

Middle Eastern Studies

Jennifer Schultz, Old Main 130

507-786-3080

schultzj@stolaf.edu

wp.stolaf.edu/middle-east (<http://wp.stolaf.edu/middle-east>)

The Middle Eastern studies concentration introduces students to the study of the diverse, culturally rich, and increasingly complex part of the world that currently includes the Arab world, Iran, Israel, and Turkey, recognizing the interconnectedness of peoples and cultures and locating their significance in wider global contexts. The concentration facilitates the interdisciplinary study of the Middle East, encouraging students to combine courses in Arabic, art, economics, history, political science, religion, and sociology/anthropology, among other disciplines.

Overview of the Concentration

The concentration in Middle Eastern studies provides students with the opportunity to study the ways in which members of Middle Eastern cultures have understood and interpreted the world, as well as the way in which others have interpreted the Middle East. As students explore the experiences, values, intellectual and artistic achievements, and economic, religious, political, and sociological systems and structures that influence Middle Eastern cultures, they gain a fuller understanding of the significance of the Middle East in its own right as well as in relation to the rest of the world.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Concentration (<http://wp.stolaf.edu/curriculum-committee/middle-eastern-studies-concentration-ilos>)

Special Programs

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities to study in the Middle East through St. Olaf international and off-campus programs (<http://wp.stolaf.edu/international/9059-2>), including: Global Semester, Mediterranean Semester, the ACM Semester in Middle Eastern and Arabic Language Studies in Amman (Jordan), Semester at Bogazici University (Istanbul, Turkey), or Semester at American University in Cairo (Egypt).

Requirements

The Middle Eastern studies concentration requires a minimum of five courses. Courses must deal in a significant and disciplined manner with one or more aspects of Middle Eastern culture or history. At least one course must be taken on campus. Typically, courses taken on the Mediterranean Semester and one course on Global Semester count toward the concentration. Many courses offered by relevant departments at the American University of Cairo and Bogazici University, among other semester abroad destinations, count toward the concentration.

Courses taken abroad should be certified by the director of the Middle Eastern studies concentration as fulfilling the appropriate course requirements.

Courses

The following courses, offered on- and off-campus during the 2015-16 school year, count towards the Middle Eastern studies concentration:

Fall 2015

ALSO 100 Alternate Language Study Option : Beginning Arabic I

ALSO 200 Alternative Language Study Option: Intermediate Arabic I

ENGL 209 Arab American Literature and Film

ID 234 Human Geography of the Middle East

HIST 188 Topical Seminar: Jihad and Crusades

HIST 210 Major Seminar: European History: The Crusades

REL 248 Judaism

Interim 2016

FREN 235 French Language and Moroccan Culture in Fes (abroad)

Spring 2016

ALSO 101 Alternative Language Study Option: Beginning Arabic II

ALSO 201 Alternative Language Study Option: Intermediate Arabic II

FREN 373 Genre Studies The Algerian Novel

ID 235 Introduction to Modern Middle Eastern Studies

Faculty

Director, 2015-2016

Jamie A. Schillinger

Associate Professor of Religion

Christian thought and ethics; Islamic thought and ethics

Ibtesam âl-Atiyat (on leave)

Associate Professor of Sociology/Anthropology

Arab society; gender; social movements; Islamic movements

Wendy W. Allen

Professor of Romance Languages - French

contemporary France; the Maghreb; second language acquisition; intercultural education

Richard J. Allen

Professor of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science

logic programming; intelligent tutoring systems; computer science; Islamic geometric patterns; bioinformatics

M. Amine Bekhechi

Assistant Professor of Romance Languages - French

20th and 21st century Francophone literature; Algerian novel; immigration studies; Arabic

Mara H. Benjamin

Associate Professor of Religion

Jewish studies

J. Patrick Dale

Associate Professor of Political Science

comparative politics; European politics and economics; central European thought

Abdulai Iddrisu (on leave)

Associate Professor of History
African history; Islam in Africa

Robert W. McClure

Associate Professor of Education
social studies; curriculum and instruction

Maria F. Vendetti

Assistant Professor of Romance Languages-French
20th and 21st century French Francophone literature; literature and
etstimony during and after the Algerian War of Independence; literary
filmic representations of torture, trauma, and war