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 languages, 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)

See below for Arabic Courses (p. 1), Hebrew Courses (p. 2), Persian Courses (p. 2), Turkish Courses (p. 3).

Courses Taught in English

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

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.

ARABIC 111-3 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.
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 111-3 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 121-1 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 121-2 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 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 and discussion of Arabic writings from both textbooks and media resources. Prerequisite: ARABIC 121-3 or equivalent.

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 211-3 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 211-3 or equivalent.

ARABIC 316-1 Reading Arabic Poetry (1 Unit) 
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ARABIC 316-2 Reading Classical Arabic Texts (1 Unit) 
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ARABIC 316-3 Reading Modern Arabic Prose (1 Unit) 
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic. 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) 
Understanding, speaking, reading, and writing of mainly conversational Hebrew. Hebrew used as language of instruction. Drill in language laboratory.

HEBREW 111-2 Hebrew I (1 Unit) 
Understanding, speaking, reading, and writing of mainly conversational Hebrew. Hebrew used as language of instruction. Drill in language laboratory.

HEBREW 111-3 Hebrew I (1 Unit) 
Understanding, speaking, reading, and writing of mainly conversational Hebrew. Hebrew used as language of instruction. Drill in language laboratory.

HEBREW 121-1 Hebrew II (1 Unit) 
From language to literature: review of grammar; reading and discussing Hebrew literary works (prose and poetry) and newspaper articles. Compositions and oral presentations. Prerequisite: HEBREW 111-3 or equivalent.

HEBREW 121-2 Hebrew II (1 Unit) 
From language to literature: review of grammar; reading and discussing Hebrew literary works (prose and poetry) and newspaper articles. Compositions and oral presentations. Prerequisite: HEBREW 121-2 or equivalent.

HEBREW 216-1 Hebrew III: Topics in Hebrew Literature (1 Unit) 
Reading Hebrew literature, some biblical but mostly modern prose. Compositions and oral presentations. Prerequisite: HEBREW 121-3 or equivalent. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

HEBREW 216-2 Hebrew III: Topics in Hebrew Literature (1 Unit) 
Reading Hebrew literature, some biblical but mostly modern prose. Compositions and oral presentations. Prerequisite: HEBREW 216-1 or equivalent. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

HEBREW 216-3 Hebrew III: Topics in Hebrew Literature (1 Unit) 
Reading Hebrew literature, some biblical but mostly modern prose. Compositions and oral presentations. Prerequisite: HEBREW 216-3 or equivalent. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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 316-2 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) 
Introduction to basic literacy and oral proficiency intended to produce conversational speakers. Emphasizes modern Tehrani dialect of Persian; students also learn to read, write, and speak more formal Persian.
PERSIAN 111-2 Persian I (1 Unit)  Introduction to basic literacy and oral proficiency intended to produce conversational speakers. Emphasizes modern Tehrani dialect of Persian; students also learn to read, write, and speak more formal Persian. Prerequisite: PERSIAN 111-1 or equivalent.

PERSIAN 111-3 Persian I (1 Unit)  Introduction to basic literacy and oral proficiency intended to produce conversational speakers. Emphasizes modern Tehrani dialect of Persian; students also learn to read, write, and speak more formal Persian. Prerequisite: PERSIAN 111-2 or equivalent.

PERSIAN 121-1 Persian II (1 Unit)  Acquisition of vocabulary and language production. Employs authentic written and audiovisual materials, including newspapers, short stories, poems, television, film, and radio. Speaking and writing emphasized. Prerequisite: PERSIAN 111-3 or equivalent.

PERSIAN 121-2 Persian II (1 Unit)  Acquisition of vocabulary and language production. Employs authentic written and audiovisual materials, including newspapers, short stories, poems, television, film, and radio. Speaking and writing emphasized. Prerequisite: PERSIAN 121-1 or equivalent.

PERSIAN 121-3 Persian II (1 Unit)  Acquisition of vocabulary and language production. Employs authentic written and audiovisual materials, including newspapers, short stories, poems, television, film, and radio. Speaking and writing emphasized. 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)  Introduction to basic literacy and oral proficiency; insights into modern Turkish culture through the language. Print and audiovisual materials used to supplement textbook.

TURKISH 111-2 Turkish I (1 Unit)  Introduction to basic literacy and oral proficiency; insights into modern Turkish culture through the language. Print and audiovisual materials used to supplement textbook. Prerequisite: TURKISH 111-1 or equivalent.

TURKISH 111-3 Turkish I (1 Unit)  Introduction to basic literacy and oral proficiency; insights into modern Turkish culture through the language. Print and audiovisual materials used to supplement textbook. Prerequisite: TURKISH 111-2 or equivalent.

TURKISH 121-1 Turkish II (1 Unit)  Continuation of basic grammar instruction; further development of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through the use of printed and audiovisual materials. Insights into modern Turkish culture. Prerequisite: TURKISH 111-3 or equivalent.

TURKISH 121-2 Turkish II (1 Unit)  Continuation of basic grammar instruction; further development of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through the use of printed and audiovisual materials. Insights into modern Turkish culture. Prerequisite: TURKISH 121-1 or equivalent.

TURKISH 121-3 Turkish II (1 Unit)  Continuation of basic grammar instruction; further development of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through the use of printed and audiovisual materials. Insights into modern Turkish culture. Prerequisite: TURKISH 121-2 or equivalent.