MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES

mena.northwestern.edu

Study of the Middle East and North Africa is vital, given the region’s centrality in history and politics and a liberal education’s focus on the diversity of the human experience. The Middle East and North African Studies Program incorporates the latest critical approaches to social, cultural, political, and economic forces in the region, which stretches roughly from Morocco to Iran and Central Asia, from the Mediterranean into Saharan Africa and the Sudan. The program trains students in histories, literatures, and sociocultural specificities while encouraging consideration of the region’s global integration. It advances fresh perspectives on Middle East studies by inquiring how the cultural, political, and economic conditions of globalization influence the region internally and externally.

Drawn from anthropology, art history, history, literature, media studies, political science, religion, and radio/television/film, among other areas, the faculty represent a variety of perspectives, with a focus on the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. It reflects Northwestern’s strengths in diaspora studies, Islam in trans-Saharan Africa, media studies, cultural production, and North African studies. The program embraces comparative approaches, both cross-regional and cross-disciplinary. Course topics include the Middle East and North Africa in international politics, mass media, migration, digital cultures, arts and literature, law, and religious movements.

The major and the minor prepare students for careers in a variety of fields, including law, government, human rights, international development, and cultural organizations.

Programs of Study

- Middle East and North African Studies Major (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/middle-east-north-african-studies/middle-east-north-african-studies-major/)
- Middle East and North African Studies Minor (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/middle-east-north-african-studies/middle-east-north-african-studies-minor/)

See below for Arabic Courses (p. 1), Hebrew Courses (p. 2), Persian Courses (p. 3), Turkish Courses (p. 3). Please note that all language courses are administered by the MENA Languages Program (https://mena-languages.northwestern.edu).

Courses Taught in English

MENA 101-6 First-Year Seminar (1 Unit) WCAS First-Year Seminar

MENA 200-0 Making the Modern Middle East: Culture, Politics, History (1 Unit) The emergence of the Middle East as a world region and its representation in art, literature, and film in relation to geopolitics from the colonial period to the present. Interdisciplinary Distro - See Rules (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#schoolrequirementstext) Literature Fine Arts Distro Area Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

MENA 290-3 Introductory Topics in Middle East and North African Studies (1 Unit) Content and prerequisites vary; within the social and behavioral sciences. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

MENA 290-4 Introductory Topics in Middle East and North African Studies (1 Unit) Content and prerequisites vary; within historical studies. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Historical Studies Distro Area

MENA 290-5 Introductory Topics in Middle East and North African Studies (1 Unit) Content and prerequisites vary; within ethics and values areas of study. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Ethics Values Distro Area

MENA 290-6 Introductory Topics in Middle East and North African Studies (1 Unit) Content and prerequisites vary; within literature and fine arts areas of study. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

MENA 301-1 Seminar in Middle East and North African Studies (1 Unit) Interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the Middle East and North Africa. Content varies with annual theme. May be repeated for credit with a change in topic. Courses need not be taken in sequence.

MENA 301-2 Seminar in Middle East and North African Studies (1 Unit) Interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the Middle East and North Africa. Content varies with annual theme. May be repeated for credit with a change in topic. Courses need not be taken in sequence.

MENA 301-3 Seminar in Middle East and North African Studies (1 Unit) Interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the Middle East and North Africa. Content varies with annual theme. May be repeated for credit with a change in topic. Courses need not be taken in sequence.

MENA 390-3 Advanced Topics in Middle East & North African Studies (1 Unit) Content and prerequisites vary; within the social and behavioral sciences. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

MENA 390-4 Advanced Topics in Middle East & North African Studies (1 Unit) Content and prerequisites vary; within historical studies. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Historical Studies Distro Area

MENA 390-5 Advanced Topics in Middle East & North African Studies (1 Unit) Content and prerequisites vary; within ethics and values areas of study. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Ethics Values Distro Area

MENA 390-6 Advanced Topics in Middle East & North African Studies (1 Unit) Content and prerequisites vary; within literature and fine arts areas of study. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

MENA 399-0 Independent Study (1 Unit) Reading and conferences on special subjects for advanced undergraduates. Prerequisite: consent of director of undergraduate studies and instructor.

Arabic Courses

ARABIC 111-1 Arabic I (1 Unit) Three-course introduction to modern standard Arabic primarily, along with some expo-sure to and familiarization with the main regional spoken varieties. Speaking, reading, listening comprehension, and basic writing skills developed. Prerequisite: None or placement exam results.

