

MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS, CAS

Program Director

Yael Zeira
400F Eggers Hall
315-443-1749
yzeria@syr.edu

The Certificate of Advanced Studies in Middle Eastern Affairs is available to Syracuse University students in all graduate programs who are looking to supplement their degree with a strong foundation in the region's culture and politics or to prepare for a career involving regional specialization. Students are required to complete at least twelve credits: a single three-credit required course and nine credits in the form of approved electives chosen from affiliated departments within the University and/or approved extracurricular experience.

Obtaining the Certificate

Students interested in obtaining the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Middle Eastern Affairs should consult the list of required and elective courses and other credit-bearing activities. Application for the Certificate should be made by first consulting with the student's Faculty Advisor who will determine whether the student can pursue the Certificate consistent with the requirements of his/her degree program, and then by speaking with the Director of the Certificate Program, Professor Yüksel Sezgin.

Administrative Steps

Students who have completed at least six credits of related coursework in Middle Eastern Studies should complete the Graduate Enrollment Internal Admission Application form to receive admission to the program. Once completed, the form should be submitted to Ciara Hoyne (cchoyne@syr.edu) at the Moynihan Institute (346E Eggers Hall) who will pass it on to the Graduate Admissions office (716 E. Washington Street). Please note that the "Program Code" for the certificate in Middle Eastern Affairs is MI17CAS.

Please also remember that a Graduate Diploma Request Form must be completed through MySlice during the semester the student will graduate. Students must complete a separate form for each of their degree programs as each results in its own degree date and diploma.

The Director will recommend granting the Certificate to students who have met all of the requirements (while maintaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 for all classes taken toward it) and who are in good standing in their graduate school or department.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze main social, political and religious properties, and modern history of the Middle East or the evolution of political thought and the ways in which social theories can be applied to the study of the region
2. Demonstrate fair knowledge of one of the four main languages in the region
3. Examine the Middle East region's cultural diversity

4. Use a variety of methodological and theoretical approaches from the humanities, social sciences, and/or related professions in the study of the Middle East

Program Requirements

Twelve credits in four courses must be earned to be eligible for the certificate. These must include:

Code	Title	Credits
Foundational Graduate-Level Course		
The choice of one of the program's two foundational graduate-level courses (substitutions may be made in some cases with permission from the Director):		3
MES 682	Social Theory and Middle East Politics	
MES 644	Israel and Palestine: Historical Approaches	
Electives		
Nine total elective credits chosen from the list of affiliated classes, the University's language offerings, experiential education, and study abroad. The following classes have already been approved by the program:		9
MES 668	Middle East in Anthropological Perspective	
MES 707	Culture in World Affairs	
ARC 735	Islamic Architecture	
MES 644	Israel and Palestine: Historical Approaches	
MES 682	Social Theory and Middle East Politics	
MES 684	International Relations of the Middle East	
REL 628	Muslim Rituals, Practices, and Performances	
REL 676	Religion and Jewish Literature	
REL 607	Ancient Religious Rhetoric	
REL 625	Pluralism in Islam	
Total Credits		12

Credits Towards the Certificate

In addition to these affiliated classes, students may also earn credits towards the Certificate in the following ways:

- A maximum of six credits of any regional language courses at the 600 level (i.e., 620).
- Extracurricular experience (i.e., internships) that may count for between one and three credits (with the approval of the Program Director).
- A maximum of six credits of graduate-level Middle East-related independent study or special topics courses.
- A maximum of six credits of relevant, departmentally-approved coursework taken at another university. The Middle Eastern Studies Program, the Maxwell School and Syracuse University presently have established student exchange relationships with the American University in Cairo (Egypt), Bahçesehir University (Turkey), Bogazici University (Istanbul, Turkey), An-Najah National (Nablus, Palestine), and the Interdisciplinary Center (Herzliya, Israel).

Prerequisite

In order to enroll in the Certificate program, you must be a matriculated Syracuse University graduate student in good standing and have completed at least six credits of coursework in related classes.

Extracurricular Opportunities

- Internships: Graduate students can receive a maximum of three credits for an internship in any governmental/non-governmental organization based either in the region or outside which deals strongly with the Middle East.
- Fieldwork: The Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs at the Maxwell School usually allocates one or two annual summer research grants for Maxwell doctoral students. The purpose of the award is to provide students the opportunity to gather data, undergo advanced language training, and increase competitiveness of future proposals for funding. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and will be assigned on merit. Grant awardees register and receive credit for an independent study course (typically three credits). Students who have secured outside sources of funding may also submit proposals for fieldwork through independent study.
- Other Awards: MESP Young Scholar Prize is awarded annually to the best essay by a graduate student at the University dealing with any aspect of the Middle East. The author of the winning paper is presented with a certificate and a \$500 prize.