

# MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

## Courses

### Our Courses

#### MEST 1999. Tutorial. (1 Credit)

#### 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.

#### MEST 3324. Israel in Fiction and Film. (4 Credits)

This course draws upon fiction and film to explore 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, AMST, ASHS, PLUR, 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 4001. Seminar: Middle East. (4 Credits)**

Advanced research-oriented seminar for students who have already completed one or more introductory and elective courses in Middle East studies. Required of all 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:** 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. (1 to 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 3071 | African Intellectual History                 | 4       |
| AFAM 3072 | Civil Wars in Africa                         | 4       |
| AFAM 3075 | Democracy in Africa                          | 4       |
| AFAM 3693 | Contemporary African Literatures             | 4       |
| AFAM 3695 | Major Debates in African Studies             | 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 3110 | Ancient Cultures of the Bible                | 4       |
| ANTH 3351 | Comparative Cultures                         | 4       |
| ANTH 3725 | Culture and Culture Change                   | 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 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          | 3       |
| ARAB 3000 | Topics in Arabic Cultures                    | 4       |
| ARAB 4999 | Tutorial                                     | 1-4     |
| ARHI 2230 | Islamic Art                                  | 4       |

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|-----------|---|---|-----------|---|---|
| CLAS 4545 | Bath Cultures and Bathing Rituals From Antiquity to Brooklyn              | 4 | POSC 2501 | Introduction to International Politics                                      | 4 |
| COLI 3119 | Contemporary Middle East Film and Literature                              | 4 | POSC 3418 | Islamic Political Thought   | 4 |
| COLI 3440 | Arabic Literature in English Translation                                  | 4 | POSC 3520 | Mideast and the World   | 4 |
| COLI 3624 | Music and Nation in the Arab World  | 4 | POSC 3624 | The Qu'ran and Hadith in the Global Political Perspective                   | 4 |
| COLI 4016 | Rewriting the Mediterranean (20th and 21st Centuries)                     | 4 | POSC 3651 | Comparative Politics of the Middle East                                     | 4 |
| FREN 3460 | Postcolonial Representations  | 4 | POSC 3652 | State-Society Relations in the Middle East                                  | 4 |
| FREN 3470 | Francophone North Africa  | 4 | POSC 3653 | Religion and Society in the Middle East                                     | 4 |
| FREN 3630 | Francophone Voices From North Africa                                      | 4 | POSC 6552 | Political Economy of the Middle East  | 3 |
| FREN 3631 | North African France  | 4 | SOCI 3110 | Global Conflict: Wars/Religion  | 4 |
| FREN 3637 | Francophone Middle East   | 4 | SOCI 3714 | Terrorism and Society   | 4 |
| FREN 3640 | Postcolonial Representation   | 4 | SPAN 3540 | Spain and Islam   | 4 |
| HEBW 1001 | Introduction to Hebrew I  | 5 | THEO 1060 | Elementary Coptic I   | 3 |
| HIST 1600 | Understanding Historical Change: Africa                                   | 3 | THEO 3100 | Introduction to Old Testament / Tanakh                                      | 3 |
| HIST 1700 | Understanding Historical Change: Mideast                                  | 3 | THEO 3105 | The Torah   | 3 |
| HIST 1750 | Understanding Historical Change: Islamic History and Culture              | 3 | THEO 3120 | The Prophets  | 3 |
| HIST 3474 | The Arab Israeli Conflict: Cultural Perspectives                          | 4 | THEO 3310 | Early Christian Writings  | 3 |
| HIST 3575 | Torture, Terror, and the Body in the Modern World                         | 4 | THEO 3316 | Byzantine Christianity  | 3 |
| HIST 3670 | The Modern Middle East  | 4 | THEO 3711 | Sacred Texts of the Middle East   | 3 |
| HIST 3675 | History of Modern Israel  | 4 | THEO 3713 | Classic Jewish Texts  | 3 |
| HIST 3983 | Apocalypticism and Messianism in Islamic Thought and History              | 4 | THEO 3715 | Classic Islamic Texts   | 3 |
| HIST 3985 | Ottoman Empire/ 1300-1800   | 4 | THEO 3822 | The Bible in Cultural Conflict  | 4 |
| HIST 3986 | Religion and Politics in Islamic History                                  | 4 | THEO 3847 | Latinx Theology   | 4 |
| HIST 3989 | History and Cinema: The Middle East and North Africa in Film              | 4 | THEO 3876 | Muslims in America  | 4 |
| HIST 4308 | Antisemitism  | 4 | THEO 3882 | Comparative Mysticism   | 3 |
| HIST 4331 | US in the Middle East: 1945-Present                                       | 4 | THEO 3884 | Sufism: Islam's Mystical Tradition  | 3 |
| HIST 4631 | Seminar: US in the Mid East: 1945-Pres                                    | 4 | THEO 3885 | Women, Gender, and Islam  | 3 |
| HPLC 2811 | Honors Sacred Texts   | 3 | THEO 4009 | Medieval Jerusalem  | 4 |
| HUST 4001 | The Humanitarian System: Past, Present, and Future                        | 4 | THEO 4027 | The Ethics of Life  | 4 |
| JWST 3300 | Literatures and Cultures of Modern Israel                                 | 4 | THEO 4110 | Muslim, Jewish, and Christian Feminist Theologies: Discourses of Difference | 4 |
| JWST 3474 | The Arab Israeli Conflict: Cultural Perspectives                          | 4 | THEO 4371 | Islam in Modern Egypt   | 4 |
| MLAL 3350 | Promised Land: Israeli Culture Between Utopia and Dystopia                | 4 | THEO 4545 | Bath Cultures and Bathing Rituals From Antiquity to Brooklyn                | 4 |
| MLAL 3410 | Arab Cinema: History and Cultural Identity                                | 4 | THEO 4600 | Religion and Public Life  | 4 |
| MLAL 3440 | Arabic Literature in English Translation                                  | 4 |           |   |   |
| MLAL 3442 | Arabic Culture and the News Media   | 4 |           |   |   |
| MLAL 3474 | The Arab Israeli Conflict: Cultural Perspectives                          | 4 |           |   |   |
| MLAL 3624 | Music and Nation in the Arab World  | 4 |           |   |   |
| MLAL 3822 | The Arabian Nights  | 4 |           |   |   |
| MLAL 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 |           |   |   |