



**Institute for Regional and International Studies**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**The Middle East Studies Program Certificate (MESCP)**

**General Information**

The Middle East Studies Certificate introduces undergraduate students to a multi-disciplinary course of study that provides them with an informed overview of the history, civilizations, religions, politics, geographies, and economic factors that shape the cultural landscape of this dynamic and often volatile region. The certificate provides an in-depth training in a special area that may be particularly useful as students pursue careers in such fields as Academia, Law, Public History, Education, Business, and even Medicine, where they will practice their profession abroad or use their international experience to expand their understandings of these regions as they work with topics on or populations from diverse societies in the Middle East.

**Certificate Requirements:**

The Undergraduate Certificate requires a total of eighteen (18) credits in courses chosen from an approved list, including one course in History & Social Science, one course in Religion & Culture, and additional elective courses. The coursework consists of:

- Core course (3 credits)
- 2nd semester of a selected Middle Eastern language (required course)  
*(this course does not count towards the 18 credit total)*
- One course in History & Social Science (3 credits)
- One course in Religion & Culture (3 credits)
- Three additional course in history & social science, religion & culture, or other approved electives (3 credits each)

**Total 18 credits**

**Requirements**

**1. Core Course:**

LCA 266: Introduction to the Middle East (3 credits)

An interdisciplinary introduction to the diverse cultures, geography, history, politics, societies, and economies of the Middle East.

**2. Language**

The second semester of a Middle Eastern language taught at the UW-Madison (or the equivalent). Normally the Middle Eastern language chosen will be Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish in the following course sequence:

African-LCA Lang 321-322, First & Second Semester Arabic  
Hebrew 101-102, First & Second Semester Hebrew  
Hebrew 103-104, Biblical Hebrew-First & Second  
Hebrew 303-304, Biblical Hebrew-First & Second Semester  
LCA Lang 363-364, First & Second Semester Persian

Other Middle Eastern languages may be substituted with the permission of the undergraduate adviser. The credits for this requirement do not count towards the 18 credits required for the Undergraduate Certificate.

### 3. Elective Courses:

- History & Social Science. Choose one course (3 credits) in History & Social Science. Click here for the approved list of course.
- Religion & Culture. Choose one course (3 credits) in Religion & Culture. Click here for the approved list of courses.
- Elective Courses. Choose additional courses from the approved list of courses in History & Social Science, Religion, or Elective Courses to bring the total credits up to 18 credits.
- Advanced Language Course as Elective Course. Students may also count towards the requirement for Elective Courses up to 3 credits of advanced Middle Eastern language taught at the 5th semester level or higher from the list.

#### Notes:

- Please note that the list is subject to change. If you believe a regularly-offered course which is not on the list meets the requirement of 25% or more Middle East/North African content, please contact the MESP. Changes to the course list are subject to the director's approval. Appropriate courses (including topics courses or individual sections of courses with multiple instructors) may be allowed as DARS exceptions by the undergraduate advisor (in consultation with the faculty director).
- In addition to the courses listed above, independent study, study abroad credits, and area studies or comparative studies courses may also be allowed as DARS exceptions by the undergraduate advisor (in consultation with the faculty director).

If you are not yet a declared Certificate student, and would like to check the courses offered or your progress towards the Certificate, you can run a "What-If" DARS report by entering **CERT435** in the Degree Plan Name field.

For further information or to verify the eligibility of a course, please contact Csanád Siklós, Assistant Director for Students and Curriculum, Institute for Regional and International Studies at [advising@iris.wisc.edu](mailto:advising@iris.wisc.edu).