

MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES

Overview & Learning Goals

Middle Eastern and North African Studies (p. 1)

For centuries, and still today, the Middle East and North Africa have been the site of major civilizations that have attracted attention from afar.

Bowdoin College's program in Middle Eastern and North African studies oversees students' interdisciplinary study of this region. Students minoring in Middle Eastern and North African studies take courses in a Middle Eastern language and in relevant courses in at least two other disciplines.

Middle Eastern and North African studies minors will improve their ability to analyze historic and current events in the region, and will understand how accurate, informed conclusions require both nuance and a recognition of complexity.

Options for Minor in the Program

Students may elect to minor in Middle Eastern and North African studies. Bowdoin does not offer a major in Middle Eastern and North African studies.

Program Website (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/mena/>)

Arabic (p. 1)

Bowdoin offers courses in Arabic language, literature, and culture as part of the Middle Eastern and North African Studies program.

Students will learn how important Arabic is for a deeper understanding of the history, politics, society, and culture of most Middle Eastern and North African countries. Arabic minors will enhance their awareness of global diversity by learning more about how important foreign languages are to imagining and understanding others' perspectives.

In addition to focusing on developing students' fluency in Arabic, the minor provides students with a broad understanding of the cultures and literatures of the Middle East and North Africa through a curriculum designed to prepare students for international work or graduate study.

Bowdoin is able to accommodate students at all levels, from absolute beginners with no previous exposure to the language to students with near-native fluency in Arabic prepared to undertake in-depth study of the literature produced by this vibrant, exceptionally rich culture over the past fifteen hundred years.

Options for Minor in the Program

Students may elect to minor in Arabic. Bowdoin does not offer a major in Arabic.

Minor Website (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/arabic/>)

Faculty

Robert G. Morrison, *Program Director*
Marybeth Bergquist, *Program Coordinator*

Professor: Robert G. Morrison (Religion)
Assistant Professor: Nasser Abourahme
Lecturer: Batool Khattab (Arabic)
Fellow: Paige Milligan (Arabic)

Contributing Faculty: Oyman Basaran, Meryem Belkaid†, Barbara Elias, David Gordon, Rachel Sturman‡

Middle Eastern and North African Studies Faculty/Staff Website (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/mena/faculty-and-staff/>)

Arabic Faculty/Staff Website (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/arabic/faculty-and-staff/>)

Requirements

Middle Eastern and North African Studies Minor

Students interested in Middle Eastern and North African studies should contact Robert G. Morrison (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/profiles/faculty/rgormorris/>), professor of religion.

Requirements for the Minor in Middle Eastern and North African Studies

By studying the languages and cultures of a region outside of Europe and North America, Middle East and North African (MENA) studies minors enhance their awareness of global diversity and learn about the importance of language to understanding other perspectives. MENA minors also improve their ability to analyze historic and current events in the region, and understand how accurate, informed conclusions require both nuance and a recognition of complexity.

The minor consists of five courses.

Required courses:

Code	Title	Credits
Select two courses in a single Middle Eastern language ^a		2
ARBC 1101	Elementary Arabic I	
ARBC 1102	Elementary Arabic II	
ARBC 2203	Intermediate Arabic I	
ARBC 2204	Intermediate Arabic II	
ARBC 2305	Advanced Arabic	
ARBC 2306	Advanced Arabic II	

Code	Title	Credits
Select three courses in the cultures of the Middle East and North Africa ^b		3
FRS 3216	North African Cinema: From Independence to the Arab Spring	
GSWS 2701	Muslim Women: Contemporary Challenges and Activism	
GOV 2690	Islam and Politics	
HIST 2825	Cosmopolitanism and Colonialism: Swahili Civilization and East African History, ca.900–Recent Times	
MENA 2350	Modern Middle Eastern and North African History	
MENA 2620	Race and Settler Colonialisms, Today	
PHIL 1113	Introduction to Classical Arabic Philosophy	
REL 1150	Introduction to the Religions of the Middle East	

REL 2208	Islam
REL 2209	Gender and Islam
REL 2210	An Introduction to Sufism and Islamic Mysticism
REL 2232	Approaches to the Qur'an
REL 2237	Judaism Under Islam
REL 3333	Islam and Science
SOC 2260	Capitalism, Modernity, and Religion in Turkey
SOC 2380	Gender in the Middle East

- a Bowdoin offers Arabic, but Hebrew, Turkish, and Persian studied off-campus could count, with prior approval. Please see the program director for information about other middle eastern languages.
- b These are examples of courses that fulfill this requirement. Students should consult the program director for more information about additional course options and note that any course offered in or cross-listed with MENA will satisfy this requirement. Two of the three courses must be from two different Bowdoin departments/programs and no more than one course may be taken at the 1100 level.

