Middle East Studies

Middle East Studies (MES) is an interdisciplinary concentration that draws upon courses offered by a distinguished core faculty in the humanities and the social sciences. Regardless of one’s passions – whether history, religion, politics, culture, literature, modern media, philosophy or practices of everyday life – the Middle East is an ideal site for considering the diversity and complexity of the human experience. A growing number of exciting courses, creative and relevant programming, and a steady stream of post-docs and visiting professors offer unparalleled opportunities for MES concentrators who wish to understand this region and to engage with a broad range of issues that affect our world.

### Standard Program for the AB Degree - Effective for the Class of 2020

**HIST 1968**  
Approaches to The Middle East  

Foundation Courses, which may include (among others):  

- **MES 0155**  
  Cultures of the Contemporary Middle East  
- **ANTH 1151**  
  Ethnographies of the Muslim Middle East  
- **MES 1200**  
  Visual Politics in the Contemporary Middle East  
- **COLT 0812H**  
  Literary Bestsellers of the Islamic World  
- **HIST 0240**  
  Middle East Beginnings  
- **HIST 0243**  
  Modern Middle East Roots: 1492 to the Present  
- **HIST 0244**  
  Understanding the Middle East: 1800s to the Present  
- **HIST 0247**  
  Civilization, Empire, Nation: Competing Histories of the Middle East  
- **HIST 1455**  
  The Making of the Modern Middle East  
- **RELS 0150**  
  Islam Unveiled  
- **POLS 1270**  
  Middle East Politics

Language Semesters: Basic competence in at least one of the modern Middle Eastern Languages is required. This entails taking at least six semesters of coursework in one of the modern Middle Eastern languages such as Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, Turkish, etc.

**Electives**: Four courses chosen from the list of courses that are cross-listed by Middle East Studies and approved by the Concentration advisor. Students should acquire a good balance of courses by taking courses in the humanities and social sciences. Students should also seek a good balance between courses whose primary subject matter is pre-modern (ancient and medieval) and modern and contemporary Middle East.

**Capstone/Honors Project**: This can take many forms, such as:

- a. A paper of approximately 30 pages for an existing concentration-eligible (MES-coded or X-Listed) WRIT-designated course, undertaken with the permission of the instructor
- b. An independent study or project (artistic, research, or otherwise) supervised by at least one faculty member for at least one semester under MES 1970- Independent Study designation
- c. An Honors Thesis

**Total Credits**: 12

1. Honors students will be required to have at least six semesters of language study (Advanced), two semesters of which may be counted toward the elective requirement.

2. Two semesters of Independent Study (MES 1970) are required for honors and will raise the number of required courses to 13.

### Middle East Studies  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MES 0155</td>
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Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

- Helvetica was used instead of Arial.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.