

Middle Eastern Studies (MES)

The purpose of the minor is to offer a concentrated program of study for students interested in exploring the politics, history, and religions of the Middle East. These courses will be supplemental to the student's major field of study. For example, International Business, Politics and Government, History, or Biblical and Theological Studies majors can focus their studies on the Middle East as an aspect of their vocational or graduate school preparation. The Middle Eastern Minor is structured to build upon courses currently available primarily in the Biblical and Theological Studies, History, and Politics and Government departments.

Minor requirements in Middle Eastern Studies

Required semester hours

20 sh

Required core courses

MES 2720; BTS 2700 or MES 2710; HIST 3320; POGO 3370

Elective

Choose one from the following: ARAB 1010 or 1020; COMM 3910: Int'l Conflict Transformation; HIST 3310; POGO 2200, 2300, or 3390

Notes and Restrictions

- Students must complete a form listing the courses they have taken to complete the minor, to be obtained from the department and on the department website.
- Students must turn in a simple portfolio to the chair of the department containing the following:
 1. A statement of their specific goals upon entering the program
 2. A self-assessment of the achievement of those goals-including what educational experiences most enhanced their learning, curricular and extracurricular.
 3. Two samples of student work from each course: completed: projects, essays or exams.

2710 **Children of Abraham: the Three Major Monotheistic Religions of the Middle East (4 sh)**

The course will examine in depth the origins of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity in their respective Middle Eastern contexts. Various sects and denominations within each religion will be studied, noting theological and political differences. Special attention will be given to contemporary political dynamics and manifestations of each religion in the Middle East and North America. Students will have first-hand encounters with local Muslim, Jewish, and Christian leaders and observe how their respective faith communities are adapting to western secular culture. Theological Emphasis. Prerequisite: BTS 1850.

2720 **Palestine and Palestinian Christianity from Pentecost to 2000 (4 sh)**

The course will be a multi-disciplinary survey of Palestinian Christianity from the time of Jesus until the year 2000. Each major period will be studied in terms of the political, historical, theological, and interreligious context of Palestine. Emphasis will be placed on the origins and diversity of early Palestinian Christianity, the initial tension with Judaism, Roman occupation, Byzantine Christianity, Islam, the Crusades, Palestine under the Ottoman Empire, the rise of Zionism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the British Mandate, and the decline of Christianity in contemporary

Israel and the Palestinian territories. Students will also be required to complete 12 hours of service learning in a religious or human rights institution related to the issues studied in class.

3910 **Topics in Middle Eastern Studies (2-4 sh)**

An intensive examination of a selected theme.