

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
MSA 180	Topics in Middle East & South Asian Studies	4
Choose two:		8
ANT 142	Peoples of the Middle East	
COM 166	Literatures of the Modern Middle East	
HIS 113	History of Modern Palestine/Israel	
HIS 190A	Middle Eastern History I: The Rise of Islam, 600-1000	
HIS 190B	Middle Eastern History II: The Age of the Crusades, 1001-1400	
HIS 190C	Middle Eastern History III: The Ottomans, 1401-1730	
HIS 193A	History of the Modern Middle East, 1750-1914	
HIS 193B	History of the Modern Middle East, From 1914	
POL 135	International Politics of the Middle East	
POL 136	The Arab-Israeli Conflict	
RST 160	Introduction to Islamic Thought	
RST 162	Introduction to Islamic Law	
WMS 184	Gender in the Arab World	
Choose 8 units:		8
ANT 145	Performance, Embodiment, & Space in South Asia	
HIS 102Q	Undergraduate Proseminar in History: India	
HIS 196A	Medieval India	
HIS 196B	Modern India	

Additional Electives from Core Course List

Additional Electives (p. 2)	16-18
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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.

Note: While some courses are identified as fulfilling more than one requirement, a given course can only fulfill one such requirement.¹

Depth Subject Matter Subtotal	40-42
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Total Units	48-77
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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.

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

Additional Electives

Code	Title	Units
ANT 142	Peoples of the Middle East	4
ANT 145	Performance, Embodiment, & Space in South Asia	4
ARB 001	Elementary Arabic 1	5

ARB 002	Elementary Arabic 2	5
ARB 003	Elementary Arabic 3	5
ARB 021	Intermediate Arabic 21	4
ARB 022	Intermediate Arabic 22	4
ARB 023	Intermediate Arabic 23	4
AHI 001E	Islamic Art & Architecture	4
AHI 155	The Islamic City	4
ASA 150F	South Asian American History, Culture, & Politics	4
ASA 189E	Topics in Asian American Studies: Comparative Racial Studies	4
CLA 001	Ancient Near East & Early Greece: 3000-500 B.C.E.	4
COM 053B	Literature of South Asia	4
COM 053C	Literatures of the Islamic World	4
COM 166	Literatures of the Modern Middle East	4
HEB 001	Elementary Hebrew	5
HEB 002	Elementary Hebrew	5
HEB 003	Elementary Hebrew	5
HEB 021	Intermediate Modern Hebrew I	4
HEB 022	Intermediate Modern Hebrew II	4
HEB 023	Intermediate Modern Hebrew III	4
HIN 021	Intermediate Hindi/Urdu	4
HIN 022	Intermediate Hindi/Urdu	4
HIN 023	Intermediate Hindi/Urdu	4
HIS 102Q	Undergraduate Proseminar in History: India	5
HIS 102R	Undergraduate Proseminar in History: Muslim Societies	5
HIS 113	History of Modern Palestine/Israel	4
HIS 190A	Middle Eastern History I: The Rise of Islam, 600-1000	4
HIS 190B	Middle Eastern History II: The Age of the Crusades, 1001-1400	4
HIS 190C	Middle Eastern History III: The Ottomans, 1401-1730	4
HIS 193A	History of the Modern Middle East, 1750-1914	4
HIS 193B	History of the Modern Middle East, From 1914	4
HIS 196A	Medieval India	4
HIS 196B	Modern India	4
HND 001	Elementary Hindi	5
or HIN 001 DISCON		
HND 002	Elementary Hindi	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.