MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

Courses

Our Courses

MEST 1999. Tutorial. (1 Credit)
Independent research and reading with supervision from a faculty member.

MEST 2000. Introduction to the Modern Middle East. (4 Credits)
A multidisciplinary introduction to the modern Middle East and North Africa from the perspectives of history, anthropology/sociology, economics, political science and international affairs. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: AFAM, AFSS, AFST, GLBL, INST, ISME, JWST, POSC.

MEST 2400. Middle East Dilemmas. (4 Credits)
This course examines intellectual, political, and social change and reaction to it in the Middle East from 18c to the 21c. Focus is on the impact of the West, the transformation of identities, the constancy of tradition, the establishment of modern nation-states, and the effects of globalization. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MEST 2600. Medieval Islam. (4 Credits)
This course surveys the rise of Islam in Arabia and its spread throughout the Mediterranean and beyond. It examines Muslim civilization and its institutions in the medieval period, the impact of Turkic and Mongol invaders, and the rise of the Ottoman and Safavid Empires. Emphasis is on the political and cultural role of the religious and military classes, on the impact of Islam on gender and minorities, and on the various exchanges with Christendom. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attribute: ISTP.

MEST 2999. Tutorial. (2 Credits)
Independent research and reading with supervision from a faculty member.

MEST 3324. Israel in Fiction and Film. (4 Credits)
This course draws upon fiction and film to expore notions of Jewish and Israeli realities and collective memories. Films, novels, and short fiction created in Israel and by Israelis, with additional cinematographic and literary sources, will be examined to highlight relevant issues. Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: COLI, INST, ISME.

MEST 3500. Modern Egypt. (4 Credits)
This course will survey the transformation of Egypt from the end of the 18th century to the present. A dormant Ottoman province when Napoleon Bonaparte invaded it in 1798, by the end of the 19th century, Egypt had turned into the region's entrepot while evolving as a center of political and cultural dynamism. During the Cold War, the country emerged as the USSR's main client in the Middle East until the Camp David Accords of 1979 when it became a strategic partner for the US. Topics to be covered include British economic and French cultural imperialism; the genesis and growth of Egyptian nationalism; urbanization; gender issues; foreign resident minorities; the Muslim Brotherhood; the formation of a modern indigenous bourgeoisie; Nasser's revolution, its impact, and his pan-Arabism; Sadat's domestic and regional policies, crony capitalism under Mubarak; and the re-Islamization of society. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: GLBL, INST, ISME.

MEST 3501. Modern Turkey and Iran. (4 Credits)
This course will assess the ideas, events, and personalities that contributed to the transformation of the Ottoman and Persian Empires into modern Turkey and Iran respectively in the past two centuries. topics examined comparatively will include the impact of the west, the internal forces of modernization, Islamist and other reactions to such developments, the formation of nationalist identities, authoritarian transition to modern democracy in Turkey and Islamist republic in Iran education, industrialization, urbanization, religion, and mass politics, gender and minorities, and the impact of regional dynamics since the end of World War II. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

MEST 3502. Palestine-Israel Conflict. (4 Credits)
This course examines the issues, events, and personalities that shaped dynamics between Jews and Palestinians from 19th-century nationalism to the present. Topics include land and its symbolism, religious identity, political aspirations and frustrations, the origins and consequences of wars, as well as regional and global interplay. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: INST, ISME, JWST.

MEST 3620. Islam in America. (4 Credits)
This course will examine the history of Islam and the experience of Muslims in American from the time of the slave trade to the present day. Through a close analysis of both primary and secondary materials, students will explore – through speaking and writing exercises – the rich diversity of US Muslim communities and their multi-faceted contributions to the global umma and the formation of an “American Islam”. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: ADVD, AFAM, AMST, ASHS, EP3, HIUL, ISAC, PLUR, RSCS, THEO, THHC.

MEST 3701. Urban Theatre Dance and Music. (4 Credits)
By viewing and visiting performances in the forms that define theater, dance, and music in differing Middle East cultures, the course contrasts devotion, philosophy, and gender to performance styles as viewed from both the Middle Eastern perspective and Western sensibilities. Focus will be on sociocultural context for these performing arts disciplines and the resilience and luminosity they offer to daily life in this diverse region. Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: COLI, GLBL, INST, ISME, REST.

