

## Middle Eastern Studies GE Track

The various GE courses in the Middle Eastern Studies track cover 5000 years of history, archaeology, politics, and culture. If you're interested in the premodern cultures of Egypt, Nubia, Palestine, Israel, Syria, Iraq, and Iran, this is the place for you. Our courses cover the globe's first kingships, first cities, first regional states, and first empires and all that came after. Religious studies—what is the origin of monotheism? Where was it invented, Israel or Iran?—make an appearance in our GEs. Social justice also takes center stage—why don't we accept women as rulers? Why are ethnic/religious minorities pushed out of government? And competition over space is central as we discuss the generations of contestation over places like Jerusalem or Cairo or Bagdad. So many of the complications of the modern world can (and should) be examined through the lens of the past. Many of our courses are Writing Intensive, allowing you to understand rhetoric and argument. We also offer a variety of Diversity requirements.

### List of Courses by GE Foundation Area

*Click on a Foundation Area or scroll below to see list of courses and descriptions.*

**ARTS AND HUMANITIES - LITERARY AND CULTURAL ANALYSIS (8 COURSES)**

**ARTS AND HUMANITIES - PHILOSOPHICAL AND LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS (3 COURSES)**

**ARTS AND HUMANITIES - VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS ANALYSIS (1 COURSE)**

**SOCIETY AND CULTURE - HISTORICAL ANALYSIS (7 COURSES)**

**SOCIETY AND CULTURE - SOCIAL ANALYSIS (5 COURSES)**

**SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY - LIFE SCIENCE (0 COURSES)**

### ARTS AND HUMANITIES - LITERARY AND CULTURAL ANALYSIS (8 COURSES)

**RELIGN M10 – Introduction to Judaism.** (Same as Jewish Studies M10) Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Judaism's basic beliefs, institutions, and practices. Topics include development of biblical and rabbinic Judaism; concepts of god, sin, repentance, prayer, and the messiah; history of Talmud and synagogue; evolution of folk beliefs and year-cycle and life-cycle practices. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ANCIENT NEAR EAST 12W – Jerusalem: Holy City.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Requisite: English Composition 3. Survey of modern Middle Eastern cultures through readings and films from Middle East and North Africa. Satisfies Writing II requirement. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ANCIENT NEAR EAST M50A – First Civilization.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Examination of three major monotheisms of Western cultures—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—historically and comparatively. Development, teachings, and

ritual practices of each tradition up to and including medieval period. Composition and development of various sacred texts, highlighting key themes and ideas within different historical and literary strata of traditions, such as mechanisms of revelation, struggle for religious authority, and common theological issues such as origin of evil and status of nonbelievers. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ANCIENT NEAR EAST M50B – Origins of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Examination of three major monotheisms of Western cultures—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—historically and comparatively. Development, teachings, and ritual practices of each tradition up to and including medieval period. Composition and development of various sacred texts, highlighting key themes and ideas within different historical and literary strata of traditions, such as mechanisms of revelation, struggle for religious authority, and common theological issues such as origin of evil and status of nonbelievers. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ANCIENT NEAR EAST M50CW – Making and Studying Modern Middle East.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Prerequisite: English Composition 3. Survey of modern Middle Eastern cultures through readings and films from Middle East and North Africa. Satisfies Writing II requirement. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**65 Global Time Travel.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Time travel is our most effective fictional device for asking what past was like, what future will bring, and how our present might look when viewed from other times. Though often associated with Euro-American genre of hard science fiction, time travel is global genre. Study of time travel stories, novels, television productions, and films from variety of periods, regions, and languages in order to explore anxieties genre responds to and other worlds it helps us imagine. Examination of theorists and critics whose work helps explain how time travel interacts with history, narrative, and visuality. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**RELIGN M115 – Islam and Other Religions.** (Same as Islamic Studies M115) Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Students gain familiarity with historical cases and modes of interaction between Muslims and non-Muslims in plural societies. Consideration of axis questions such as how does Qur'an reflect religious plurality; how does it situate Islam vis-à-vis its alternatives; what encounters did rapid expansion of Islam bring about in diverse societies; how did Islam and other religions change through debate, war, and exchange of ideas; what roles has political power played in conditioning interreligious interaction; how have conversion and hybridity affected what it means to be Muslim; what is different about interreligious interactions in secular states and societies; and how is past invoked to justify opinions and policies today. Investigation of these questions by conducting microstudies: close readings of sources through theoretical lens. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ANCIENT NEAR EAST M130 – Ancient Egyptian Religion.** (Same as Religion M130)

Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Introduction to religious beliefs, practices, and sentiments of ancient Egypt to study Egyptian religion as coherent system of thought and sphere of action that once served as meaningful and relevant framework for understanding physical reality and human life for inhabitants of Nile Valley. General principles as well as developments through time (circa 3000 BC to 300 CE). Topics include mythology, temple and cult, magic, and personal piety. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ARTS AND HUMANITIES - PHILOSOPHICAL AND LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS (3 COURSES)**

**RELIGN M20 – Introduction to Islam.** (Formerly numbered M109. Same as Islamic Studies M20) Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Genesis of Islam, its doctrines, and practices, with readings from Qur'an and Hadith; schools of law and theology; piety and Sufism; reform and modernism. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**M20 Visible Language: Study of Writing.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Consideration of concrete means of language representation in writing systems. Earliest representations of language known are those of Near East dating to end of 4th millennium BC. While literate civilizations of Egypt, Indus Valley, China, and Mesoamerica left little evidence of corresponding earliest developments, their antiquity and, in case of China and Mesoamerica, their evident isolation mark these centers as loci of independent developments in writing. Basic characteristics of early scripts, assessment of modern alphabetic writing systems, and presentation of conceptual basis of semiotic language representation. Origins and development of early non-Western writing systems. How Greco-Roman alphabet arose in 1st millennium BC and how it compares to other modern writing systems. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ANCIENT NEAR EAST M130 – Ancient Egyptian Religion.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Introduction to religious beliefs, practices, and sentiments of ancient Egypt to study Egyptian religion as coherent system of thought and sphere of action that once served as meaningful and relevant framework for understanding physical reality and human life for inhabitants of Nile Valley. General principles as well as developments through time (circa 3000 BC to 300 CE). Topics include mythology, temple and cult, magic, and personal piety. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ARTS AND HUMANITIES - VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS ANALYSIS (1 COURSE)**

**IRANIAN 55 – Gender and Sexuality in Arts and Literatures of Iran and Middle East.**

Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Multifaceted introduction to Persian poetry, recognized as jewel of Persian culture, and to pictorial, architectural, performative, cinematographic, and photographic dimensions of artistic milieu spanning between

Balkans, India, and Central Asia from 10th century CE to present. With consideration of centrality of discourses on identity, desire, and spirituality to core of Persian aesthetics, study of broad variety of socioanthropological, ethical, and historiographical issues stemming from both mainstream topics characterizing extensive field of Iranian studies and most controversial conversations on nature of sexuality, ethnicity, and religion. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

### **SOCIETY AND CULTURE - HISTORICAL ANALYSIS (7 COURSES)**

#### **ANCIENT NEAR EAST 14W – Medicine, Magic, and Science in Ancient Times.**

Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Requisite: English Composition 3. Overview of history of medicine and sciences, focusing especially on Ancient Near East, China, and Meso-America. Satisfies Writing II requirement. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ANCIENT NEAR EAST 15/15W – Women and Power in Ancient World.** Lecture, four hours; discussion, one hour. Requisite: English Composition 3. Not open for credit to students with credit for course 15. Examination of how feminine power confronts masculine dominance within complex social systems in ancient world. To gain political power, some female rulers used their sexuality to gain access to important men. Other women gained their position as regents and helpers of masculine kings who were too young to rule. Others denied their femininity in dress and manner, effectively androgynizing themselves or pretending to be men so that their femininity would not be obstacle to political rule. Many women only gained throne at end of dynasties after male line had run out entirely, or in midst of civil war when patrilineal successions were in disarray. No women were able to gain reigns of power through their bloodlines alone. Women's power was compromised from outset. Examination of root causes and results of this political inequality. Satisfies Writing II requirement. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ISLM ST M20 – Introduction to Islam.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Genesis of Islam, its doctrines, and practices, with readings from Qur'an and Hadith; schools of law and theology; piety and Sufism; reform and modernism. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ANCIENT NEAR EAST M50A – First Civilization.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Examination of three major monotheisms of Western cultures—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—historically and comparatively. Development, teachings, and ritual practices of each tradition up to and including medieval period. Composition and development of various sacred texts, highlighting key themes and ideas within different historical and literary strata of traditions, such as mechanisms of revelation, struggle for religious authority, and common theological issues such as origin of evil and status of nonbelievers. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ANCIENT NEAR EAST M50B – Origins of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Examination of three major monotheisms of Western cultures—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—historically and comparatively. Development, teachings, and ritual practices of each tradition up to and including medieval period. Composition and development of various sacred texts, highlighting key themes and ideas within different historical and literary strata of traditions, such as mechanisms of revelation, struggle for religious authority, and common theological issues such as origin of evil and status of nonbelievers. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ANCIENT NEAR EAST M60 – Achaemenid Civilization and Empire of Alexander.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Introduction of archaeological record of southern Levant (ancient Israel) from Bronze Age through Achaemenid Period (ca. 2500-332 BC) in combination with current understandings of genre, authorship, and historical value of Hebrew Bible. Ancient Israelite identities are traced through combination of archaeological and textual sources. Social, religious, and political traditions of ancient Israel and Judah are interpreted in context of both earlier Bronze Age traditions and Israel's Iron Age neighbors. Archaeological and textual data for identities, such as Amorites, Canaanites, Phoenicians, Egyptians, Assyrians, and Babylonians, form basis for evaluating construction and maintenance of various biblical identities. Introduction to theoretical and methodological issues involving historical archaeology of ancient Israel and Levant, and possibilities for investigating negotiation of identity in archaeological record. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ISLM ST M107 – Islam in West.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Acquisition of understanding of basic doctrines and practices of Islam. Survey of history of Islam in West, with focus on U.S. and France. Analysis of issues relevant to growth and development of selected Muslim communities in West. Exposure to diverse expressions of Islam through independent research on Muslim communities and institutions in U.S. Development of strong analytical writing and speaking skills. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