ARABIC 111-2 Arabic I (1 Unit) Three-course introduction to modern standard Arabic primarily, along with some expo-sure to and familiarization with the main regional spoken varieties. Speaking, reading, listening comprehension, and basic writing skills developed. Prerequisite: ARABIC 111-1 or equivalent.
ARABIC 111-3 Arabic I (1 Unit)  Three-course introduction to modern standard Arabic primarily, along with some exposure to and familiarization with the main regional spoken varieties. Speaking, reading, listening comprehension, and basic writing skills developed. Prerequisite: ARABIC 111-2 or equivalent.

ARABIC 114-0 Conversation and Culture in the Arab World (1 Unit)  Introduction to spoken colloquial Arabic of a country or region-for example, Egyptian, Levantine, or Moroccan. Emphasis on spoken language and conversation. May be repeated for credit with different dialect. Prerequisite: ARABIC 111-2 or equivalent.

ARABIC 121-1 Arabic II (1 Unit)  Further development of grammar knowledge, reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Completion of at least this level is recommended for students seeking functional proficiency for study abroad. Prerequisite: ARABIC 111-2 or equivalent.

ARABIC 121-2 Arabic II (1 Unit)  Further development of grammar knowledge, reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Completion of at least this level is recommended for students seeking functional proficiency for study abroad. Prerequisite: ARABIC 111-2 or equivalent.

ARABIC 121-3 Arabic II (1 Unit)  Further development of grammar knowledge, reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Completion of at least this level is recommended for students seeking functional proficiency for study abroad. Prerequisite: ARABIC 111-2 or equivalent.

ARABIC 125-0 Media Arabic (1 Unit)  Introduction to vocabulary, expressions, and terminology used in Arab print and broadcast media. Supplements study in modern standard Arabic. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Prerequisite: ARABIC 121-2 or equivalent.

ARABIC 211-1 Arabic III (1 Unit)  Continued skills development through reading, writing, and discussion of Arabic writings from both textbooks and media resources. Prerequisite: ARABIC 121-3 or equivalent.

ARABIC 211-2 Arabic III (1 Unit)  Continued skills development through reading and discussion of Arabic writings from both textbooks and media resources. Prerequisite: ARABIC 121-3 or equivalent.

ARABIC 211-3 Arabic III (1 Unit)  Continued skills development through reading, writing, and discussion of Arabic writings from both textbooks and media resources. Prerequisite: ARABIC 211-2 or equivalent.

ARABIC 216-0 Language and Culture (1 Unit)  In this course students will study important cultural themes in Arab society. In-depth exploration of a variety of historical and cultural topics from various sources help students build a comprehensive vocabulary as well as expand their reading knowledge and cultural understanding. The course will engage both, the MSA “frame” of narration as well as the spoken Arabic dialogue. Prerequisite: ARABIC 211-3 or permission of the instructor.

ARABIC 245-0 Current Events in the Middle East: Arab Society through Online News Media (1 Unit)  This course focuses on current events in the Middle East through in-depth exploration of online News Media sources such as foreign newspaper articles and videos. Students will gain respect for alternative ideas and diversity of views as expressed in Arab news. The course focuses on reading, listening, discussion as well as building a comprehensive vocabulary in MSA and dialect. Prerequisite: ARABIC 121-3 and ARABIC 125-0 or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ARABIC 304-0 Translation in Practice: A Bridge to the Future (1 Unit)  This unique foundational courses introduces students to translation skills to provide them with a competitive edge on the job market. Honing grammatical as well as stylistic facility in Arabic, the course promotes higher-level linguistic analysis and interpretation by following a problem-solving approach in translation. Prerequisite: Strong performance in two or average performance in three 200-level Arabic courses, or based on test placement or instructor permission.

ARABIC 311-1 Arabic IV (1 Unit)  Continuation of instruction in Arabic using textbooks and supplemental materials from literary sources (prose and poetry) and broadcast and print media. Emphasis on developing more advanced writing skills. Prerequisite: ARABIC 211-3 or equivalent.

ARABIC 311-2 Arabic IV (1 Unit)  Continuation of instruction in Arabic using textbooks and supplemental materials from literary sources (prose and poetry) and broadcast and print media. Emphasis on developing more advanced writing skills. Prerequisite: ARABIC 311-1 or equivalent.

