
Middle East Studies

Program Description

The Middle East Studies major involves the study of the history, politics, cultures, religions and languages of one of the most complex and critical regions of the world. While the program is of special interest to students who plan careers in government service or business, majoring in Middle East Studies meshes with and complements well other areas of study, such as International Relations, Global Studies, Political Science, History and International Business, to name a few.

Some of the questions students will encounter in courses in this program include: What are the main tenets of the major religions of the area? What is the history of the peoples of this region? What are the political systems of these countries like? Why is the region so critical to world politics? What are the differences in Middle Eastern cultures, within the Middle East and between the Middle East and the West and the East?

The Middle East Studies major also seeks to understand the question of democratization, political violence, the role of religion, ideology and the role of tradition and history in shaping the physical and psychological make-up of the region. The program will be complemented with a Study Abroad component, offering students a hands-on experience in the life and culture and tradition and history of the Middle East.

Career choices include State Department area specialist, diplomatic service (national and international), policy adviser, policy analyst, federal, state and local government service and teaching. This major with a B.A. Degree can lead to advanced degree programs in Political Science, Middle East Studies, International Relations, Comparative Politics and Global Studies.

Honors and Awards

Each Spring Semester, one outstanding student in Middle East Studies is chosen by the Director of the program and recognized at the Outstanding Students Awards Banquet as the "Outstanding Student in Middle East Studies." This student will also be given the "Margareta Jamner Middle East Studies Student of the Year Award," named in honor of Margareta

Jamner, benefactor and first graduate of the Middle East Studies program at SBCC. This award was permanently endowed in 2008 by Mrs. Jamner to give students a \$500 award for this achievement each year.

Each Spring Semester, students may also apply for one of three prestigious scholarships in Middle East Studies in the amount of \$1,000 each: the "Manoutchehr M. Eskandari-Qajar Honorary Scholarship in Middle East Studies," made available in perpetuity to students in the Middle East Studies Program by a generous donation of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jamner in honor of the founder of the Middle East Studies Program at SBCC, Dr. Manoutchehr Eskandari-Qajar; the "Gene Knudsen Hoffman Middle East Studies Scholarship," made available through a permanent endowment by Mrs. Lessie Sinclair Nixon in honor of Gene Knudsen Hoffman; and the "Madeleine and Peter Jacobson Middle East Scholarship," made available in perpetuity by a generous donation by Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson. Details on how to qualify and apply for these prestigious scholarships can be obtained at the Financial Aid Office in the Student Services Building (East Campus), or by calling ext. 2716.

Study Abroad

Every two years, the Middle East Studies Program arranges a Study Abroad program to the Middle East through the SBCC Study Abroad Office. The inaugural Semester Abroad Program in Middle East Studies left in Spring of 2007 for Athens and Istanbul. Subsequent programs will be announced through the SBCC Study Abroad Office at regular intervals. All SBCC students in good standing qualify to apply. A number of scholarships in various amounts are available for this Study Abroad program. For details, please contact the SBCC Study Abroad Office at ext. 2494 or 2243.

Student Programs

The Middle East Studies Club (MESC) is a student organization which meets regularly during the semester and plans programs designed to involve the student community in political issues dealing with the Middle East. For further information, contact Dr. M. M. Eskandari-Qajar, ext. 2435.

Transfer Opportunities

SBCC's Middle East Studies Program is fully articulated with the UC and CSU systems. Students in the program will have satisfied most if not all lower division requirements for the respective majors at four-year schools, such as UCSB's Islamic and Near Eastern Studies Program and major. For transfer details, please consult with the Counseling Center in the Student Services Building (East Campus), room 120, or call ext. 2285.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Middle East Studies Major requirements, students should be proficient in the following areas and be able to:

1. Distinguish between the main tenets of the major religions of the Middle East
2. Explain the differences and similarities between the political systems of the Middle East
3. Correlate the role of religion, ideology and culture to the notions of modernization and democratization in the Middle East

Director

Dr. Manoutchehr M. Eskandari-Qajar
(IDC-352, ext. 2435)

Degree Awarded

Associate in Arts Degree, Middle East Studies

AA Degree: Middle East Studies Department Requirements (23 units)

