

# MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES

**Director: Oren Kosansky**

**Administrative Coordinator: TBD**

The Middle East and North African Studies (MENA) minor offers students the opportunity to explore diverse aspects of this region from an interdisciplinary perspective. The program is anchored in core courses that focus on culture, religion, and politics in North Africa and the Middle East. Minor students typically enroll in Arabic language courses and also pursue a range of electives across the humanities and social sciences. The Lewis & Clark overseas program in Morocco provides an opportunity for students to extend their studies and learning experiences within the region. The minor culminates in a capstone project that encourages students to integrate their minor with other facets of a liberal arts education at Lewis & Clark.

The interdisciplinary minor is supervised by a group of faculty from several departments. Student advising is provided by faculty teaching core courses in the program.

The minor is designed to guide students in the pursuit of the following learning outcomes:

- Understand the merits and limitations of conceptualizing the Middle East and North Africa as a region of study.
- Gain knowledge of the historical, cultural, political, and linguistic processes that have forged the region in its global contexts.
- Demonstrate mastery of intermediate Arabic language skills (or, in some cases, another regionally significant language).
- Appreciate how complementary and competing academic approaches to the Middle East and North Africa condition an interdisciplinary understanding of the region.
- Develop a foundation for continued study of the Middle East and North Africa and for applied work in the region.

## Minor Requirements

A minimum of 20 credits, distributed as follows:

- ARB 201 Intermediate Arabic I, ARB 202 Intermediate Arabic II, or the equivalent level in a Hebrew, Turkish, or Persian language.\*
- 8 credits (two courses) from different departments, chosen from the following list.

IA 290	Middle East Politics
RELS 275	Introduction to Islam
RELS 276	Islamic Political and Social Movements
SOAN 285	Culture and Power in the Middle East

- 8 additional semester credits selected from the list of approved electives below.
- Capstone project completed under the supervision of the minor advisor.

## Approved Electives

### Arabic

ARB 202	Intermediate Arabic II (may apply only once to minor)
---------	---

### French

FREN 330	Francophone Literature (when focus is MENA)
FREN 350	Topics in French and Francophone Literature (when focus is MENA)

### History

HIST 217	The Emergence of Modern South Asia
HIST 259	India in the Age of Empire
HIST 325	History of Islam in Europe
HIST 328	The British Empire

### International Affairs

IA 290	Middle East Politics (may only be used once within the minor)
--------	---

### Middle East and North African Studies

MENA 299	MENA Independent Study (may be applied only once to the minor)
----------	--

### Music

MUS 235	Music of the Middle East & North Africa
---------	---

### Overseas Courses

IS 215	Morocco: Development & Sustainability
IS 216	Moroccan Modernity
IS 217	Gender and Society in Morocco

### Religious Studies

RELS 224	Jewish Origins
RELS 225	Christian Origins
RELS 275	Introduction to Islam (may only be used once within the minor)
RELS 276	Islamic Political and Social Movements (may only be used once within the minor)
RELS 350	Social and Religious World of Early Judaism and Christianity
RELS 358	Mysticism and Religious Experience
RELS 376	Religious Fundamentalism
RELS 450	Seminar: Social and Religious World of Early Judaism and Christianity
RELS 453	Seminar in Islamic Studies: Islamic Law
RELS 458	Mysticism and Religious Experience

### Rhetoric and Media Studies

RHMS 235	Rhetoric, Colonialism & the Western Imaginary
----------	---

### Sociology/Anthropology

SOAN 217	Ethnography of Jews and Judaism
SOAN 285	Culture and Power in the Middle East (may only be used once within the minor)
SOAN 360	Decolonizing Anthropology

### **Theatre**

TH 280	Theatre and Society: Global Foundations
TH 383	Topics in Global Theatre and Performance

MENA-themed courses offered at Reed College may be applied as elective courses with the approval of the MENA program director. Please consult the Reed College catalog for specific course offerings.

At least 12 semester credits must be exclusive to the minor (may not be used in any other set of major or minor requirements). In addition, at least 12 credits for the minor must be taken at Lewis & Clark.

---

\*Students who have placed into an Arabic language level beyond ARB 202 may substitute an additional approved elective course to complete the minor. Students using a language not taught at Lewis & Clark must submit official transfer credit or proof of placement from a regionally accredited institution.

### **Faculty**

Oren Kosansky. Associate professor of anthropology, director of the Middle East and North African studies program. Political economy of religious experience, postcolonial nationalism and diaspora, textual culture, Morocco. PhD 2003, MA 1994 University of Michigan. MAT 1990 Binghamton University. BA 1988 Brown University.

Paul R. Powers. Professor of religious studies. Islamic Studies. PhD 2001, MA 1992 University of Chicago Divinity School. BA 1990 Carleton College.