



MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Founded in 1974, the Middle East Studies Program (MESP) cultivates in-depth understanding of the Middle East, encompassing its historical background and contemporary economic, social, cultural, and political dynamics. Located within the Institute for Regional and International Studies—a unit of the International Division—they offer a comprehensive suite of programs including a lecture series, outreach programs, and more. MESP equips future leaders with a strong foundation in Middle Eastern languages and cultures, preparing them for careers in or related to the region.

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Examples of course offerings:

-  **AFRICAN/INTL ST 302:** Arabic Literature and Cinema
-  **HISTORY 139:** Introduction to the Modern Middle East
-  **POLY SCI 529:** Arab-Israeli Conflict
-  **ASIALANG 137:** First Semester Persian

Certificates & programs

Undergraduate certificate *The Middle East Studies undergraduate certificate is designed to provide an interdisciplinary perspective of the region's history and contemporary dynamics and their representations across the diaspora.*

Language programs *MESP supports modern Middle Eastern language programs in Arabic, Hebrew (biblical and modern), Persian, Turkish, and Azeri for undergraduate and graduate students with advanced language proficiency to support their research and fieldwork.*

Interdisciplinary courses *MESP offers an extensive array of courses across multiple disciplines, including the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Islam and Politics, Cultural Expressions in the Arab World, Israeli Politics and Society, and more.*

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

MESP offers a wide range of reputable fellowships and grants, including but not limited to:

MESP Conference Grant for Students and Non-Tenure-Eligible Instructors: The Middle East Studies Program offers grants to defray the expense of attending conferences. Conferences or papers presented must be relevant to the field of Middle East Studies.

Boren Awards: These scholarships and fellowships provide unique funding opportunities for students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests, and underrepresented in study abroad, including the Middle East.

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAM



International Division
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

25+

Interdisciplinary courses

49+

years in operation

46+

affiliated MESP faculty

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



Local: MESP offers their ongoing lecture series and their annual spring conference to the public. Both the conference and lecture series draw people from the outside community who are interested in topics and initiatives related to the region of the Middle East.



Statewide: MESP works with the Wisconsin Film Festival and the UW Cinematheque to bring Middle Eastern films to the big screen. Additionally, they work with the Wisconsin International Resource Consortium to provide teacher training events for K-12 and community college instructors. Examples include the event "International Children's Literature Celebration on Folk and Fairytales," and online workshops on topics such as "The Good Life: Global Perspectives on Wellbeing and Happiness," and "Empowering Educators to Teach on Genocide."



International: The Middle East Studies program provides educational resources that are available to national and international audiences at no cost. Featured on their website under "Educational Resources," audiences can explore various Middle Eastern topics, including history, society and politics, the Arab uprisings, music, art, literature, religion and more. MESP also organizes an annual, interdisciplinary conference where scholars from around the world gather to present their research on aspects of a structuring theme.

SIGNATURE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

► Middle Eastern films with the Wisconsin Film Festival

► Annual Year-End Conference

► Ottoman and Turkish Studies Lecture Series

► MESP Lecture Series



► Web: mideast.wisc.edu

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