Arabic Minor

Requirements for the Minor in Arabic

Students interested in Arabic should contact Batoool Khattab (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/profiles/faculty/bkhattab/>), lecturer in Arabic, or Marybeth Bergquist (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/profiles/staff/mbergqui/>), academic department coordinator.

Arabic minors attain a basic level of proficiency in one of the world's most difficult languages and also learn how important Arabic is for a deeper understanding of the history, politics, society, and culture of most Middle Eastern and North African countries. Arabic minors enhance their awareness of global diversity by learning more about how important foreign languages are to imagining and understanding other perspectives.

The minor consists of five courses.

Required courses:

- Four courses in Arabic instruction (two years, beginning at the level into which the student is placed)
- A fifth course focusing on any aspect of the cultures of the Middle East or North Africa (such as a course in philosophy, religion, literature, history, or politics) at the 2000 or 3000 level.

Code	Title	Credits
Select four courses in Arabic instruction ^a		4
ARBC 1101	Elementary Arabic I	
ARBC 1102	Elementary Arabic II	
ARBC 2203	Intermediate Arabic I	
ARBC 2204	Intermediate Arabic II	
ARBC 2305	Advanced Arabic	
ARBC 2306	Advanced Arabic II	
Select one course in the cultures of the Middle East and North Africa ^b		1

- a Two years of instruction, beginning at the level into which the student is placed

- b Must be taken at the 2000 or 3000 level. This course may focus on any aspect of the cultures of the Middle East or North Africa, such as a course in history, literature, philosophy, politics, or religion. Students should consult the program director for guidance on course selection.

Additional Information

Middle Eastern and North African Studies

- No more than one independent study may be counted toward the minor.
- Courses that count toward the minor must be taken for regular letter grades, not Credit/D/Fail, and students must earn grades of C- or better in these courses.
- First-year writing seminars do not count toward the minor.
- Up to two courses taken at another college or university can count toward the minor with prior approval by the Middle Eastern and North African Studies Committee.
- No courses applied to the minor may be double-counted toward the student's major.

Information for Incoming Students (p. 2)

There are two pathways into the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) minor:

- The first is through the study of the Arabic language. Students interested in Arabic typically enroll in ARBC 1101 Elementary Arabic I in the first year. Students with prior knowledge of Arabic should contact Professor Batoool Khattab (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/profiles/faculty/bkhattab/>) for more information and a determination of placement into the language courses.
- The second pathway into the MENA minor is through non-language courses in MENA or from other departments. In fall 2024, MENA courses include: MENA 1101 Introduction to Middle Eastern and North African Studies, MENA 2352 Approaches to the Qur'an, MENA 2610 Camp/Prison/Border, and MENA 2690 Islam and Politics.

Students are welcome to contact Professor Robert Morrison (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/profiles/faculty/rgmorriss/>) with any questions about the MENA program.

Arabic

- No more than one independent study may be counted toward the minor.
- Courses that count toward the minor must be taken for regular letter grades, not Credit/D/Fail, and students must earn grades of C- or better in these courses.
- Up to two courses taken at another college or university can count toward the minor with prior approval by the Middle Eastern and North African Studies Committee.
- First-year writing seminars do not count toward the minor.
- No courses applied to the minor may be double-counted toward the student's major.

Information for Incoming Students (p. 2)

Bowdoin students have the opportunity to study the Arabic language at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced level with an exposure to the Levantine and Egyptian spoken dialects. The starting point varies based

on each students' previous experience, but most start with ARBC 1101 Elementary Arabic I and ARBC 1102 Elementary Arabic II in their first year and continue with ARBC 2203 Intermediate Arabic I and ARBC 2204 Intermediate Arabic II in their second year.

These rigorous elementary and intermediate level courses are conducted primarily in Arabic and ensure that students have acquired a solid foundation in both grammar and vocabulary before moving on to the advanced level with ARBC 2305 Advanced Arabic and ARBC 2306 Advanced Arabic II. Advanced Arabic, taught exclusively in the language, is typically taken in the third or fourth year of study, and provides additional exposure to authentic reading and audio-visual materials. All language courses will also aim to develop students' cultural literacy of the Arab region as they progress through the curriculum.