#### **SOCIETY AND CULTURE - SOCIAL ANALYSIS (5 COURSES)**

**JEWISH 10W – Jerusalem: Holy City.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Requisite: English Composition 3. Survey of modern Middle Eastern cultures through readings and films from Middle East and North Africa. Satisfies Writing II requirement. Letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**IRANIAN 55 – Gender and Sexuality in Arts and Literatures of Iran and Middle East.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Multifaceted introduction to Persian poetry, recognized as jewel of Persian culture, and to pictorial, architectural, performative, cinematographic, and photographic dimensions of artistic milieu spanning between

Balkans, India, and Central Asia from 10th century CE to present. With consideration of centrality of discourses on identity, desire, and spirituality to core of Persian aesthetics, study of broad variety of socioanthropological, ethical, and historiographical issues stemming from both mainstream topics characterizing extensive field of Iranian studies and most controversial conversations on nature of sexuality, ethnicity, and religion. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**RELIGN M107 – Islam in West.** (Same as Arabic M107 and Islamic Studies M107)

Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Acquisition of understanding of basic doctrines and practices of Islam. Survey of history of Islam in West, with focus on U.S. and France. Analysis of issues relevant to growth and development of selected Muslim communities in West. Exposure to diverse expressions of Islam through independent research on Muslim communities and institutions in U.S. Development of strong analytical writing and speaking skills. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**RELIGN M115 – Islam and Other Religions.** (Same as Islamic Studies M115)

Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Students gain familiarity with historical cases and modes of interaction between Muslims and non-Muslims in plural societies. Consideration of axis questions such as how does Qur'an reflect religious plurality; how does it situate Islam vis-à-vis its alternatives; what encounters did rapid expansion of Islam bring about in diverse societies; how did Islam and other religions change through debate, war, and exchange of ideas; what roles has political power played in conditioning interreligious interaction; how have conversion and hybridity affected what it means to be Muslim; what is different about interreligious interactions in secular states and societies; and how is past invoked to justify opinions and policies today. Investigation of these questions by conducting microstudies: close readings of sources through theoretical lens. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**ANCIENT NEAR EAST 162 – Archaeology, Identity, and Bible.** Lecture, three hours; discussion, one hour. Introduction of archaeological record of southern Levant (ancient Israel) from Bronze Age through Achaemenid Period (ca. 2500-332 BC) in combination with current understandings of genre, authorship, and historical value of Hebrew Bible. Ancient Israelite identities are traced through combination of archaeological and textual sources. Social, religious, and political traditions of ancient Israel and Judah are interpreted in context of both earlier Bronze Age traditions and Israel's Iron Age neighbors. Archaeological and textual data for identities, such as Amorites, Canaanites, Phoenicians, Egyptians, Assyrians, and Babylonians, form basis for evaluating construction and maintenance of various biblical identities. Introduction to theoretical and methodological issues involving historical archaeology of ancient Israel and Levant, and possibilities for investigating negotiation of identity in archaeological record. P/NP or letter grading. Credits: 5.0 Units.

**SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY - LIFE SCIENCE (0 COURSES)**

No courses for this GE Foundation area in this track