ARABIC 311-3 Arabic IV (1 Unit)  Continuation of instruction in Arabic using textbooks and supplemental materials from literary sources (prose and poetry) and broadcast and print media. Emphasis on developing more advanced writing skills. Prerequisite: ARABIC 311-2 or equivalent.

ARABIC 316-1 Reading Arabic Poetry (1 Unit)  Development of Advanced Modern Standard Arabic through reading and analyzing Arabic Poetry. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Open to heritage speakers. Prerequisite: ARABIC 311-2 or equivalent. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ARABIC 316-2 Reading Classical Arabic Texts (1 Unit)  Development of Advanced Modern Standard Arabic through reading and analyzing classical Arabic texts. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Open to heritage speakers. Prerequisite: ARABIC 311-2 or equivalent. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ARABIC 316-3 Reading Modern Arabic Prose (1 Unit)  Development of Advanced Modern Standard Arabic through reading and analyzing Modern Arabic prose. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Open to heritage speakers. Prerequisite: ARABIC 311-2 or equivalent. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ARABIC 399-0 Independent Study (1 Unit)  For students who have advanced with distinction beyond the regular course offerings in Arabic. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

Hebrew Courses

HEBREW 111-1 Hebrew I (1 Unit)  This sequence offers students a systematic introduction to mainly conversational Hebrew language and culture. Emphasizes the four modalities-speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing. Prerequisite: None or one year of high-school Hebrew or placement exam results.

HEBREW 111-2 Hebrew I (1 Unit)  This sequence offers students a systematic introduction to mainly conversational Hebrew language and culture. Emphasizes the four modalities-speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing. Prerequisite: HEBREW 111-1 or equivalent.

HEBREW 111-3 Hebrew I (1 Unit)  This sequence offers students a systematic introduction to mainly conversational Hebrew language and culture. Emphasizes the four modalities-speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing. Prerequisite: HEBREW 111-2 or equivalent.

HEBREW 121-1 Hebrew II (1 Unit)  This sequence further develops speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing skills in Hebrew. Offers also insights into Hebrew culture and history. Uses authentic written and audiovisual materials, including newspapers, short stories, poems, television, film. Prerequisite: HEBREW 111-3 or equivalent.

HEBREW 121-2 Hebrew II (1 Unit)  This sequence further develops speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing skills in Hebrew. Offers also insights into Hebrew culture and history. Uses authentic
written and audiovisual materials, including newspapers, short stories, poems, television, film. Prerequisite: HEBREW 121-1 or equivalent.

HEBREW 121-3 Hebrew II (1 Unit) This sequence further develops speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing skills in Hebrew. Offers also insights into Hebrew culture and history. Uses authentic written and audiovisual materials, including newspapers, short stories, poems, television, film. Prerequisite: HEBREW 121-1 or equivalent.

HEBREW 211-0 Hebrew III: Language and Culture (1 Unit) Introduction to and practice of intermediate and advanced grammatical concepts in Hebrew through authentic cultural texts and current media sources. The course focuses on speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing skills. Prerequisite: HEBREW 121-3.

HEBREW 216-1 Hebrew III: Topics in Hebrew Literature (1 Unit) Hebrew language, literature, and culture. Review of more complex grammar including the development of reading, writing, and speaking. Material includes authentic written and audiovisual works and newspaper articles. Prerequisite: HEBREW 121-3 or equivalent. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

HEBREW 216-2 Hebrew III: Topics in Hebrew Literature (1 Unit) Hebrew language, literature, and culture. Review of more complex grammar including the development of reading, writing, and speaking. Material includes authentic written and audiovisual works and newspaper articles. Prerequisite: HEBREW 121-3 or equivalent. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

HEBREW 216-3 Hebrew III: Topics in Hebrew Literature (1 Unit) Hebrew language, literature, and culture. Review of more complex grammar including the development of reading, writing, and speaking. Material includes authentic written and audiovisual works and newspaper articles. Prerequisite: HEBREW 121-3 or equivalent. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

HEBREW 245-0 Current Events in Israel: Israeli Society through Online News Media (1 Unit) This course focuses on current events in Israel through in-depth exploration of online news media sources such as foreign newspaper articles and videos. Students will gain respect for alternative ideas and diversity of views and learn how news and public opinion are chosen, disseminated, shared. The course focuses on reading, listening, discussion and on building a comprehensive Hebrew vocabulary. Prerequisite: HEBREW 121-3 or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