Interested students should contact Professor Batool Khattab (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/profiles/faculty/bkhattab/>) for more information and a determination of placement into the language courses.

Courses Arabic

ARBC 1101 (c) Elementary Arabic I

Batool Khattab.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

An introductory course that presumes no previous knowledge of Arabic. Students begin to acquire an integrated command of speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills in Modern Standard Arabic. Some exposure to Egyptian Colloquial Arabic as well. Class sessions conducted primarily in Arabic.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

ARBC 1102 (c) Elementary Arabic II

Batool Khattab; Keegan Terek.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

A continuation of Elementary Arabic I, focuses on further developing students' skills in speaking, listening, comprehending, writing, and reading Modern Standard Arabic.

Prerequisites: ARBC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

ARBC 1103 Introduction to Egyptian Colloquial Arabic

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 18.

This course introduces students to contemporary Egyptian colloquial Arabic. The Egyptian dialect is the most widely spoken across the Arab world. Thus, it is a useful dialect not just in Egypt but in most Arabic speaking countries. There will be a particular emphasis on building up knowledge of spoken grammar and vocabulary as used by native speakers. Students develop interactive communicative skills through active participation in task-based conversations, listening comprehension and vocabulary-building activities. Resources may include authentic audio-visual materials, movie screenings, snippets of popular culture and excerpts of oral literary works. By simulating real-life situations through role-play among a number of crafted pedagogical strategies, students will develop proficiency in practicing conversational Egyptian Arabic. This course is intended for beginners though students at higher levels are welcome to join. (Same as: MENA 1103)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

ARBC 2038 (c, DPI, IP) The Modern Arabic Novel

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the development and proliferation of the Arabic novel during the post-World War II period. Edward Said's statement that narratives "become the method colonized people use to assert their own identity and the existence of their own history" is the point of departure. Illustrates how the discourses and ideologies of colonialism influence the modern Arabic novel. Focuses on themes of struggle, resistance, nationalism, migration, and gender equality. Novels studied may include *Naji#b Ma#fu#z's Midaq Alley*, *Ghassa#n Kanafa#ni#s Men in the Sun*, *A#-T#ayyib #a#li#h's Season of Migration to the North*, *#Abd al-Rahma#n Muni#f's Endings*, *Hana#n Shaykh's The Story of Zahra*, *Ahlem Mosteghanemi's Memory in the Flesh*, and *A#mad Sa#da#wi#s Frankenstein in Baghdad*. Taught in English. (Same as: MENA 2356)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

ARBC 2203 (c) Intermediate Arabic I

Paige Milligan.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

A continuation of first-year Arabic, aiming to enhance proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through the study of more elaborate grammar structures and exposure to more sophisticated, authentic texts.

Prerequisites: ARBC 1102.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

ARBC 2204 (c) Intermediate Arabic II

Batool Khattab; Keegan Terek.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

A continuation of Intermediate Arabic I, provides a more in-depth understanding of Modern Standard Arabic. Aims to enhance proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing through the study of more elaborate grammatical structures and sophisticated, authentic texts. Textbook material supplemented by readings from the Qur'an, the hadith, and early Arabic poetry.

Prerequisites: ARBC 2203.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

ARBC 2205 (c, IP) Islands: Poetics of the Insular in World Literature
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

From idealized innocence to invoked fear of the unknown, and through double meanings of isolation and connection, this course focuses on islands in world literatures. Through writings that span the medieval, early modern and modern periods, the course uncovers complex meanings associated with islands and insular forms. Focusing on the interplay between geography and imagination in literature, it raises questions about knowledge and uncertainty, spirituality and encounter, identity and difference, and empire and the nation, as well as conflicts between land and water, selfhood and otherness. The course engages such works as Aldous Huxley's *Island*, the *Sinbad Seven Voyages*, al-Hariri's "Maqama of Oman," Ibn Tufayl's *Hayy Ibn Yaqzan*, Abdulrazak Gurnah's *Gravel Heart*, and Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain's *Sultana's Dream*, among others. All texts will be taught in English. Students of Arabic read and talk about original Arabic texts in an add-on section.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

ARBC 2305 (c, IP) Advanced Arabic
Batool Khattab.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

Continues the "Al-Kitaab" series to take students to an intermediate or high-intermediate level of proficiency. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities cover a variety of topics and rely on authentic, unedited materials

Prerequisites: ARBC 2204.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

ARBC 2306 (c, IP) Advanced Arabic II

Every Spring. Enrollment limit: 18.

