

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, Religion, and other disciplines, the program encourages students to learn about the history, culture, politics and languages of the Middle East and North Africa.

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

Coordinator

Youness Mountaki, Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (Arabic)

Program Requirements

Students are required to take MENA 354 Middle Eastern & North African Studies: Culture, History, Politics 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: Culture, History, Politics	
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 190	Ancient Middle East	
HIST 191	Modern Middle East	
HIST 398	Iran: Its History, Culture & Politics	
HIST 401	Pyramids and Power: Ancient Egypt to 1500 BCE	
HIST 402	Warriors, Queens, & Heretics: Ancient Egypt 1500-30 BCE	
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 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 306	Angels & Demons: Intermediary Celestial Beings in Historical Perspective
REL 307	The Bible & Human Migration
REL 308	Sex & Bodies in the Hebrew 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

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.

Analyze the peace and conflict resolution in the Middle East. Approaching this topic from a variety of disciplinary perspectives such as interreligious peacebuilding, political science, history, or others, instructors will help students apply a comprehensive approach to understanding conflict and constructing peace through combining the central concepts and findings of modern peace building/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.

MENA 354. Middle Eastern & North African Studies: Culture, History, Politics. 3 Hours.

An interdisciplinary approach to the exploration of the Middle East/North African region utilizing analytical tools from academic disciplines such as anthropology, history, political science and religion. The influence of aspects such as geography, culture, politics, history, and religion will be examined in the context of their similarities and differences within the region.

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.