

MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES (MES)

MES 100 Selected Topics (1-6 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Exploration of a topic (to be determined) not covered by the standard curriculum but of interest to faculty and students in a particular semester. Repeatable 6 times for 6 credits maximum

MES 165 Discovering Islam (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with REL 165, SAS 165

Islam as a faith and a civilization. Understanding its origins, beliefs, rituals, and the historical development of its intellectual traditions in the pre-modern and modern eras, and its geographic, cultural and theological diversity today.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>)

MES 180 International Course (1-12 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Offered through SUAbroad by educational institution outside the United States. Student registers for the course at the foreign institution and is graded according to that institution's practice. SUAbroad works with the SU academic department to assign the appropriate course level, title, and grade for the student's transcript. Repeatable

MES 200 Selected Topics (1-6 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Exploration of a topic (to be determined) not covered by the standard curriculum but of interest to faculty and students in a particular semester. Repeatable

MES 208 Middle East Since the Rise of Islam (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with HST 208

An introductory survey of Middle East history beginning with the rise of Islam. Includes culture, social life, women and politics, early Arab Empires, the Ottomans and Safavids, intellectual renaissance. Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

MES 209 Modern Middle East (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with HST 209

A survey of modern Middle East history from roughly the 20th century, covering the nation-states from Iran to Morocco. Includes culture, social life, colonialism and nationalism, feminism, and political change. Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

MES 280 International Course (1-12 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Offered through SUAbroad by educational institution outside the United States. Student registers for the course at the foreign institution and is graded according to that institution's practice. SUAbroad works with the S.U. academic department to assign the appropriate course level, title, and grade for the student's transcript. Repeatable

MES 300 Selected Topics (1-6 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Exploration of a topic (to be determined) not covered by the standard curriculum but of interest to faculty and students in a particular semester. Repeatable

MES 308 Ancient Judaism and the Origins of Christianity (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with REL 308, JSP 308

Offered only in Madrid. Social, cultural, intellectual, and historical conditions which surrounded the birth of this new world religion in its ancient Mediterranean cradle—from Mesopotamia and Egypt to Greece and ancient Rome.

MES 315 Arab American Literature and Culture (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

This course is designed to familiarize students with the burgeoning field of contemporary Arab-American literature, highlighting the ways in which this literature portrays and complicates Arab-American identities and cultures.

MES 317 The Arab Revolutions (3 Credits)

Arts & Sciences

Cross-listed with HST 317

An exploration of the social, economic, and political histories of Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Bahrain since independence to understand the contexts and reasons for the revolutions that began in 2011. University Requirement Course: IDEA Requirement Eligible Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

MES 321 Christians, Jews and Muslims (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with REL 321, HUM 321, JSP 321

Offered only in Madrid. Key historic encounters between the three versions of monotheism, with reference to the richness of past cultural and religious legacy rooted in the Mediterranean region.

Shared Competencies: Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>)

MES 325 Europe's Encounters with Turkey and Central Asia (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with IRP 325

Examines, using historical, political and identity perspectives, the complex relationship between the West and the Turkish-speaking societies. Offered regularly through Syracuse Abroad.

MES 335 Israeli Literature and Culture (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with JSP 335, REL 335, LIT 335

Literary and cultural approach to the modern history of Israel, with special attention to conflicts that have arisen during the Zionist project.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

MES 336 Arabic Cultures (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with LIT 336, ARB 336

Arabic culture through geography, literature, religion (Islam and other religions), ethnic groups, social divisions, films, the media, music, art, food, gender issues, and everyday life.

University Requirement Course: IDEA Requirement Eligible

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

MES 338 Middle East Media (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with HST 338

This course examines the history, politics, and culture of media in the Middle East.

MES 340 America and the Middle East (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with HST 336

This course examines the historical relationship between the United States and the Middle East from the late 18th century to the present.