Continues the "Al-Kitaab" series to take students to high-intermediate level of proficiency. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities cover a variety of topics and rely on authentic, unedited materials. It is a continuation of Advanced Arabic I.

Prerequisites: ARBC 2204.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

ARBC 3307 (c, IP) Advanced Readings in Contemporary Arab Cultures
Every Fall. Enrollment limit: 10.

This course is designed to examine aspects of Arabic cultures in depth, to improve the students' understanding of the socio-cultural nuances of the region through language and to polish their proficiency skills especially in listening, speaking and writing. Topics include ethnic minorities in the Arab world often misrepresented or marginalized by the nationalist discourse, the role of the contemporary social media outlets in shaping the public opinion as well as the impact of the post-Arab spring era on the socio-political tenor of the region. The class includes discussions of the Syrian refugee tragedy and closely looks at the accomplishments and challenges that Arab women are grappling with in their local communities, public space and work environments. Class discussions will be supported by relevant movie screenings.

Prerequisites: ARBC 2306.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

Middle Eastern and North African Studies

MENA 1101 (c, IP) Introduction to Middle Eastern and North African Studies

Robert Morrison; Nasser Abourahme.

Every Year. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 50.

Introduces students to current debates in the study of the Middle East and North Africa through multiple disciplinary and inter-disciplinary approaches. Familiarizes students with key terms and concepts such as nationalism, imperialism, feminism, and religion. Explores how studying the region shapes our understanding of topics such as migration, displacement, refugees, revolution, and the nation-state. Course modules include social identities, empires and imperialism, knowledge and power, citizenship, and resources and the environment. Emphasizes how the study of the Middle East and North Africa informs answers to big questions.

MENA 1103 Introduction to Egyptian Colloquial Arabic

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 18.

This course introduces students to contemporary Egyptian colloquial Arabic. The Egyptian dialect is the most widely spoken across the Arab world. Thus, it is a useful dialect not just in Egypt but in most Arabic speaking countries. There will be a particular emphasis on building up knowledge of spoken grammar and vocabulary as used by native speakers. Students develop interactive communicative skills through active participation in task-based conversations, listening comprehension and vocabulary-building activities. Resources may include authentic audio-visual materials, movie screenings, snippets of popular culture and excerpts of oral literary works. By simulating real-life situations through role-play among a number of crafted pedagogical strategies, students will develop proficiency in practicing conversational Egyptian Arabic. This course is intended for beginners though students at higher levels are welcome to join. (Same as: ARBC 1103)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

MENA 1150 (c, IP) Introduction to the Religions of the Middle East

Robert Morrison.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 50.

Begins by showing how Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the modern Middle East are intertwined closely with politics and with their local contexts. Case studies include modern Iran, Israel, and Lebanon. Investigates how the foundational texts of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam were politically and socially constructed. Considers throughout the influence of other Middle Eastern religions. (Same as: REL 1150)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2021.

MENA 2040 (c, DPI, IP) Power and Empire: Modern Arabic Literature in Translation

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Focuses on the on the impact of European colonialism and modern globalization on Arabic literature. How have Arab writers and poets understood the massive historical changes taking place around them since the early 1900s? How have they "written back" against empire? Who gets marginalized in modern Arab societies, and how do the marginalized find their voices in literature? Examines diverse authors and genres in Arabic literature from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Taught in English translation.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

MENA 2208 (c, IP) Islam

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

With an emphasis on primary sources, pursues major themes in Islamic civilization from the revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad until the present. From philosophy to political Islam, and from mysticism to Muslims in America, explores the diversity of a rapidly growing religious tradition. (Same as: REL 2208)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2021.

MENA 2350 (c, IP) Modern Middle Eastern and North African History

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines modern Middle Eastern and North African history from the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of the nation-state to the present conjuncture of revolution and war. Proceeds chronologically with attention to the main events and turning points in the region. Considers how the over-arching questions about the region have been posed. Key themes are empire and nationalism; colonialism, anticolonialism and revolution; war, humanitarianism, and migration; and oil and the history of capital. This course will satisfy the non-Euro requirement for the history major/minor. (Same as: HIST 2441)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022.

