

MIDDLE EAST/SOUTH ASIA STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

The Major Program

Are you interested in languages and culture? Do you want a global education? Middle East/South Asia Studies is a unique major where you can learn about the interconnected regions of South Asia, Central and West Asia, and North Africa. This area encompasses many countries, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Students can explore these regions through a variety of courses: anthropology, art history, art studio, Asian American Studies, cinema, classics, comparative literature, English, gender studies, history, music, political science, religious studies, and sociology. As a ME/SA major, you will be able to learn a regional language (Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi/Urdu, Persian or Punjabi). Beyond coursework, ME/SA majors also have the opportunity to get involved in research, special projects with faculty guidance, and study abroad.

The Middle East/South Asia Studies major focuses on the comparative study of these regions and their historically intertwined cultures and societies. Students will receive a strong foundation in one regional language, with two years required in Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi/Urdu, Persian, Punjabi, or another language of this area. The two required ME/SA Studies courses lay a comparative foundation, and options for remaining requirements include coursework from a wide range of departments/programs in the College of Letters and Science.

Language Courses

To enforce Davis Division Regulation 536 (<https://academicsenate.ucdavis.edu/bylaws-regulations/regulations/#536->)¹, a student who has completed a second or more advanced year of high-school-level course work in a foreign language in tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade shall be awarded credit for Course 1 (or its equivalent) in that language only if he or she takes the course on a Passed or Not Passed basis. Enforcement of this regulation occurs in the sixth week of the quarter. For more information, contact the Office of the University Registrar (<https://registrar.ucdavis.edu/contact/>). Please note this UC Davis policy applies to Arabic 001, Hebrew 001, Hindi 001, Persian 001, Punjabi 001/001V, and Urdu 001.

Major Advisor

Middle East/South Asia Studies Advising Office (<https://mesa.ucdavis.edu/advising-office/>)

Programs, Internships, & Career Alternatives

Many internship opportunities are available for the Middle East/South Asia Studies major and minor; consult with your advisor.

Middle East/South Asia Studies Abroad Program

For information, see Global Learning Hub (<https://globallearning.ucdavis.edu/>) and UC Davis Summer Abroad (<https://globallearning.ucdavis.edu/pathways/academics/studyabroad/sa/>).

¹ Davis Division Regulation 536

Davis Division Regulation 536 (<https://academicsenate.ucdavis.edu/bylaws-regulations/regulations/#536->)

536. Grading in Beginning Language Courses.

A student who has completed a second or more advanced year of high-school-level course work in a foreign language in tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade shall be awarded credit for Course 1 (or its equivalent) in that language only if the student takes the course on a Passed or Not Passed basis under the option authorized by Davis Division Regulation A545(A), subject to the limits specified in Davis Division Regulation A545(B). (Am. and effective 2/14/78)

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Middle East/South Asia Studies Bachelor of Arts is 48.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
<i>History</i>		
HIS 006	Introduction to the Middle East	4
HIS 008	History of Indian Civilization	4
Two years (or the equivalent) of Arabic, Hebrew, or Hindi/Urdu (other Middle East/South Asia Studies regional languages accepted with petition):		0-27
<i>Arabic</i>		
ARB 001	Elementary Arabic 1	
ARB 002	Elementary Arabic 2	
ARB 003	Elementary Arabic 3	
ARB 021	Intermediate Arabic 21	
ARB 022	Intermediate Arabic 22	
ARB 023	Intermediate Arabic 23	
<i>Hebrew</i>		
HEB 001	Elementary Hebrew	
HEB 002	Elementary Hebrew	
HEB 003	Elementary Hebrew	
HEB 021	Intermediate Modern Hebrew I	
HEB 022	Intermediate Modern Hebrew II	
HEB 023	Intermediate Modern Hebrew III	
<i>Hindi/Urdu</i>		
HIN 021	Intermediate Hindi/Urdu	
HIN 022	Intermediate Hindi/Urdu	
HIN 023	Intermediate Hindi/Urdu	
HND 001	Elementary Hindi or HIN 001 DISC	
HND 002	Elementary Hindi or HIN 002 DISCONTINUED FOR SPRING 2025 **	
HND 003	Elementary Hindi or HIN 003 DISC	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		8-35
Depth Subject Matter		
<i>Middle East & South Asia</i>		

