

Major Requirements: Middle East Studies

I. Foundation

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.

Foundation (3 Credits)

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

II. Foreign Language Requirements

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

III. 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

IAFF 2093: Africa: Problems and Prospects

IAFF 2190W: Special Topics*

- North Africa and the World

IAFF 3189: Special Topics in African Studies

- Transnational Justice in Africa

ANTH 3708: Cultures of Africa

GEOG 3164: Geography of Africa

HIST 3501: Special Topics in African History

PSC 2381: Politics of Middle and Southern Africa

PSC 2482: African International Politics

Latin America

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

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- Political Economy of Latin America
- ANTH 3702: Anthropology 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)
PSC 2383: Comparative Politics of Latin America
PSC 2484: International Relations of Latin America

Asia

- 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
- IAFF 3190: Special Topics in International Affairs*
- Human Rights and Democracy in Southeast Asia
- ANTH 3703: Cultures of the Pacific
GEOG 3165: Geography of South Asia
HIST 3640: History of Southeast Asia
HIST 3840: History of Central Asia
HIST 3650: Modern South Asia: 1750–Present
PSC 2369: Comparative Politics of South Asia
PSC 2373: Comparative Politics of South & Southeast Asia
PSC 2475: International Relations of East Asia

Europe and Eurasia

- IAFF 2092: Russia and Eastern Europe: An Introduction
IAFF 2094: Europe: International & Domestic Interactions
IAFF 4191W: Senior Seminar: Europe
HIST 1121: War of Ideas 1750–Today
HIST 3101: Special Topics in European History*
HIST 3125: Europe in the 20th Century
HIST 3126: European Integration: A History
HIST 3168: The Two Germanys and the Cold War
HIST 3178: The Making of the Modern Balkans
PSC 2330: Comparative Politics of Western Europe
PSC 2331: Comparative Politics of Central and Eastern Europe

IV. 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:

- IAFF 2040: IA Research Methods
ANTH 3531: Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology
ECON 2123: Introduction to Econometrics
GEOG 2104: Introduction to Cartography/GIS
GEOG 2105: Techniques of Spatial Analysis
PSC 2101: Scope and Methods of Political Science
PUBH 3131: Epidemiology: Measuring Health and Disease
PSYC 2101: Research Methods in Psychology

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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 2112: Business and Economic Statistics II

V. Middle Eastern Literature (3 Credits)

Select One:

ARAB 3501 Arabic and Arab Identity
ARAB 4001 Genres in Modern Arabic Literature
ARAB 4002 Arabic Narratives through the Ages

VI. 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 3414 Islamic Philosophy and Theology
REL 3431 Sufism (Islamic Mysticism)
REL 3475 Islamic Religion and Art
REL 3481 Women in Islam

VII. 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 Academic Advising.