

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	
and		
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 410	Israel: From Idea to State	
JWSH 414	Israel/Palestine: The War of 1948	
JWSH 420	Politics and Government in Israel	
JWSH 426	Polls and Public Opinion in Israel	
JWSH 440	International Relations of the Middle-East	
JWSH 681	Regimes in the Middle-East and North Africa	
POLS 361	Politics of the Middle East	
POLS 371	United States Foreign Policy	

POLS/GIST Islam and Politics
667/SOC 640
or POLS 467 Islam and Politics
or GIST 467 Islam and Politics

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

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

REL 355 Practicing Religion in Muslim Societies

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 (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).