

Relationship between Learning Goals and Existing Curriculum in the Middle Eastern Studies Program:

The major is organized in such a way as to cultivate interdisciplinarity as well as topical breadth and depth in particular areas (and methods) of interest. This is achieved through course sequencing (after taking three core courses, students must specify both a thematic and a disciplinary concentration, which is further developed in a required research methods course in preparation for writing theses) and through intensive individual advising. The design of overall programs, concentrations, and thesis topics are flexible, and are developed under the coordinating faculty advisor's supervision. Concentrations are closely linked to thesis projects, hence are individually determined and can range widely in topic or theme.

In terms of MES courses, the following are offered regularly: MES 20, MES 102, MES 109, MES 130, MES 150, MES 190, MES H195. Of these, only MES 102 (Methods in MES) and MES 190 or MES H195 (thesis courses) are required of majors. However, at some point in their studies almost all students take advantage of MES 130 and MES 150, advanced topics in MES. Because these courses change topic each semester, and are often taught by high profile visitors, they can be (and frequently are) repeated. MES 109, Model Arab League, regularly attracts at least half of the MES majors each spring and is among the major's most popular courses.

Path(s) to Learning Goals within the Middle Eastern Studies Program

There is considerable flexibility within the MES major to allow students to construct individual programs to suit their interests. The major is nonetheless structured and minimum course requirements must be met. This structure is designed to ensure that all MES students acquire a shared knowledge base with common intellectual reference points.

I. Introductory Classes (Lower Division Requirements):

- Near Eastern Studies 10 (Introduction to the Near East)
- Middle Eastern Studies 10 (Social Issues in Middle Eastern Studies)
- History 12 (Introduction to the Middle East)

In addition, MES 20 is a 2-unit topical course that serves as a gateway to the major though it does not satisfy any requirements.

II. Language Courses:

All MES students must be able to demonstrate proficiency equivalent to four semesters of college-level courses in a modern Middle Eastern language: Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish. One course must be completed or be in the process of being completed at the time of admission to the major. The remaining three courses may be completed at any time before graduation. The language cannot be started in the senior year and finished in the post-graduation summer, as we understand language skills to be central to the successful completion of the senior thesis.

How to Fulfill the Language Requirement

Although coursework at UCB is the standard method for fulfilling the language requirement, depending on individual interests, background, and ability, other routes may also be taken.

Through course work. Students must complete at least four consecutive college-level courses of a single Middle Eastern language. The first three of these courses may be taken on a Pass/No Pass basis. The fourth course must be taken for a letter grade of C- or better. Language courses need not be taken at U.C. Berkeley; courses taken at a community college, through a study abroad program, or at any accredited school or university are acceptable upon approval. For courses taken elsewhere than U.C. Berkeley, transcripts must be provided and evaluated by the appropriate language coordinator in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. For more information on which courses can satisfy the language requirement, see an MES academic staff advisor in the IASTP office.

Students whose language skills are beyond a fourth-semester level are encouraged to take an **advanced language or literature course in that language.** This course may then be counted toward the concentration or core course requirement as appropriate. Students who do not wish to continue to advanced course work must document their language ability in order to fulfill the requirement. This is done through examination by an appropriate language instructor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, as arranged by the MES coordinating faculty advisor. Language Certification forms are required, and may be obtained from IASTP.

Possessing native ability in a Middle Eastern Language. Students may use their native language to satisfy the requirement. Students must provide documentation that they have been educated in their native language at least through high school or its equivalent. Alternatively, students may request a language exam at the time of admission. See the coordinating faculty advisor in 340 Stephens or a staff advisor in 101 Stephens for more information and to obtain a copy of the Language Certification form. Students whose exams reveal only partial ability to read, write and converse must take additional language courses to elevate their skill level, as determined by the examiner. These courses may be in any of the four Middle Eastern languages. Students who are able to show advanced or native ability in one Middle Eastern language are encouraged, but not required, to begin study of a second Middle Eastern language.

III: Foundational Courses (Upper Division Requirements):

A. Core Courses

The core course requirement is intended to provide a broad introduction to the Middle East, encompassing geography and ethnography, history and cultures, and current political, economic and social developments. To satisfy this requirement, students must take three courses from the following list. These three courses must be taken in three different departments.

