The Middle East studies major helps students understand the forces that shape this dynamic region through an exploration of religion, politics, economics, culture, history, and geography.

This major builds upon the same multi-disciplinary core found in the International Affairs degree and moves quickly to focus on unique topics central to the Middle East. After four years of study, successful students will have knowledge of a modern regional language and the basic intellectual tools they need to understand the region's history and contemporary dynamics. Students are encouraged to study in the Middle East through one of GW's formal partnerships with a regional university or their own self-designed study abroad program.

Requirements

Foundation (3 Credits)

Required:
IAFF 2040: Basic Topics in International Affairs: Middle East – An International Affairs Survey

Foreign Language (Credits will vary)

Arabic
ARAB 1001, 1002, 2001, 2002, 3001 and [3301, 3302, or 3311]
OR
ARAB 1201, 1202, 2201, 3201, and [3301, 3302, or 3311]

Hebrew
HEBR 1001, 1002, 2001, 2002, 3001, and [3301 or 3302]

Persian
PERS 1001, 1002, 2001, 2002, 3001, 3002

Regional Foundations (3 Credits)

Students must take one course from the lists below to gain an understanding of a region of the world outside of Asia and the United States.

Select One:

**Africa**

ANTH 3708: Anthropology of Africa
ECON 2198: Economics of Africa*
GEOG 3164: Geography of Africa
HIST 3501: Special Topics in African History *
  - African History Since 1880
HIST 3530: Women in Africa
HIST 3540: West Africa to Independence
IAFF 2093: Africa: Problems and Prospects
IAFF 2190W: Special Topics *
  - North Africa and the World
IAFF 3189: Special Topics in African Studies:*
  - Religion in Africa
  - Transnational Justice in Africa
IAFF 3190: Special Topics in International Affairs*
Major Requirements: Middle East Studies 2017-2018

- China and Africa
- Women & Leadership in Africa

PSC 2381: Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa
PSC 2482: African International Politics
PSC 3192W: Proseminar in Political Science*
  - Comparative Politics of Africa
  - Development Challenges in Africa

* Academic Advisor Approval required for courses not listed here.

Asia

ANTH 3703: Cultures of the Pacific
ANTH 3704: Cultures of Southeast Asia
ANTH 3705: Anthropology of East Asia
ECON 2198: East Asian Economies*
GEOG 3165: Geography of South Asia
HIST 3640: History of Southeast Asia
HIST 3650: Modern South Asia, 1750-Present
IAFF 2091: East Asia Past and Present
IAFF 3186: Special Topics in Asian Studies: *
  - Development Issues in Southeast Asia
  - History and Politics of South Asia
  - Memory & Reconciliation: Asia
  - Politics and Conflict of South Asia
  - Indo-Pacific Security Challenges
IAFF 3190: Special Topics in International Affairs: *
  - Human Rights and Democracy in Southeast Asia
PSC 2369: Comparative Politics of South Asia
PSC 2373: Comparative Politics of South & Southeast Asia
PSC 2475: International Relations of East Asia
PSC 3192W: Politics and Protest in East Asia*

* Academic Advisor Approval required for courses not listed here.

Europe and Eurasia

ECON 2133: Economies of the Former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
HIST 1121: Europe's War of Ideas 1750-Today
HIST 2125: Twentieth Century Europe
HIST 3126: European Integration: A History
HIST 3168: The Two Germanys and the Cold War
HIST 3178: The Making of the Modern Balkans
IAFF 2092: Russia and Eastern Europe: An Introduction
IAFF 2094: Europe: International & Domestic Interactions
IAFF 4191W: Research Seminar: Europe*
PSC 2330: Comparative Politics of Western Europe
PSC 2331: Comparative Politics of Central and Eastern Europe
PSC 2332: European Integration

* Academic Advisor Approval required for courses not listed here.
**Major Requirements: Middle East Studies**

