
MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES (M.A.)

Executive Officer: Professor Beth Baron

The Graduate Center

365 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10016

Email: MEstudies@gc.cuny.edu

URL: <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/MAMES/index.html>

FACULTY (AS OF JULY 2009)

Ervand Abrahamian ■ Ammiel Alcalay ■ Asher Arian ■ Talal Asad ■ Beth Baron ■
Eva R. Bellin ■ Stephen Blum ■ Mehdi Bozorgmehr ■ Marvin A. Carlson ■ Jerrilynn D.
Dodds ■ Elena Frangakis-Syrett ■ Jane S. Gerber ■ Samira Haj ■ Samuel C. Heilman
■ Andrea Khalil ■ Marnia Lazreg ■ Dina Le Gall ■ Jonathan H. Shannon

For the most up-to-date proposed faculty listings and specializations, see the program's Web site.

THE PROGRAM

The Master of Arts in Middle Eastern Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to graduate study in issues and topics related to the Middle Eastern region and its diaspora. Students enrolled in the program gain a broad understanding of the history, politics, economics, religions, and cultures of this critical region, as well as develop special competence in their particular area of interest. This is the first M.A. program in the country to incorporate the study of the Middle Eastern diaspora, encouraging new ways of thinking about the adaptation of Middle Eastern immigrant communities in the United States and Europe. The program is geared to those interested in academic careers as well as those pursuing a terminal M.A. degree in preparation for careers outside the academy such as public policy, journalism, social work, international relations, economic development, immigrant advocacy, education, or translation/interpretation. This program gives students, and the institutions they will later serve, the tools they need to think critically and creatively about the Middle East and its diaspora. Students will have access to diverse faculty with wide expertise and will also have available to them the rich resources of New York City.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university or its equivalent. A transcript of all college or graduate work and two letters of recommendation are required with the application for admission. All applicants are required to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test and those international students who are non-native English speakers are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A selection committee will review applications, and admission must be approved by the program Executive Committee.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

Course of Study With guidance from the Executive Officer, each student will work out a sound interdisciplinary program of courses based on his or her goals, interests, and abilities. Thirty credits of graduate study are required for the degree: 12 credits in the core curriculum, 15 elective credits, and 3 credits of thesis writing. The core curriculum consists of four 3-credit courses required for all M.A. students: Approaches to the Study of the Middle East, which introduces students to methods and sources for studying the Middle East and its diasporas, and History of the Modern Middle East, which surveys the history of the region, and two additional Special Topics courses. (More than two may be taken.) Electives are taken, with faculty permission, in any Middle East-related course that is currently offered at the Graduate Center. A one-semester thesis writing seminar guides students in drafting a thesis proposal, conducting research, and writing the thesis, which is required for the degree. Students can use diverse and easily accessible New York-based primary sources for studying the Middle East or its diasporas, conduct a community-based study, or arrange similar such projects with their advisor. Students are also required to take two years of a Middle Eastern language relevant to their area of interest or pass a reading comprehension exam in a Middle Eastern or European language with the approval of the Executive Officer. Only credits for advanced language courses (beyond second year) are applied to the 30 required graduate credits.

Courses

Unless otherwise stated, all courses are *30 hours plus conferences for 3 credits*

MES 71000 Approaches to the Study of the Middle East

MES 73000 History of the Modern Middle East

MES 75000 Special Topics in Middle Eastern Studies

MES 79000 Thesis Writing Seminar

MES 79700 Independent Study 1-4 credits

Additional Courses

Students in this program have access to a wide variety of course offerings in various programs, such as Anthropology, Art History, Comparative Literature, French, History, Music, Political Science, Sociology, and Theatre. For a sampling of such courses in recent semesters, see the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center (MEMEAC) Web site.