MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES (CONCENTRATION)

Program Guidelines
This concentration integrates coursework from the social sciences and humanities, allowing students to gain a broad and wide knowledge of the region of the Middle East and North Africa. Building on Denison’s commitment to internationalizing the curriculum, this concentration engages students with a deeper understanding of the region both theoretically and experientially. It draws on the interdisciplinary strength of Denison’s community by including courses from Anthropology and Sociology, Economics, History, International Studies, Political Science, Religion and Modern Languages. This concentration also addresses the rising demand of students for study in Arabic. Accordingly, this concentration gives students the opportunity to integrate and contextualize their knowledge of Arabic along with a deeper understanding of the MENA region.

Faculty
MENA Committee Members
Hanada Al-Masri (Modern Languages /Arabic), Sohrab Behdad (Economics), Jason Busic (Modern Languages /Spanish), Fadhel Kaboub (Economics), Andrew Katz (Political Science), Isis Nusair (Women’s Studies and International Studies), Hosna Sheikholeslami (Anthropology and Sociology), Hoda Yousef (History)

Academic Administrative Assistant: Liz Barringer-Smith

Requirements for the Concentration
MENA students are required to take a total of six course, as follows:

a. Four courses from the MENA course list (see table below)
   • No more than 2 of the 4 courses may come from a single department;
   • Two of the courses need to be above the 199 level;
   • No more than 2 courses can be transferred from off-campus;
   • No more than 2 courses can be counted towards the student’s major;
   • Any exceptions must be approved by the MENA committee.

b. Arabic language requirement (two courses beyond ARAB 112 - Beginning Arabic II).

c. MENA experience is required from MENA students. This could be fulfilled in one of the following forms:
   • A Study Abroad program that focuses on the Middle East or North Africa in or outside the region;
   • Internship at a non-governmental or governmental organization that focuses on the Middle East or North Africa;
   • Research project, or internship related to or conducted within the MENA region;

   • Community work in areas with predominantly Middle Eastern populations outside of the MENA region;
   • All forms of fulfilling this requirement are subject to the approval of the MENA committee.

Summary of Course Distribution

I. Language Requirement (2 courses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARAB 211</td>
<td>Intermediate Arabic I (Prerequisite ARAB 112)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARAB 212</td>
<td>Intermediate Arabic II (Prerequisite ARAB 211)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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II. Elective Requirements (4 courses selected from:)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARAB 315</td>
<td>Culture of the Arab World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSO 345</td>
<td>Special Topics (when taught as &quot;Anthropology of Islam&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 361</td>
<td>Directed Study (on a MENA-related topic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 415</td>
<td>Political Economy of the Middle East (Prerequisite ECON 301 or instructor’s consent.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 121</td>
<td>Islamic History before 1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 122</td>
<td>The Modern Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 321</td>
<td>Women in the History of the Modern Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTL 250</td>
<td>Global and Local Flows and Frictions (when taught as &quot;Gender and Revolution in the Middle East and North Africa&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSC 347</td>
<td>The Middle East in World Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 218</td>
<td>Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 420</td>
<td>Seminar in Peninsular Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 430</td>
<td>Seminar in Spanish Culture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. MENA Experience Requirement

• An Off-campus experience is required from MENA students. This could be fulfilled in one of the following forms:
  • A Study Abroad program that focuses on the Middle East or North Africa in or outside the region;
  • Internship at a non-governmental or governmental organization that focuses on the Middle East or North Africa;
  • Research project, or internship related to or conducted within the MENA region;
  • Community work in areas with predominantly Middle Eastern populations outside the MENA region;
  • All forms of fulfilling this requirement are subject to the approval of the MENA committee.
IV. A Note on Prerequisites