HEBREW 316-1 Hebrew IV: Advanced Topics in Hebrew Literature (1 Unit) Literature Reading 20th-century Hebrew literature. Presentations, discussion, and essays in Hebrew. Prerequisite: HEBREW 216-3 or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

HEBREW 316-2 Hebrew IV: Advanced Topics In Hebrew Literature (1 Unit) Literature Reading 20th-century Hebrew literature. Presentations, discussion, and essays in Hebrew. Prerequisite: HEBREW 216-3 or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

HEBREW 316-3 Advanced Topics in Hebrew Literature (1 Unit) Literature Reading 20th-century Hebrew literature. Presentations, discussion, and essays in Hebrew. Prerequisite: HEBREW 216-3 or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

HEBREW 399-0 Independent Study (1 Unit) For students who have advanced with distinction beyond the regular course offerings in Hebrew. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

Persian Courses

PERSIAN 111-1 Persian I (1 Unit) This sequence emphasizing speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing offering students a systematic introduction to formal Persian. Offers also examples of modern Tehrani dialect and insights into Persian history and culture. Print and audiovisual materials used to supplement textbook. Prerequisite: None or placement exam results.

PERSIAN 111-2 Persian I (1 Unit) This sequence emphasizing speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing offering students a systematic introduction to formal Persian. Offers also examples of modern Tehrani dialect and insights into Persian history and culture. Print and audiovisual materials used to supplement textbook. Prerequisite: PERSIAN 111-1 or equivalent.

PERSIAN 111-3 Persian I (1 Unit) This sequence emphasizing speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing offering students a systematic introduction to formal Persian. Offers also examples of modern Tehrani dialect and insights into Persian history and culture. Print and audiovisual materials used to supplement textbook. Prerequisite: PERSIAN 111-2 or equivalent.

PERSIAN 121-1 Persian II (1 Unit) This sequence further develops speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing skills in formal Persian. Offers also insights into Persian culture and history. Uses authentic written and audiovisual materials, including newspapers, short stories, poems, television, film, and radio. Prerequisite: PERSIAN 111-3 or equivalent.

PERSIAN 121-2 Persian II (1 Unit) This sequence further develops speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing skills in formal Persian. Offers also insights into Persian culture and history. Uses authentic written and audiovisual materials, including newspapers, short stories, poems, television, film, and radio. Prerequisite: PERSIAN 121-1 or equivalent.

PERSIAN 121-3 Persian II (1 Unit) This sequence further develops speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing offering students a systematic introduction to formal Persian. Offers also examples of modern Tehrani dialect and insights into Persian history and culture. Print and audiovisual materials used to supplement textbook. Prerequisite: PERSIAN 121-2 or equivalent.

PERSIAN 399-0 Independent Study (1 Unit) For students who have advanced with distinction beyond the regular course offerings in Persian. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

Turkish Courses

TURKISH 111-1 Turkish I (1 Unit) This course emphasizes the four modalities—speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing. Offers students a systematic introduction to Turkish language and culture. Print and audiovisual materials used to supplement textbook. Prerequisite: None or one year of high-school German or placement exam results.

TURKISH 111-2 Turkish I (1 Unit) This course emphasizes the four modalities—speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing. Offers students a systematic introduction to Turkish language and culture. Print and audiovisual materials used to supplement textbook. Prerequisite: TURKISH 111-1 or equivalent.

TURKISH 111-3 Turkish I (1 Unit) This course emphasizes the four modalities—speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing. Offers students a systematic introduction to Turkish language and culture. Print and audiovisual materials used to supplement textbook. Prerequisite: TURKISH 111-2 or equivalent.

TURKISH 121-1 Turkish II (1 Unit) This sequence further develops speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing, through the use of printed and audiovisual materials in Turkish. Offers insights into modern Turkish culture. Prerequisite: TURKISH 111-3 or equivalent.
TURKISH 121-2 Turkish II (1 Unit) This sequence further develops speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing, through the use of printed and audiovisual materials in Turkish. Offers insights into modern Turkish culture. Prerequisite: TURKISH 121-1 or equivalent.

TURKISH 121-3 Turkish II (1 Unit) This sequence further develops speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing, through the use of printed and audiovisual materials in Turkish. Offers insights into modern Turkish culture. Prerequisite: TURKISH 121-2 or equivalent.