MEST 3702. Urban Theatre, Music, Dance: Culture and the Formation of Middle East Identities. (4 Credits)
Performances, productions, and some museum and gallery trips will enable students to witness bold, artistic works of the Middle East as seen through the lens of the art world of urban New York and Paris. Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: COLI, GLBL.

MEST 3800. Internship. (3 Credits)
Internship.

MEST 3901. The Middle East in Film. (4 Credits)
Using documentaries and features from Algeria to Yemen, this course examines politics, religion, gender, and minorities as well as love, comedy, and music, sometimes all together, and their impact on the region's diverse societies. Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attribute: COLI.

MEST 3999. Tutorial. (3 Credits)
Independent research and reading with supervision from a faculty member.

MEST 4001. Seminar: Middle East. (4 Credits)
This course is an advanced, research-oriented seminar for students who have completed one or more introductory and elective courses in Middle East studies. While the primary focus of this seminar is the Middle East, students with interests in other regions of the world (Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Europe) are encouraged to consider the course. Their research may address issues and topics in their fields, as they intersect with the Middle East or North Africa. Required of all MEST majors and minors. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: AFAM, GLBL, INST, IPE, ISME.

MEST 4331. U.S. in the Middle East: 1945-Present. (4 Credits)
Examines how the US replaced Great Britain as the pre-eminent power in the Middle East in the post-WWII era. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: INST, ISIN, ISME.

MEST 4701. Urban Theatre, Music, Dance: Culture and the Formation of the Middle East Identities. (4 Credits)
This course draws on the two disciplines of the performing arts (as viewed through performance studies) and anthropology to examine how Middle East identities are embodied, constructed, and transcended through gesture, sound and enactment – both religious and aesthetic -- in the cities of Casablanca, Cairo, & Istanbul. Anthropological approaches to the study of Muslim ritual traditions and devotional practices (e.g., dhikr, ziyarāt, majlis, hajj, ta'zīya, #alāt and tajwīd) that seek to discern a more transcendent human experience, nature and identity in relation to the divine, will be compared/contrasted with performing studies' approaches to speech, gesture, music, dance, sound and spectacle that emphasize contingency, aesthetics, and shifting social, political, and cultural influences on identity formation over time. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: COLI, GLBL, ICC, INST, ISME, REST.

MEST 4999. Tutorial. (4 Credits)
Independent research and reading with supervision from a faculty member.

Courses in Other Areas

The following courses offered outside the department have the MEST attribute and count toward the Middle East Studies major and minor:

Course	Title	Credits
AFAM 1600	Understanding Historical Change: Africa	3
AFAM 3070	African Politics	4
AFAM 3072	Civil Wars in Africa	4
AFAM 3075	Democracy in Africa	4
AFAM 3142	Women, Power, and Leadership in Africa	4
AFAM 3693	Contemporary African Literatures	4
AFAM 4192	Race and Religion in the Transatlantic World	4
ANTH 1300	Introduction to Archaeology	3
ANTH 2614	Urbanism and Change in the Middle East	4
ANTH 2888	Gender and Islam	4
ANTH 3006	Arab-Americans and the Diasporic Experience	4
ANTH 3013	Anthropology of Palestinian Communities	4
ANTH 3110	Ancient Cultures of the Bible	4
ANTH 3351	Comparative Cultures	4
ANTH 3725	Anthropological Theory	4
ANTH 4006	Palestinian Culture at Home and in Diaspora	4
ARAB 1001	Introduction to Arabic	5
ARAB 1501	Intermediate Arabic I	3
ARAB 1502	Intermediate Arabic II	3
ARAB 1999	Tutorial	1
ARAB 2001	Arabic Language and Literature	3
ARAB 2400	Approaches to Arabic Culture	4
ARAB 2450	The Short Story of Arabic Literature	4
ARAB 2601	Arabic Conversation and Composition	4
ARAB 2999	Tutorial	2

