minoring in MENA Studies will acquire the skills to employ their learning in many careers including public policy, diplomacy, international business, national security, journalism, law, humanitarian work, public health or social work. Its learning objectives include:

- Develop critical and analytical research skills to investigate topics about the region from an interdisciplinary perspective applying quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method approaches.
- Gain knowledge of the region's geography, cultures, populations, and languages.
- Develop functional proficiency in Arabic.
- Understand theoretical approaches that informs historical, cultural, political, and cultural discourses.
- Understand the transaction of cross-cultural exchange toward developing appreciation of cultures.
- Explore the cultural intersections of gender and race.
- Raise awareness of and interest in global and religious diversity, human well-being, and social justice thereby helping to develop students as global citizens for the future.

Students majoring or minoring in MENA are encouraged to minor in the Arabic Language and Culture Studies.

Middle East and North Africa Studies Minor

The interdisciplinary minor requires 18–20 credits, depending on the student's proficiency in Arabic upon beginning the program. Foundational courses in Arabic language study (6–8 credits). Electives (12 credits) from historical, theological, social and cultural context courses.

Code	Title	Hours
Foundational Courses. Choose two of the following:		6-8
ARBC 1001	Elementary Arabic 1	
ARBC 1002	Elementary Arabic 2	
ARBC 2001	Intermediate Arabic 1	
ARBC 2002	Intermediate Arabic 2	
ARBC 3001	Grammar Review and Skills Development	
ARBC 3002	Spoken Arabic	
Elective Courses. Choose four of the following: ¹		12
ANTH 3312	Anthropology of Religion	
ANTH 3360	People and Cultures of the Middle East	
ARBC 3001	Grammar Review and Skills Development ²	
ARBC 3002	Spoken Arabic ²	
ARBC 3200	Culture and Civilization of the Middle East	
ARBC 3210	Arabic Literature in English Translation	
ARBC 3220	Arab and Muslim Women in the United States	
ARBC 3705	Arabic for Media	
ARBC 3800	Re-envision of Disability	
FREN 4200	Francophone Literature: Non-Western	
FREN 4240	Francophone Popular Culture	
FREN 4310	Francophone History and Politics: Western	
HIST 4212	The Crusades	
HIST 3205	The Byzantine Empire	
HIST 3455	Middle East	
HIST 4450	North Africa	
PHIL 3506	Philosophy of Race	
PHIL 3620	Medieval Philosophy	
POSC 4621	Politics of the World Economy	

POSC 4631	World Conflict and Security
POSC 4661	The Political Economy of Development
SOWJ 2150	Immigrants and their Communities
SOWJ 3450	Arabs and Muslims in Global Context
THEO 2000	Memory and the Making of the Old Testament
THEO 2500	Theologies of Nonviolence

Total Credit Hours:

18-20

Notes:

1. In addition to the courses listed, students may apply as electives study abroad courses relevant to Middle East and North Africa studies with the approval of the program director.
2. Students may take ARBC 3001 Grammar Review and Skills Development and ARBC 3002 Spoken Arabic as electives courses only if they have not taken them as foundational courses.

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