ART 216 - Survey of Islamic Art and Architecture *or*3.0
HIST 137 - History of Religions of the Middle East 3.0
HIST 138 - History of Modern Middle East 3.0
POLS 136 - Middle East Government and Politics3.0

Plus 8 units of Arabic or Hebrew are required:

ARBC 101 - Beginning Modern Standard Arabic I *and*4.0
ARBC 102 - Beginning Modern Standard Arabic II *or*...4.0
HEBR 101 - Beginning Modern Hebrew I *and*4.0
HEBR 102 - Beginning Modern Hebrew II4.0

Plus 6 units selected from the following:

ANTH 109 - Comparative World Cultures3.0
ART 216 - Survey of Islamic Art and Architecture3.0
ENG 236 - Sacred Literature *or*3.0
ENG 236GB - Sacred Literature3.0
ETHS 122 - Arab-American/Middle East
Women in U.S.3.0
GLST 101 - Introduction to Global Studies:
Foundations of the Global Village3.0
HIST 137 - History of Religions of the Middle East3.0
MUS 119 - Middle Eastern Music, Dance and Culture3.0
PHIL 102 - Comparative World Religions *or*3.0
PHIL 102H - Comparative World Religions, Honors3.0
POLS 121 - International Politics3.0
POLS 131 - Comparative Politics3.0

A course may not be used to satisfy more than one requirement (double counting is not allowed).

Course Descriptions

ARBC 101 — Beginning Modern Standard Arabic I

(4) F, S — CSU, UC

Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H

Essentials of spoken and written Modern Standard Arabic for the beginner. Provides an introduction to the culture of Arabic speakers.

ARBC 102 — Beginning Modern Standard Arabic II

(4) F, S — CSU, UC

Prerequisites: ARBC 101 or two years of high school Arabic with a minimum grade of "C" or qualifying score on SBCC SoML placement exam.

Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H

Continuation of Modern Standard Arabic 101. Focuses on the essentials of the spoken and written language for the beginner and provides an introduction to the culture of Arabic speakers.

ART 216 — Survey of Islamic Art and Architecture

(3) — CSU, UC

Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H

Survey of Islamic arts and architecture from Asia and North Africa to Spain, from the era of Muhammad to the Mughal Empire of the 18th century C.E. The main emphasis is on the regional artistic manifestations of the vast Islamic world. Analyzes how intercultural and trade relations between Europe and the Islamic world have influenced Islamic art.

HEBR 101 — Beginning Modern Hebrew I

(4) F, S — CSU, UC

Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H

Beginning course on reading, grammar, syntax and the essentials of spoken and written Modern Hebrew. Provides an introduction to the culture of Hebrew speakers.

HEBR 102 — Beginning Modern Hebrew II

(4) F, S — CSU, UC

Prerequisites: HEBR 101 or two years of high school Hebrew with a minimum grade of "C" or qualifying score on SBCC SoML placement exam.

Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H

Continuation of Hebrew 101. Focuses on the essentials of spoken and written Modern Hebrew for the beginner and provides an introduction to the culture of Hebrew speakers.

HIST 137 — History of Religions of the Middle East

(3) F, S — CSU, UC

Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H

Introduction to the history of the three major religious traditions of the Middle East: Judaism, Christianity and Islam in comparative perspective, as well as exploring the historical context of religion in the Middle East.

HIST 138 — History of Modern Middle East

(3) S — CSU, UC

Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H

Recent and contemporary history of the Middle East that examines the roots of the present political, cultural and economic situation in this crucial part of the world.

MUS 119 — Middle Eastern Music, Dance and Culture

(3) F, S — CSU, UC

Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 103.

Introduction to Middle Eastern music and dance in both lecture and practical settings, emphasizing combinations and choreographies for various folk and classical dances, as well as aspects of music performance in singing on percussion instruments.

POLS 136 — Middle East Government and Politics

(3) F, S — CSU, UC

Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H

Introduction to the comparative study of the governments and politics of the Middle East. Emphasis on the study of the relationship between political development, political organization and social structure and such concepts as tradition, modernity, autocracy, democracy and political transition.