MES 342 Religion and Politics in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 342, REL 342, JSP 342

Considers the extent to which religion matters in an enduring ethno-nationalist conflict. Approaches the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from an interdisciplinary perspective that explores the intersection of religion and politics.

Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

MES 344 Politics of the Middle East (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 344

Religious, political, economic, and social dimensions of life in modern Middle East. Legacy of Islam, encounter with Western modernity, Arab-Israeli conflict, and political economy of the region.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

MES 349 Politics of Iran (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 349

Historical and theoretical understanding of modern Iranian politics and society from the late 19th century to the present time.

MES 350 Gender, Violence, and Sexualities in the "War on Terror" (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

This course analyzes the ways in which gender has been employed in developing narratives of US national security and the War on Terror after 9/11.

MES 360 Reading Gender and Sexualities: Gender and Sexuality in the Arab World (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

This course explores the ways in which gender and sexuality are represented in an array of visual, historical, and literary texts from the Arab world and its diaspora, starting from the pre-Islamic era up till the contemporary period.

MES 364 Enchanting Words: Muslim Poets, Singers and Storytellers (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with REL 364, SAS 364

Understand the power of words and language in Muslim cultures expressed in oral and literary genres including poetry, humor, fables, folksongs and travel journals. Explore key themes such as virtue, reality, divine and human nature.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>)

MES 365 God and Beauty in Islamic Art (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with REL 367, SAS 367

Expressions of beauty, creativity and faith in Islamic calligraphy, ceramics, textiles, architecture, miniatures and music. Unity and diversity of the visual and performing arts of Muslims in different periods, cultures and regions.

MES 368 Islam and the West (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 368, HST 368

Topics include globalization and interdependency of faiths, the "clash of civilizations", relations between religion and state in Islam and Christianity and whether it is possible to separate the world into monolithic entities "Islam" and "West". Offered in London only.

MES 374 Popular Culture in the Middle East (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with HST 374

An exploration of history, social change, and culture in the Middle East through film, music, television, sports, and the internet. Focused on the average citizen asking questions about gender roles, youth culture, and national identity

University Requirement Course: IDEA Requirement Eligible
Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

MES 380 International Course (1-12 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Offered through SUAbroad by educational institution outside the United States. Student registers for the course at the foreign institution and is graded according to that institution's practice. SUAbroad works with the SU academic department to assign the appropriate course level, title, and grade for the student's transcript.

Repeatable

MES 381 Islamic Law & Society (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 381, REL 361

This course introduces students to classical/modern Islamic law by analyzing Islamic constitutionalism, criminal laws, family laws, gender, political violence, and Islamic banking, through the examination of Middle Eastern and South Asian legal systems.

University Requirement Course: IDEA Requirement Eligible
Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

MES 382 Health in the Middle East (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with ANT 382, PHP 382

Surveys major cultural, biological and environmental features of the Middle East and relates them to aspects of health including infectious disease, chronic disease, reproductive health, population, war, poverty and globalization.

MES 386 Sounds of the Silk Road (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with HOM 386, SAS 386

The soundscapes of the overland Silk Road as a window into history, commerce, migration, social life, values, faith, tolerance and conflict. Case studies from Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Central Asia, and Southwest Asia musics.

Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

MES 390 Independent Study (1-6 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Exploration of a problem, or problems, in depth. Individual independent study upon a plan submitted by the student. Admission by consent of supervising instructor(s) and the department.
Repeatable

MES 391 Revolutions in the Middle East (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 391

A comparative study of revolutions in the Middle East in terms of causes, processes and outcomes.

Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

MES 392 Islamism and Islamist Movements Today (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 392, REL 362

A study of the historical, religious, social and political origins of Islamism and Islamist movements around the world today.

Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

MES 393 Middle Eastern Political Systems (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 393

Study of Middle Eastern political systems in terms of cleavages and crisis.

Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

MES 394 History of Islamic Political Thought (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 394

A study of Islamic political and social attitudes pertaining to contemporary issues.

Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

MES 395 Democratization in the Muslim World (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with PSC 395

Reasons for and dynamics of democratization in some Muslim countries.

Shared Competencies: Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>)

MES 400 Selected Topics in Middle Eastern Studies (1-6 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Exploration of a topic (to be determined) not covered by the standard curriculum but of interest to faculty and students in a particular semester.
Repeatable

MES 404 'AZAHAR' The Islamic Conquest and the Christian Reconquest (2 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with HUM 404, FLL 404

Thirteen day interdisciplinary seminar. Lectures in situ. Artistic, historical, cultural monuments of Cordoba, Sevilla, Granada and Toledo or Salamanca. Theological, philosophical and historical thought as to recreate the artistic and cultural climate of medieval al-Andalus/Spain.

MES 406 The Middle East in Graphic Novels (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Graphic narratives that handle complex issues defining life in the Middle East and its diaspora, including wars and military conflicts, coming-of-age struggles, and gender relations.

MES 407 Iraq: Modern Nation to US Occupation (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with HST 407

History of modern Iraq from early 20th century to present, Iraqi cultural life, labor movement, socialist politics, women's movement, warfare and masculinity, blogging, the Iran-Iraq war, the Gulf War, sanctions, 2003 invasion and aftermath.

University Requirement Course: IDEA Requirement Eligible

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>); Civic and Global Responsibility (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/civic-and-global-responsibility/>); Ethics and Integrity (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/ethics-and-integrity/>)

MES 430 Senior Seminar in Middle Eastern Studies (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

A required course for students pursuing a minor or major in Middle Eastern Studies. An interdisciplinary study of special topics that fall under the rubric of Middle Eastern Studies: Western modernity, Islamic thought and practices, and popular culture.

Repeatable 2 times for 6 credits maximum

Prereq: MES 344

MES 453 Feminisms, Sexualities, and Human Rights in Middle Eastern Societies (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with WGS 453, QSX 453

Focuses on the centrality of gender and sexuality to the politics of everyday life by mapping women's rights movements, LGBT Mobilizations, and minority activism in the Middle East.

Shared Competencies: Critical and Creative Thinking (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/critical-and-creative-thinking/>)

MES 465 Beyond the Veil: Gender Politics in Islam (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with REL 465, WGS 465, SAS 465

Double-numbered with REL 626, MES 626

Politics of gender, religious identities, and resistance in the Islamic world. Gender scripts in Qur'anic scripture and Shariah laws. Contemporary realities of Muslim women living in different parts of the world. Additional work required of graduate students.

MES 468 Middle East in Anthropological Perspective (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with ANT 468

Double-numbered with ANT 668, PAI 668, MES 668

Anthropology of the social, cultural, geographical, and political realities of the Middle East. Additional work required of graduate students.

MES 480 International Course (1-12 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

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Repeatable

MES 482 Azahar: Interfaith Relations in Spain (711-1492) (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Cross-listed with HST 482, HUM 482

Offered only in Madrid. This traveling seminar explores the interweaving of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian cultures during the Middle Ages, the resulting tensions, and the lasting cultural and social impacts on present-day Spain and the modern world.

Shared Competencies: Communication Skills (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/shared-competencies/communication-skills/>)

MES 490 Independent Study (1-6 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Exploration of a problem, or problems, in depth. Individual independent study upon a plan submitted by the student. Admission by consent of supervising instructor(s) and the department.

Repeatable

MES 495 Distinction Thesis in Middle East Studies (3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Distinction in Middle Eastern Studies Program. Normally in the semester prior to graduation, topic chosen in conjunction with advisor.

MES 499 Honors Capstone Project (1-3 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Completion of an Honors Capstone Project under the supervision of a faculty member.

Repeatable

MES 500 Selected Topics in Middle Eastern Studies (1-6 Credits)*Arts & Sciences*

Exploration of a topic (to be determined) not covered by the standard curriculum but of interest to faculty and students in a particular semester.

Repeatable