MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES

Director: Paul Powers
Administrative Coordinator: Terry Moore

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 273 Islamic Origins
  - RELS 274 Islam in the Modern World
  - 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)

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

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)

Religious Studies
RELS 224 Jewish Origins
RELS 225 Christian Origins
RELS 273 Islamic Origins (may only be used once within the minor)
RELS 274 Islam in the Modern World (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

Sociology/Anthropology
SOAN 285 Culture and Power in the Middle East (may only be used once within the minor)
SOAN 360 Decolonizing Anthropology

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