AsianAm 190AC	Islam in America
Anthro 181	Themes in the Anthropology of the M.E.
Arch 111/CRP 111*	Housing: An International Survey
Arch 175B	Islamic Architecture
CP 115*	Urbanization in Developing Countries
Hist 100*	Special Topics
Hist 103*	Proseminar
Hist 109A	The Rise of Islamic Civilization, 600–1200
Hist 109B	The Middle East, 1000–1750
Hist 109C	The Middle East, 18th Century–Present
IAS 115*	Global Poverty: Hopes and Challenges in the New Millennium
MES 109	Model Arab League
MES 130	Cross-listed Topics in MES
MES 150	Advanced Topics in MES
Music 132	Music of the Middle East
NES 140	Topics in Islamic Thought and Institutions
NES 142	Shi'ite Islam

NES 143A/B	Islam in Iran
NES 144	Sufism: The Mysticism of Islam
PACS 135	War and Peace in the Middle East
Poli Sci 142A	Middle East Politics
Rhet 155*	Discourses of Colonialism and Postcoloniality
Socio 170*	Social Change
Socio 189	Sociology of the Middle East
GWS 111	Women in the Muslim and Arab World

**Appropriate only when course themes include significant Middle East content. Requires approval by coordinating faculty advisor.*

B. Disciplinary Concentration (4 courses)

In addition to the core courses, MES students must complete a four-course disciplinary concentration requirement in which they pursue advanced study of a selected topic in Middle Eastern Studies following a particular disciplinary approach. Topics may focus on a specific region or a thematic problem, and may relate to religious and cultural studies, history, contemporary development and social change, urbanization, nation building, the impact of imperialism and colonialism on the Middle East among other topics. The concentration must be designed in consultation with the MES coordinating faculty advisor at the CMES and pre-approved by an MES staff advisor in the IASTP office. In order to ensure disciplinary depth, at least two of the four courses taken to fulfill the concentration requirement must be from the same department. The remaining two must be thematically related to the selected topic. Students may choose their concentration courses from the list of core courses above and from those courses indicated as being at least 50% Middle East-related in the "Courses in Middle Eastern Studies" list available at the CMES each semester and posted on its website:
<http://ias.berkeley.edu/iasasp/cmec/courses.asp>.

Additional Course Suggestions

There are a number of additional courses that are relevant to the MES major insofar as they provide methodological, conceptual, or comparative perspectives that enrich and broaden students' programs though they do not directly relate to the Middle East. These courses are recommended but do not fulfill any major requirements. A sampling of such courses follows:

Anthro 158	Religion and Anthropology
DS 100	History of Development and Underdevelopment
Econ 171	Economic Development
Geog 130	Natural Resources and Development
GWS 140	Women and Development
Poli Sci 126A	International Political Economy
Soc 112	Sociology of Religion

In special cases, the MES coordinating faculty advisor will allow students to apply such courses toward the concentration requirement provided that the course in question is listed as at least 33% Middle East-related and that a research paper or other work done for the course focuses on the disciplinary concentration topic. Pre-approval and a Course Substitution form signed by the coordinating faculty advisor are required.

C. Methods Requirement

Methods and Scope of Research in MES (MES 102) is offered each fall. It provides an introduction to interdisciplinary research strategies for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data in the field of Middle Eastern Studies. The semester's reading and assignments are devoted to two parallel activities: identifying and analyzing different scholarly approaches to

select topics in MES and preparing a prospectus on individual thesis topics, the writing of which will take place in MES 190 or MES H195 under the supervision of an appropriate faculty thesis advisor.

D. Thesis (one course)

Senior Thesis, MES 190 (4 units)

The required senior thesis (a research paper of 30-40 pages) gives students the opportunity to integrate their concentration course work and conduct further advanced research on a topic in Middle Eastern Studies. To organize and guide their research and writing, students participate in a tutorial with a relevant faculty advisor or with an advanced scholar approved by the coordinating faculty advisor. The senior thesis must be completed within one semester. Students are required to submit a bound copy of the thesis to the Center for Middle Eastern Studies upon completion. MES 190 must be taken for a letter-grade.

OR

Honors Thesis, MES H195 (4 units)

Senior students with a grade point average of at least 3.6 in courses for the major and 3.5 in all work completed at U.C. Berkeley are eligible to write an honors thesis. The honors thesis, a research paper of 50-75 pages, is completed with fellow IASTP majors in a seminar under the direction of the Honors Coordinator and under the direct supervision of a faculty thesis advisor appropriate to the student's interest. A bound copy of the honors thesis must be submitted to the Center for Middle Eastern Studies upon completion.