Middle East Studies Minor

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. Within such a context, for intrinsic and extrinsic reasons, there are strong reasons to focus one’s study on this area of the world. 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

Core Courses (6)

- REL 350/AAAS 349 Islam 3
- POLS 661 or HIST 328 Politics of the Middle East/The Modern Middle East 3

Electives (12)

These courses allow students to deepen their knowledge of the countries and issues in the region. Students must take at least one course from each emphasis—i.e. social science and humanities, as listed below—but can choose to take three courses from one emphasis and one from the other or take two from each.

Regularly offered and upcoming elective options are:

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 424 Nationalism(s) in Turkey
- GIST 530 Politics and Society in the Contemporary Persianate World
- GIST 624 Social Movements in the Middle East
- GIST 633 Iran, Turkey, and the Kurds
- POLS 661 Politics of the Middle East
- POLS/GIST 667 Islam and Politics
- POLS 670 United States Foreign Policy
- SOC 532 Sociology of the Middle East

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
- AAAS 545 Unveiling the Veil
- 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
- REL 311 Religion of Ancient Israel
- REL 355 Muslim Societies
- REL 447 Islamic Law in the Digital Age
- REL 551 Shari’a, Democracy, and Society
- REL 557 Modern Islamic Reform Movements

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.”

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.

**Minor Hours in Residence**
Satisfied by a minimum of 9 hours of junior/senior (300+) hours of KU resident credit in the minor.

**Minor Junior/Senior (300+) 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 Fs and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa).