

Middle East Studies Minor

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Why study the "Middle East"? The countries within and neighboring what is commonly referred to as the Middle East continue to play an important role in global affairs and dynamics. The economic and business elements of the region along with its political, cultural, and social realities factor heavily into contemporary world developments. KU combines education in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Hebrew with a rich selection of courses on or related to the region, including courses in Islamic studies, language, culture and art, history, and contemporary social and political dynamics. The minor also complements many majors within the College as well as other degrees across the University. The area's languages and knowledge of cultures, society, and politics in the region can prepare students for careers in business and the private sector, foreign or civil service, or jobs with non-profit organizations.

Requirements for the Minor

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
REL 350/ AAAS 349	Islam	3
or AAAS 102	Arabic and Islamic Studies	
or GIST 205	Muslim Lives: Politics, Culture, and Society	
or SLAV 205	Muslim Lives: Politics, Culture, and Society	
POLS 361	Politics of the Middle East	3
or HIST 328	The Modern Middle East	
or ANTH 303	Peoples and Cultures of North Africa and the Middle East	
Electives		12
These courses allow students to deepen their knowledge of the countries and issues in the region. Of the four electives, students must take at least one course from each emphasis—i.e. social science and humanities, as listed below.		
Social science emphasis: (minimum 3 credit hours)		
ANTH 303	Peoples and Cultures of North Africa and the Middle East	
ANTH 372	Religion, Power, and Sexuality in Arab Societies	
GIST/POLS 433	Iran, Turkey, and the Kurds	
GIST 624	Social Movements in the Middle East	
JWSH 329	Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: An Introduction	
JWSH 360	Politics of the Middle East	
JWSH 410	Israel: From Idea to State	
JWSH 414	Israel/Palestine: The War of 1948	
JWSH 420	Politics and Government in Israel	
POLS 361	Politics of the Middle East	
POLS 371	United States Foreign Policy	
POLS/GIST 667/SOC 640	Islam and Politics	
or POLS 467	Islam and Politics	
or GIST 467	Islam and Politics	

Humanities emphasis: (minimum 3 credit hours)

AAAS 102	Arabic and Islamic Studies
AAAS 415	Women and Islam
AAAS 433	Islamic Literature
AAAS 543	Language and Culture in Arabic-Speaking Communities
GIST/SLAV 205	Muslim Lives: Politics, Culture, and Society
GIST 535	Literature and Society in the Contemporary Middle East
HIST 327	The Premodern Middle East
HIST 328	The Modern Middle East
HIST 480	Travelers' Tales of the Middle East
HIST 481	From Harem to the Streets: Gender in the Middle East, 1900-Present
HIST 570	The Middle East After World War II

Language Option: A student pursuing a Middle East Studies minor may also use one 300-level or above ARAB, PERS, TURK, or HEBR language course as an elective that counts toward three credit hours of "Humanities emphasis."

Total Hours **18**

Middle East Studies Minor Hours & GPA

While completing all required courses, minors must also meet each of the following hour and grade point average minimum standards:

Minor Hours

Satisfied by 18 hours of minor courses.

Overlapping Courses

No more than 2 course may be counted both in the minor and another degree or minor program.

Minor Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 9 hours of KU resident credit in the minor.

Minor Junior/Senior Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 12 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the minor.

Minor Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 GPA in all departmental courses in the Minor. GPA calculations include all departmental courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).