ARAB 3000	Topics in Arabic Cultures	4
ARAB 3999	Tutorial	3
ARAB 4999	Tutorial	4
ARHI 2230	Islamic Art	4
COLI 3119	Contemporary Middle East Film and Literature	4
COLI 3440	Arabic Literature in English Translation	4
COLI 3624	Music and Nation in the Arab World	4
COLI 4016	Rewriting the Mediterranean (20th and 21st Centuries)	4
ENGL 4545	Bath Cultures and Bathing Rituals From Antiquity to Brooklyn	4
FREN 3460	Postcolonial Representations	4
FREN 3470	Francophone North Africa	4
FREN 3630	Francophone Voices From North Africa	4
FREN 3631	North African France	4
FREN 3637	Francophone Middle East	4
FREN 3640	Postcolonial Representation	4
HEBW 1001	Introduction to Hebrew I	5
HEBW 1002	Introduction to Hebrew II	3
HEBW 2500	Literature and Culture in Modern Israel	4
HIST 1600	Understanding Historical Change: Africa	3
HIST 1700	Understanding Historical Change: Mideast	3
HIST 1750	Understanding Historical Change: Islamic History and Culture	3
HIST 3073	African Intellectual History	4
HIST 3474	The Arab Israeli Conflict: Cultural Perspectives	4
HIST 3575	Torture, Terror, and the Body in the Modern World	4
HIST 3670	The Modern Middle East	4
HIST 3675	History of Modern Israel	4
HIST 3695	Major Debates in African Studies	4
HIST 3983	Apocalypticism and Messianism in Islamic Thought and History	4
HIST 3985	Ottoman Empire/ 1300-1800	4
HIST 3986	Religion and Politics in Islamic History	4
HIST 3989	History and Cinema: The Middle East and North Africa in Film	4
HIST 4308	Antisemitism	4
HIST 4331	US in the Middle East: 1945-Present	4
HIST 4631	Seminar: US in the Mid East: 1945-Pres	4
HPLC 2811	Honors Sacred Texts	3
HUST 2500	The Humanitarian System: Past, Present, and Future	4
JWST 3300	Literatures and Cultures of Modern Israel	4
JWST 3474	The Arab Israeli Conflict: Cultural Perspectives	4
LACU 3350	Promised Land: Israeli Culture Between Utopia and Dystopia	4
LACU 3410	Arab Cinema: History and Cultural Identity	4
LACU 3440	Arabic Literature in English Translation	4
LACU 3442	Arabic Culture and the News Media	4
LACU 3474	The Arab Israeli Conflict: Cultural Perspectives	4
LACU 3624	Music and Nation in the Arab World	4
LACU 3822	The Arabian Nights	4
LACU 4016	Rewriting the Mediterranean (20th and 21st Centuries)	4
MVST 3501	Between Conquest and Convivencia: The Spanish Kingdoms of the Middle Ages	4
MVST 4009	Medieval Jerusalem	4
POSC 2501	Introduction to International Politics	4
POSC 3418	Islamic Political Thought	4
POSC 3424	Political Philosophy between Islam and the West	4
POSC 3427	Islam, Art, and Resistance	4
POSC 3480	Islamic Culture and Politics in Spain	4
POSC 3520	Mideast and the World	4
POSC 3651	Comparative Politics of the Middle East	4
POSC 3652	State-Society Relations in the Middle East	4
POSC 3653	Religion and Society in the Middle East	4
POSC 4425	Seminar: Contemporary Politics and Cultures in the Islamic World	4
POSC 6552	Political Economy of the Middle East	3
SOCI 3110	Global Conflict: Wars/Religion	4
SOCI 3714	Terrorism and Society	4
SPAN 3540	Spain and Islam	4
THEO 1060	Elementary Coptic I	3
THEO 3100	Introduction to Old Testament / Tanakh	3
THEO 3105	The Torah	3
THEO 3120	The Prophets	3
THEO 3310	Early Christian Writings	3
THEO 3316	Byzantine Christianity	3
THEO 3711	Sacred Texts of the Middle East	3
THEO 3713	Classic Jewish Texts	3
THEO 3715	Classic Islamic Texts	3
THEO 3822	The Bible in Cultural Conflict	4
THEO 3847	Latinx Theology	4
THEO 3876	Muslims in America	4
THEO 3882	Comparative Mysticism	3
THEO 3884	Sufism: Islam's Mystical Tradition	3
THEO 3885	Women, Gender, and Islam	3
THEO 4009	Medieval Jerusalem	4
THEO 4027	The Ethics of Life	4
THEO 4310	Muslim, Jewish, and Christian Feminist Theologies: Discourses of Difference	4
THEO 4371	Islam in Modern Egypt	4
THEO 4545	Bath Cultures and Bathing Rituals From Antiquity to Brooklyn	4
THEO 4600	Religion and Public Life	4