MENA 2351 (c, DPI, IP) Palestinian Literature of Loss and Resistance

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Palestinians are often imagined as terrorists or victims in U.S. media – or simply not covered. This course challenges such perceptions by centering the stories of Palestinians beginning with the British Mandate (1920s-1940s) and continuing to the present day. Course materials explore geographical, political, gender, and class divisions within Palestinian society, and how these interact with the larger anti-colonial struggle. Topics include the creation of national symbols and myths, resistance and collaboration, trauma and testimony, and artistic “commitment.” Genres include poetry, novels, short stories, and autobiography. Beginning with the Class of 2025, this class will fulfill the African American, Asian American, Indigenous, Latinx, multiethnic American, or global literature requirement for English majors.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

MENA 2352 (c, IP) Approaches to the Qur'an

Robert Morrison.

Every Other Spring. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores a variety of approaches to and interpretations of the Qur'an, the foundational text of Islam. Special attention will be paid to the Qur'an's doctrines, its role in Islamic law, its relationship to the Bible, and its historical context. While the Qur'an will be read entirely in English translation, explores the role of the Arabic Qur'an in the lives of Muslims worldwide. (Same as: REL 2232)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2020.

MENA 2353 (c, IP) Revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa

Nasser Abourahme.

Every Other Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

The concept of revolution, though a defining concept of our time, seems at once urgent and dated. The challenges of the term are blatant in the study of the Middle East and North Africa, which has been so often perceived as a passive place of inactive subjects and enduring “despotisms.” This course asks how might we open the concept of revolution onto histories it has been shielded from? Considers concept histories, and what it means to think about revolution from the colonial and postcolonial world. Works through the long history of revolution in the region, including the Egyptian Revolution of 1919, the Algerian War of Independence, the Palestinian Revolution, the Iranian Revolution, and the Arab Spring. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2299)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

MENA 2355 (c, IP) Nationalism and Marxism in the Middle East and North Africa

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

For a long time, nationalism and Marxism appeared as the strongest answers to the questions facing much of the postcolonial world, twinned ideologies—as often at odds as they were conjoined—that could uniquely navigate the challenge of postcolonial modernity. The Middle East and North Africa were no different. The modern period in the region has arguably been defined by the arc in which these ideologies have risen and fallen and risen again. But nationalism and Marxism have not just been applied to this part of the world; they have been reworked and changed in the encounter. This is a lecture course with discussion sections. We'll start with some foundational texts in postcolonial nationalist and Marxist thought, and we'll then trace the history of these traditions in the MENA region around questions like imperialism and sovereignty, labor struggles and class conflict, religion, and the rise of Islamism. There will be an emphasis on memoirs, novels, and films.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

MENA 2356 (c, DPI, IP) The Modern Arabic Novel

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the development and proliferation of the Arabic novel during the post-World War II period. Edward Said's statement that narratives “become the method colonized people use to assert their own identity and the existence of their own history” is the point of departure. Illustrates how the discourses and ideologies of colonialism influence the modern Arabic novel. Focuses on themes of struggle, resistance, nationalism, migration, and gender equality. Novels studied may include Naji#b Maḥfu#z's Midaq Alley, Ghassa#n Kanafa#ni#'s Men in the Sun, Aṭ-Ṭayyib Ṣa#liḥ's Season of Migration to the North, #Abd al-Raḥma#n Muni#'f's Endings, Ḥana#n Shaykh's The Story of Zahra, Ahlem Mosteghanemi's Memory in the Flesh, and Aḥmad Sa#da#wi#'s Frankenstein in Baghdad. Taught in English. (Same as: ARBC 2038)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

MENA 2600 (b, IP) Capitalism, Modernity, and Religion in Turkey

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

Investigates classical and contemporary sociological accounts of secularism, modernity, and capitalism by examining the social and political history of Turkey. Analyzes the emergence of modern Turkey, a successor state of the Ottoman Empire, which spanned three continents and was dismantled at the end of World War I. Maps out Turkey's social, political, and economic landscape from the late nineteenth century until the present. Covers themes such as state violence, religion, hegemony, gender and sexuality, nationalism, and neoliberalism. (Same as: SOC 2260)

Prerequisites: SOC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

MENA 2610 (c, DPI, IP) Camp/Prison/Border

Nasser Abourahme.

