MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

This interdisciplinary major draws courses from Anthropology, Classics, Economics, History, International Relations, Judaic Studies, Linguistics, Political Science, and Religion. It offers students interested in exploring the richness and complexity of the Middle East a framework for developing both expertise and wide-ranging critical perspectives on the region’s past, present, and future.

Opportunities for Students

- **Center on Religion, Identity and Global Governance:** This center seeks to deepen partnerships between campus departments as part of USC’s strategic plan in interdisciplinary and socially relevant scholarship. The School of International Relations, the Center for International Studies, and the Center for Religion and Civic Culture work with the Center on Public Diplomacy and the Knight Chair in Media and Religion to develop a comprehensive research and training program to prepare students for careers in which issues of religious identity and religious norms and values are likely to intervene.

- **Study Abroad:** Students are strongly encouraged to study in the Middle East in one of USC’s study abroad programs. Deepen your understanding of issues and improve your grasp of a foreign language by studying for a semester or year in Egypt, Turkey, Israel, or Jordan.

- **World-Class Speakers and Seminars:** USC’s location and the prominence of the Middle East Studies program mean students have access to noted politicians, authors, scholars, and businesspeople right here on campus.

Notable Courses

- **ANTH 327: Anthropology of the Middle East and Islam** — Explores written and visual ethnography for study of Middle East community, sociopolitical forms and religious life. Examines scriptural and living Islam and dynamics of contemporary Islamic revival.

- **HIST 384: Popular Culture in the Middle East** — Examination of the Middle East through the prism of its popular cultures; emphasis on audio, visual, and literary representations in relation to colonialism, nation-building, and globalization.

- **LING 295: The Ancient Near East — Culture, Archaeology, Texts** — An investigation of the peoples of the ancient Near East, focusing upon the writings which they produced, their languages and scripts, and their archaeological remains.

- **REL 317: The Bible and Its Ancient Context** — A close consideration of ancient Near Eastern myths—especially those from Mesopotamia and Canaan—with special attention to their influence on the Bible.
MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts (BA) Requirements

Prerequisite Course Requirement*
- HIST 180: The Middle East

Language Course Requirement (proficiency up to one of the following)*
- ARAB 252: Arabic IV
- IRAN 250: Persian IV
- HEBR 315: Hebrew IV

Course Requirements (select seven; six must be upper division)**
- ANTH 327 Anthropology of the Middle East and Islam
- ANTH 335: Comparative Muslim Societies
- ECON 322: Economic History and Modernization of the Middle East
- ECON 342: Economic Development of the Middle East
- FREN 448: France and Islam
- HIST 275: The Worlds of the Silk Road
- HIST 324: Islam in Russia and the Soviet Union
- HIST 384: Popular Culture in the Middle East
- IR 363 Middle East Political Economy
- IR 464: U.S. Policy Towards the Middle East: 1950 to the Present
- JS 214: Zionism, Israel and the Modern World
- JS 361: Scripture and Polemic in Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- MDES 313: Modern Iran
- POSC 351: Middle East Politics
- REL 315: Thought and Life of Islam
- REL 317: The Bible and Its Ancient Context
- REL 394: Archaeology of Egypt and the Near East

*This information is offered as a partial overview only. For additional information, including all major requirements, please consult the USC Catalogue or http://dornsife.usc.edu/mesp/. Updated as of August 2015.

**This does not represent all options in this category. For a complete list, please consult the USC Catalogue.