

# MODERN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

**Director of undergraduate studies:** Jonas Elbousty (jonas.elbousty@yale.edu); www.yale.edu/macmillan/cmcs

The Modern Middle East Studies major focuses on the culture, history, religion, politics, and society of the modern Middle East in its full geographical breadth, while developing expertise in any of the major languages associated with the region, namely Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. Courses are drawn from departments in the humanities and social sciences, including Anthropology, History, History of Art, Judaic Studies, Political Science, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Religious Studies, and Sociology. The Modern Middle East Studies major gives students the analytical and linguistic skills necessary to master the complex issues of the Middle East and serves as excellent preparation for graduate study or for professional careers in which an understanding of that region is essential.

## REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

The major allows students to develop highly individualized courses of study, tailored to their own academic, intellectual, and linguistic interests. There are no prerequisites. Twelve term courses are required for the major, including one course at the L5 level in a Middle Eastern language and two survey courses on the modern period, taken at the introductory level. Beyond those requirements, students take eight distribution courses focusing on any aspect of the culture, thought, history, religion, politics, and society of the region. These eight distribution courses must be spread geographically and temporally and draw from distinct methodological or disciplinary approaches. They must include, at a minimum, two courses from different regions or countries within the Middle East, two courses from different departments or programs, two courses that focus substantially on the period before 1750, and two advanced seminars. Up to two language courses below L5 in a Modern Middle East language may count toward the distributional requirement with approval of the director of undergraduate studies (DUS). The proposed course of study also requires DUS approval.

## SENIOR REQUIREMENT

Students in the major undertake a one- or two-term senior essay that involves use of materials in one or more modern Middle Eastern languages. Each student selects a faculty adviser with competence in the appropriate language. A prospectus and outline signed by the adviser must be submitted to the DUS by the end of the fourth week of classes in either term of the senior year. Senior essays are graded by the adviser and a second reader. See the course descriptions of the senior essay courses (MMES 491, 492, 493) for further information. Alternatively, under supervision of the instructor, majors may take an additional seminar and write an essay in that course to fulfill the senior requirement.

## REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

**Prerequisites** None

**Number of courses** 12 term courses

**Distribution of courses** 2 intro survey courses on the Middle East, focusing on the modern period; 2 courses from different Middle Eastern regions or countries; 2 courses from two different departments or programs; 2 courses with focus on pre-1750; 2 adv seminars; and 1 course at L5 level in a Middle East language

**Substitution permitted** With DUS approval, up to 2 language courses below L5 in Modern Middle East language may count toward distributional requirement

**Senior requirement** One term senior essay (MMES 491), two term senior essay (MMES 492, 493), or essay written in additional seminar

The Modern Middle East Studies major focuses on the culture, history, religion, politics, and society of the modern Middle East in its full geographical breadth, using any of its four major languages, namely Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. Students design individual programs of study in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies (DUS), drawing on courses both from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and from a variety of humanities and social science fields, including anthropology, history, history of art, political science, religious studies, sociology, and women's, gender, and sexuality studies. Participation in approved study abroad programs in the region is strongly encouraged. The major gives students the language skills necessary to understand complex issues of the Middle East, and serves as excellent preparation for graduate study or for business and professional careers in which an understanding of the region is essential.

There are no prerequisites in Modern Middle East Studies, but interested students should keep in mind that majors are required to complete advanced language training in a modern language from the Middle East. Prospective majors are encouraged to begin study of a Middle Eastern language in their first year.

## FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM OF MODERN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

**Professors** Abbas Amanat (*History, Emeritus*), Gerhard Böwering (*Religious Studies*), John Darnell (*Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations*), Stephen Davis (*Religious Studies*), Ben Foster (*Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations*), Steven Fraade (*Religious Studies*), Eckart Frahm (*Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations*), Frank Griffel (*Religious Studies*), Christine Hayes (*Religious Studies*), Hannan Hever (*Comparative Literature*), Marcia Inhorn (*Anthropology*), Anthony Kronman (*Law School*), Joseph Manning (*Classics, History*), Ivan Marcus (*History*), Alan Mikhail (*History*), A. Mushfiq Mobarak (*School of Management*), Robert Nelson (*History of Art*), Kishwar Rizvi (*History of Art*), Maurice Samuels (*French*), Shawkat Toorawa (*Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations*), Kevin van Bladel (*Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations*), Harvey Weiss (*Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations*)

**Associate Professors** Zareena Grewal (*American Studies*), Kaveh Khoshnood (*Public Health*), Eliyahu Stern (*Religious Studies*), Jonathan Wirtzen (*Sociology*), Travis Zadeh (*Religious Studies*)

**Assistant Professors** Thomas Connolly (*French*), Robyn Creswell (*Comparative Literature*), Supriya Gandhi (*Religious Studies*), Samuel Hodgkin (*Comparative Literature*), Jill Jarvis (*French*), Elizabeth Nugent (*Political Science*), Eda Pepi (*Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies*), Evren Savci (*Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies*)

**Senior Lecturers** Tolga Köker (*Economics*), Kathryn Slanski (*Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations*)

**Lecturers** Karla Britton (*Architecture*), Teresa Chahine (*School of Management*), Karen Foster (*History of Art*), Nicholas Lolito (*Political Science*), Emma Sky (*Global Affairs*)

**Senior Lecturer II** Shiri Goren

**Senior Lectors** Sarab Al Ani, Muhammad Aziz, Jonas Elbousty, Ozgen Felek, Dina Roginsky, Farkhondeh Shayesteh

**Lector** Orit Yeret

View Courses