

Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MENA)

The program in Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MENA) offers students an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the Middle East and North Africa. This is an area studies approach to non-western cultures and peoples. Drawing on courses in Art History, English, Government, History, and Religion, the program encourages students to learn about the history, culture, politics and languages of the Middle East and North Africa. It culminates in an independent capstone project designed to integrate learning from diverse areas of study.

The program in Middle Eastern and North African Studies is not a major. With the exception of MENA 354 Middle Eastern & North African Studies: An Area Studies Seminar, courses applied toward requirements for this program may also be counted toward requirements that will satisfy other programs, majors, or minors.

Coordinator

Philip C. Dorroll, Religion

Program Requirements

Students are required to take MENA 354 Middle Eastern & North African Studies: An Area Studies Seminar and four additional courses. Within the electives, a maximum of 6 credit hours (or two courses) may be taken in any one discipline.

Course	Title	Hours
Required Course		3
MENA 354	Middle Eastern & North African Studies: An Area Studies Seminar	
Electives ¹		12 to 16
Select four courses from the following:		
ARBC 101	Beginning Active Arabic	
ARBC 102	Beginning Active Arabic	
ARBC 201	Intermediate Active Arabic	
ARBC 202	Intermediate Active Arabic	
ARBC 301	Advanced Arabic	
ARBC 302	Advanced Arabic	
ARTH 225	Islamic Art	
ECO 310	Economics of Immigration	
ENGL 339	Race, Gender, and Empire	
ENGL 435	Global Digital Cultures	
HIST 191	Modern Middle East	
HIST 398	Iran: Its History, Culture & Politics	
INTL 361	Middle East Politics	
INTL 363	African Politics	
INTL 383	Revolutions & Regime Change	
MENA 260	Peace & Conflict	
MENA 301	Middle Eastern Film	
MENA 380	Special Topics in Middle Eastern & North African Studies	

MENA 448	Middle Eastern & North African Studies Senior Capstone
REL 201	The Hebrew Bible
REL 210	Archeology of Religion
REL 221	Introduction to Islam
REL 263	Ethnography of Religion in the Middle East & North Africa
REL 304	Gods of the Biblical World: Polytheism, Magic, and Israelite Religion
REL 305	Death & Sacrifice in the Ancient World
REL 306	Angels & Demons: Intermediary Celestial Beings in Historical Perspective
REL 307	The Bible & Human Migration
REL 308	Sex & Bodies in the Hebrew Bible
REL 312	Israel's Poetry and Wisdom Literature
REL 315	Archeology and the Bible
REL 331	Christian & Islamic Theology in Comparative Perspective
REL 351	Political Islam
REL 352	Premodern Islam
REL 353	Contemporary Islam
REL 362	Ritualized Space in the Middle East
REL 363	Islam in the Media
SOC 406	Social Movements
Total Hours	15-19

¹ *A maximum of two courses may be taken in any one discipline. Students may also take special or advanced topics courses in other disciplines as approved by the Program Coordinator.*

MENA 260. Peace & Conflict. 3 Hours.

Using the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Lebanese Civil War as case studies, participants will view the conflicts through literature and conflict management texts to understand them within a broader framework. Students will apply a comprehensive approach to understanding conflict and constructing peace through combining the central concepts and findings of modern peace building and conflict management research.

MENA 280. Selected Topics in Middle Eastern & North African Studies. 1 to 4 Hours.

Selected topics in Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the introductory or intermediate level.

MENA 301. Middle Eastern Film. 3 Hours.

An introduction to the diverse cultures of the Middle East through the viewing a series of films that portray aspects such as ideas, customs, and social behaviors of various countries within the Arab world. Successful completion of this course satisfies the Cultures and Peoples requirements for graduation.

MENA 354. Middle Eastern & North African Studies: An Area Studies Seminar. 3 Hours.

The area studies approach makes sure the political, geographical, historical, anthropological and religious influences of the Middle East/ North African region will be explored throughout the course. The religion of Islam will be explored through its engagement in particular places and spaces. Students will differentiate between how the politics and cultural context of one place directly influence the way Islam is practiced in, for example, the Gulf as opposed to Turkey. Successful completion of this course satisfies the Cultures and Peoples requirements for graduation.

MENA 380. Special Topics in Middle Eastern & North African Studies. 1 to 4 Hours.

Seminars on selected topics in Middle Eastern and/or North African Studies offered on an occasional basis.

MENA 448. Middle Eastern & North African Studies Senior Capstone. 3 Hours.

The Senior Capstone is designed to help students focus and integrate their knowledge of the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) region. Each student will complete an independent research project focusing on a specific problem or region from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Prerequisite: MENA 354 with a minimum grade of C.