**Latin America**

ANTH 3702: Anthropology of Latin America  
ECON 2185: Economic History and Problems of Latin America  
GEOG 3161: Geography of Latin America  
HIST 3701: Special Topics in Latin American History: *  
  - Latin America and the World since 1820  
HIST 3711: History of Latin America (1820-Present)  
IAFF 2090: Latin America: Problems and Promise  
IAFF 2190W: Special Topics:*  
  - Latin American Populism  
IAFF 3187: Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies: *  
  - Central American and Caribbean Perspectives  
  - Political Economy of Latin America  
PSC 2383: Comparative Politics of Latin America  
PSC 2484: International Relations of Latin America

* **Academic Advisor Approval required for courses not listed here.**

**Research Methods (3 Credits)**

Students must complete one course pertaining to qualitative or quantitative social science research methods.  
  - Credit for only one of the following courses may be applied toward a degree: STAT 1051, 1053, or 1111.  
  - STAT courses may not be double-counted between the Math requirement and the Research Methods requirement.

Select One:

ANTH 3531: Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology  
ECON 2123: Introduction to Econometrics  
GEOG 2104: Introduction to Cartography/GIS  
GEOG 2105: Techniques of Spatial Analysis  
IAFF 2040: International Affairs Research Methods*  
PSC 2101: Scope and Methods of Political Science  
PSYC 2101: Research Methods in Psychology  
PUBH 3131: Epidemiology: Measuring Health and Disease  
PUBH 3190: Qualitative Research in Public Health  
SOC 2101: Social Research Methods  
SOC 2111: Field Research  
STAT 1051: Introduction to Business & Economic Statistics  
STAT 1053: Introduction to Statistics in Social Science  
STAT 1111: Business and Economic Statistics I  
STAT 2105: Statistics in the Behavioral Sciences  
STAT 2112: Business and Economic Statistics II

**Middle Eastern Literature (3 Credits)**

Select One:

AH 3113 Islamic Art and Architecture  
ARAB 3501 Arabic and Arab Identity  
ARAB 3502 Arab Film & Culture in English
Major Requirements: Middle East Studies  

ARAB 4001 Genres in Modern Arabic Literature  
ARAB 4002 Arabic Narratives through the Ages  
HEBR 3101 Modern Hebrew Literary Classics  
HEBR 3102 Israeli Society and Culture: Literary Perspectives  
HEBR 3301 or 3301W Modern Hebrew Fiction (if not being used towards third year proficiency requirement)  
HEBR 4001 Advanced Hebrew Literature  
REL 3432 Persian Sufi Literature East and West  

Multi-disciplinary Core (21 Credits)  

History (6 Credits)  

Select Two:  

HIST 2803 The Ancient Near East and Egypt  
HIST 3801 Special Topics in Middle East History  
HIST 3810 History of the Middle East  
HIST 3811 History of the Modern Middle East  
HIST 3830 History of Iraq  

Economics (3 Credits)  

Select One:  

ECON 2136 Natural Resources and Environmental Economics  
ECON 2151 Economic Development  
ECON 2180 Survey of International Economics  
ECON 2181 International Trade Theory & Policy  
ECON 2182 International Macroeconomics  

Political Science (6 Credits)  

Select Two:  

PSC 2377 Government and Politics of the Middle East  
PSC 2379 Israeli Politics and Foreign Policy  
PSC 2476 The Arab-Israel Conflict  
PSC 2478 International Relations of the Middle East  

Religion (6 Credits)  

Select Two:  

REL 2401 Islam  
REL 3405 Shiite Islam  
REL 3414 Islamic Philosophy and Theology  
REL 3425 Islamic Political Thought  
REL 3431 Sufism (Islamic Mysticism)  
REL 3432 Persian Sufi Literature East and West  
REL 3475 Islamic Religion and Art  
REL 3481 Women in Islam  
REL 3990 Law & Diplomacy in the Ancient Near East & the Mediterranean
Related Coursework (6 Credits)

Select two courses related to the Middle East from any discipline, including International Affairs (IAFF) and indicate these courses on a Related Coursework Declaration form. Submit this form to the MES Program Associate Director for an approval signature, and take the signed form to Undergraduate Academic Advising.