MSA 100	Middle East & South Asia: Comparative Perspectives	4	ARB 002	Elementary Arabic 2	5
MSA 180	Topics in Middle East & South Asian Studies	4	ARB 003	Elementary Arabic 3	5
Choose two:		8	ARB 021	Intermediate Arabic 21	4
ANT 142	Peoples of the Middle East		ARB 022	Intermediate Arabic 22	4
COM 166	Literatures of the Modern Middle East		ARB 023	Intermediate Arabic 23	4
HIS 113	History of Modern Palestine/Israel		AHI 001E	Islamic Art & Architecture	4
HIS 190A	Middle Eastern History I: The Rise of Islam, 600-1000		AHI 155	The Islamic City	4
HIS 190B	Middle Eastern History II: The Age of the Crusades, 1001-1400		ASA 150F	South Asian American History, Culture, & Politics	4
HIS 190C	Middle Eastern History III: The Ottomans, 1401-1730		ASA 189E	Topics in Asian American Studies: Comparative Racial Studies	4
HIS 193A	History of the Modern Middle East, 1750-1914		CLA 001	Ancient Near East & Early Greece: 3000-500 B.C.E.	4
HIS 193B	History of the Modern Middle East, From 1914		COM 053B	Literature of South Asia	4
POL 135	International Politics of the Middle East		COM 053C	Literatures of the Islamic World	4
POL 136	The Arab-Israeli Conflict		COM 166	Literatures of the Modern Middle East	4
RST 160	Introduction to Islamic Thought		HEB 001	Elementary Hebrew	5
RST 162	Introduction to Islamic Law		HEB 002	Elementary Hebrew	5
WMS 184	Gender in the Arab World		HEB 003	Elementary Hebrew	5
Choose 8 units:		8	HEB 021	Intermediate Modern Hebrew I	4
ANT 145	Performance, Embodiment, & Space in South Asia		HEB 022	Intermediate Modern Hebrew II	4
HIS 102Q	Undergraduate Proseminar in History: India		HEB 023	Intermediate Modern Hebrew III	4
HIS 196A	Medieval India		HIN 021	Intermediate Hindi/Urdu	4
HIS 196B	Modern India		HIN 022	Intermediate Hindi/Urdu	4
<i>Additional Electives from Core Course List</i>			HIN 023	Intermediate Hindi/Urdu	4
Additional Electives (p. 2)		16-18	HIS 102Q	Undergraduate Proseminar in History: India	5
Note: With prior consultation with an advisor, students can petition in the Program Committee in advance to accept other elective courses toward the major program, including language courses.			HIS 102R	Undergraduate Proseminar in History: Muslim Societies	5
Note: While some courses are identified as fulfilling more than one requirement, a given course can only fulfill one such requirement. ¹			HIS 113	History of Modern Palestine/Israel	4
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		40-42	HIS 190A	Middle Eastern History I: The Rise of Islam, 600-1000	4
Total Units		48-77	HIS 190B	Middle Eastern History II: The Age of the Crusades, 1001-1400	4
1			HIS 190C	Middle Eastern History III: The Ottomans, 1401-1730	4
Restriction: No more than 6 units of MSA 092, MSA 098, MSA 099, MSA 192, MSA 198, MSA 199 may be offered in satisfaction of the major requirements. However, students must have completed at least 40 units of upper division course work in satisfaction of the major requirements.			HIS 193A	History of the Modern Middle East, 1750-1914	4
**			HIS 193B	History of the Modern Middle East, From 1914	4
Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.			HIS 196A	Medieval India	4
Additional Electives			HIS 196B	Modern India	4
Code	Title	Units	HND 001	Elementary Hindi	5
ANT 142	Peoples of the Middle East	4	or HIN 001 DISCON		
ANT 145	Performance, Embodiment, & Space in South Asia	4	HND 002	Elementary Hindi	5
ARB 001	Elementary Arabic 1	5	or HIN 002 DISCONTINUED FOR SPRING 2025 **		
			HND 003	Elementary Hindi	5
			or HIN 003 DISCON		
			MSA 092	Internship	1-12
			MSA 098	Directed Group Study	1-5
			MSA 099	Special Study for Undergraduates	1-5
			MSA 180	Topics in Middle East & South Asian Studies	4
			MSA 192	Internship	1-12
			MSA 198	Directed Group Study	1-5

MSA 199	Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates	1-5
MUS 129B	Musics of Africa, Middle East, Indian Subcontinent	4
MUS 148	Hindustani Vocal Ensemble	2
POL 135	International Politics of the Middle East	4
POL 136	The Arab-Israeli Conflict	4
RST 021	The Bible & Its Interpreters	4
RST 023	Introduction to Judaism	4
RST 060	Introduction to Islam	4
RST 065C	The Qur'an & Its Interpretation	4
RST 068	Introduction to Hinduism	4
RST 160	Introduction to Islamic Thought	4
RST 161	Modern Islam	4
RST 162	Introduction to Islamic Law	4
WMS 184	Gender in the Arab World	4

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.