Every Other Spring. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

Today, camps and prisons are thought of as distinct and separate forms. How might we think of mass incarceration and mass migration together? What might a region like the Middle East and North Africa add to such an inquiry? Situates the region within wider global regimes of movement control by tracking the entangled history of camps and prisons. Centers the struggles and modes of expression of the detained and encamped. Topics include the emergence of camp and penal forms, humanitarianism and refugeehood, migrant workers and dispossession, environmental history and urbanization, partition and race. Engages prison writing and memoir, aesthetic practices, and film making. (Same as: URBS 2210)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

MENA 2620 (c, DPI, IP) Race and Settler Colonialisms, Today

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

What is settler colonialism today? How is that what we call settler colonialism understood both as something that has passed or been overcome and at the same time something enduring, even expanding again? What is about settler colonial histories that makes them not only fraught, but also seemingly unfinished and unsettled? What might this have to do with the persistence of forms of racialization in our political lives? How, in other words, should a global history of the idea of race account for settler colonialism? We will answer these questions with readings that address the connected questions of race, property, and land. Focuses on the Middle East and North Africa, particularly Palestine and Algeria. Locates both these sites within a comparative global history.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2022.

MENA 2621 (b, DPI) Interrogating Gender in North Africa and the Middle East

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores gender politics surrounding the regions of North Africa and the Middle East at multiple scales. Investigates the geopolitics of gender as related to militarism and international development. Considers the emergence and course of feminism in countries of these regions. Delves into masculinity studies and the politics of how masculinity is represented, experienced, and performed. Course themes include modernity, mobility, reproduction, consumption, Islam, social movements, and urban contexts. (Same as: ANTH 2156)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

MENA 2690 (b, DPI, IP) Islam and Politics

Barbara Elias.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

Analyzing the intersection of politics and multiple expressions of Islam in both state governments and transnational movements, studies Islam as a social, ethical, and political force in the modern era. Offers a basic introduction to Muslim history and the Islamic religion, explores various Islamic social and political movements, analyzes contending understandings of the interaction between politics and Islam, as well as investigating the tensions between the Islamic and western political traditions, including democracy and Islam. Relying on texts from influential revolutionaries such as Qutb and Khomeini as well as perspectives on political Islam from academic scholars, explores the heart of politics, society, and religion in the modern Muslim world. (Same as: GOV 2690)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

MENA 3216 (c) North African Cinema: From Independence to the Arab Spring

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Provides insight into contemporary film production from the Maghreb (Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco). Explores questions of gender and sexuality, national identity, political conflict, and post- and neo-colonial relationships in the context of globalization and in conditions of political repression and rigid moral conservatism. Examines how filmmakers such as Lakhdar Hamina, Férid Boughedir, Moufida Tlatli, Nedir Moknèche, Malek Bensmail, Lyès Salem, Hicham Ayoub, and Leyla Bouzid work in a challenging socio-economic context of film production in consideration of setbacks and obstacles specific to the developing world. Taught in French. (Same as: FRS 3216, CINE 3352)

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

MENA 3222 (c, DPI, IP) The Anticolonial Tradition

Nasser Abourahme.

Every Other Fall. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

What is decolonization? What might decolonization still be? It is hard from the vantage point of our present to appreciate the extraordinary political hope that once was the promise of decolonization. And it is harder still to think about what kind of place in our present that promise might still have. To think through this question, this seminar course takes up the anticolonial tradition as a universal and world-making body of thought and practice that once challenged the very foundations of knowledge. This course will introduce students to the classics of anticolonial thought, and we'll think together about what kind of relevance they still carry in the present. (Same as: AFRS 3222)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

MENA 3223 (c) Representations of the Algerian War of Independence

Meryem Belkaid.

Every Other Year. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Analyzes the depiction of the Algerian War of Independence in Algerian and French novels and films, drawing on trauma, postcolonial and decolonial theories. The Algerian War of Independence lasted nearly eight years (1954–62), cost between one million and one and a half million lives, saw atrocities like the use of torture by the French army and remained an obscure part of the national history of both Algeria and France. Algerian and French writers and filmmakers depict this war differently. Adopting a chronological and comparative approach to the representations of the conflict in Algeria and France, this seminar follows the various phases behind the construction of the collective memory of the Algerian War of Independence in each country. From state censorship, trauma, melancholic renderings of the past and nationalist appropriations of history, Algerian and French writers and filmmakers confront distinct problematics. (Same as: FRS 3223)

Prerequisites: Two of: FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LACL 2209) and FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LACL 2210).

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.