Of the twelve MENA elective courses, only four courses have a prerequisite requirement, as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 415</td>
<td>Political Economy of the Middle East (Prerequisite is ECON 301, which in turn entails taking another 2 courses (ECON 101, ECON 102). Thus, this course will be most suitable for those students who are Economics majors, or have previous knowledge that is approved by the instructor’s consent.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 420</td>
<td>Seminar in Peninsular Literature (Prerequisites are any two 300-level SPAN courses, which in turn require SPAN 215, SPAN 220 and SPAN 230; course is offered in Spanish.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 430</td>
<td>Seminar in Spanish Culture (Prerequisites are any two 300-level SPAN courses, which in turn require SPAN 215, SPAN 220 and SPAN 230; course is offered in Spanish.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARAB 211</td>
<td>Intermediate Arabic I (This course entails covering two semesters of Beginning Arabic, ARAB 111 and ARAB 112, or consent of instructor.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fewest courses a student would need to take to complete the concentration would be 4, assuming that they were proficient in Arabic when they arrived at Denison. If students had had no Arabic language training at all before coming to Denison, the fewest courses a student would need to take to complete the concentration would be 8 (in which case they would need ARAB 111 and ARAB 112 in addition to the other MENA requirements).

The most courses a student would need to take would be 8, while noting that Economics and Spanish majors would have had to fill the prerequisites for Econ 463 or Span 420 as part of their majors anyway.

MENA 121 - Islamic History before 1800 (4 Credit Hours)
A survey of the history of the Islamic World from the rise of Islam to the 1800’s. Beginning with the revelation of Islam and the emergence of the first Islamic Empire in the seventh century A.D., the course will examine the formation and development of Islamic Societies through a study of religion, political theory and practice, social structure, art, literature and the sciences.

Crosslisting: HIST 121.

MENA 122 - The Modern Middle East (4 Credit Hours)
This course examines the transformation of the Middle East in the 19th and 20th centuries. It will cover such topics as political reform, integration into the world economy, changing role of religion, debates about women and gender, the rise of nationalism and recent political struggles such as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Crosslisting: HIST 122.

MENA 150 - Introductory Special topics in Middle East and North Africa Studies (4 Credit Hours)
Introductory special topics with Middle East and North African focus.

MENA 199 - Introductory Topics in Middle East and North Africa Studies (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

MENA 250 - Intermediate Special Topics in Middle East and North Africa Studies (4 Credit Hours)

MENA 299 - Intermediate Topics in Middle East and North Africa Studies (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

MENA 347 - The Middle East in World Affairs (4 Credit Hours)
The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the political history, international significance, and the dimensions of political life in the Middle East. Owing to the ever-present potential for conflict, the seeming intractability of disputes, and the oil factor, what happens in the Middle East is of vital importance to international politics. We examine the role that politics in the Middle East has played in world affairs as well as the region’s importance in the future.

MENA 350 - Advanced Special Topics in MENA (4 Credit Hours)
Advanced special topics with Middle East and North African Studies focus.

MENA 361 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

MENA 362 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

MENA 363 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

MENA 364 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

MENA 399 - Advanced Topics in Middle East and North Africa Studies (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

MENA 415 - Political Economy of the Middle East (4 Credit Hours)
A study of the general features of the economic development experience of the Middle East and North Africa. We will study the structural transformation of these economies and the dynamics of their colonial and post-colonial structures. This course examines the different stages of economic development starting with the early post-colonial period, followed by the period of import substitution industrialization of the 1960s, export-led growth of the 1970s, the debt crisis of the 1980s, the structural adjustment programs of the 1990s, and the Arab uprisings of 2011. We will examine the political economy of the region as it relates to unemployment, poverty, inequality, migration, food insecurity, water stress, climate change, class conflict, gender dynamics, cultural norms, as well as regional and global geopolitical power struggles over the control of key markets such as oil and natural gas.

Prerequisite(s): ECON 301.

Crosslisting: ECON 415.

MENA 450 - Advanced Special Topics in MENA (4 Credit Hours)
Advanced special topics with Middle East and North African Studies focus.

MENA 451 - Senior Research (1-4 Credit Hours)

MENA 452 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)