Middle East Studies (MEST)

Courses

MEST 2003. Introduction to Islam. 3 Hours.
This course introduces Islam as a global religion and world civilization, including study of the Qur'an, prophet Muhammad, ritual and community practices, metaphysics, mysticism, art, literature, and sacred and critical history.

MEST 2003H. Honors Introduction to Islam. 3 Hours.
This course introduces Islam as a global religion and world civilization, including study of the Qur'an, prophet Muhammad, ritual and community practices, metaphysics, mysticism, art, literature, and sacred and critical history. This course is equivalent to MEST 2003.

MEST 2013. Introduction to Middle East Studies. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to provide students with fundamental building blocks for understanding the contemporary Middle East/Islamic World. Students will be introduced to a variety of disciplinary approaches to the study of the geo-cultural region, including history, politics, arts and literature, religions and cultures, social geography, and economics.

MEST 2203. Introduction to Christianity in the Middle East. 3 Hours.
Introduces the geography, events, characters, and histories that formed Christianity across the Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Middle East - from early band of Jews into its global and colonial ascendency today. Focus on people, conflicts, disagreements, theological locations and the influence of geo-politics and effects of financial, political and/or military control.

MEST 2203H. Honors Christianity in the Middle East. 3 Hours.
Introduces the geography, events, characters, and histories that formed Christianity in the Middle East and North Africa --from early band of Jews into its global and colonial ascendency today. Focus on people, conflicts, disagreements, theological locations and the influence of geo-politics and effects of financial, political and/or military control. This course is equivalent to MEST 2203.

MEST 3003. Islam: Beliefs and Practices. 3 Hours.
Explores the relationship between teachings, norms, customary practices and Muslim perception of Islam. Examines theoretical concepts and practices, such as war and peace, democracy, pluralism, modernity, human rights, environment, gender, Islamic law, nation-state, and citizenship in addition to the basic tenets of Islam.

MEST 3003H. Honors Islam: Beliefs and Practices. 3 Hours.
Explores the relationship between teachings, norms, customary practices and Muslim perception of Islam. Examines theoretical concepts and practices, such as war and peace, democracy, pluralism, modernity, human rights, environment, gender, Islamic law, nation-state, and citizenship in addition to the basic tenets of Islam. Prerequisite: Honors standing. This course is equivalent to MEST 3003.

MEST 3203. The New Testament in the Holy Land. 3 Hours.
Focuses on the new testament and essential doctrines of the Christian faith, with special focus on the Middle East and North Africa, using historical contexts from which these doctrines developed, and the arguments made by different theological positions in both ancient and modern debates. Examines the experiential side of Christianity, emphasizing the worship and ritualistic observances of various ancient and modern communities in the region.

MEST 3303. Hebrew Literature & Language I. 3 Hours.
Introduction to biblical Israel and Judah. Examines the ancient Hebrew language, focusing on sacred texts produced during Israel's Iron Age II period. Introduces the ancient Hebrew alphabet, biblical Hebrew vocabulary, morphology, and syntax in the context of the Old Testament. Some extra-biblical Hebrew texts will also be considered.

MEST 340V. MEST Independent Study. 1-3 Hour.
An exploration of varied topics related to the Middle East and North Africa studied independently with the supervision of a faculty member. Credit arranged with instructor. Prerequisite: Instructor consent and junior standing. May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

MEST 340VH. Honors MEST Independent Study. 1-3 Hour.
An exploration of varied topics related to the Middle East and North Africa studied independently with the supervision of a faculty member. Credit arranged with instructor. Prerequisite: Instructor consent, junior standing and honors standing. May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit. This course is equivalent to MEST 340V.

MEST 399V. MEST: Honors Thesis. 1-3 Hour.
Middle East Studies Honors research, readings and thesis. Prerequisite: Junior standing.

MEST 4003. Middle East Studies Colloquium. 3 Hours.
An interdepartmental colloquium with an annual change in subject required of all students in the Middle East studies program. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

MEST 4003H. Honors Middle East Studies Colloquium. 3 Hours.
Honors colloquium. May be repeated for up to 3 hours of degree credit. This course is equivalent to MEST 4003.

MEST 4103. Special Topics in Middle East Studies. 3 Hours.
Courses in lecture or seminar format to be offered in a variety of disciplines relating to the history, culture, politics, geography, languages, literature, arts, and religions of the Middle East, North Africa, and/or Islamic world. May be repeated for up to 12 hours of degree credit.

MEST 4103H. Honors Special Topics in Middle East Studies. 3 Hours.
Courses in lecture or seminar format to be offered in a variety of disciplines relating to the history, culture, politics, geography, languages, literature, arts, and religions of the Middle East, North Africa, and/or Islamic world. May be repeated for up to 12 hours of degree credit. This course is equivalent to MEST 4103.

MEST 420V. Internship. 3-6 Hour.
Internship experience with a group, firm, agency, or non-profit organization related to the Middle East and/or North Africa (MENA). Local, regional, and international internships (paid and unpaid) may take place with various NGOs, related corporations, and US Agencies and Departments. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

MEST 420VH. Honors Internship. 3-6 Hour.
Internship experience with a group, firm, agency, or non-profit organization related to the Middle East and/or North Africa (MENA). Local, regional, and international internships (paid and unpaid) may take place with various NGOs, related corporations, and US Agencies and Departments. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing and honors standing. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit. This course is equivalent to MEST 420V.
MEST 4303. Country Profile: Culture, Landscape, Geography, Language. 3 Hours.
Introduction of a Middle East/North Africa country intended for students preparing for fieldwork, study abroad, or summer internships. Explores a country’s geography, society, economy, culture, foods, arts, architecture, and basic conversational language. Content varies by semester but includes countries such as Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Israel. Prerequisite: MEST 2013. May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

MEST 4303H. Honors Country Profile: Culture, Landscape, Geography, Language. 3 Hours.
Introduction of a Middle East/North Africa country intended for students preparing for fieldwork, study abroad, or summer internships. Explores a country’s geography, society, economy, culture, foods, arts, architecture, and basic conversational language. Content varies by semester but includes countries such as Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Israel. Prerequisite: MEST 2013. May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

This course is equivalent to MEST 4303.

MEST 4503. Hebrew Literature and Language II. 3 Hours.
Continuation of Hebrew Literature & Language I. Builds upon biblical Hebrew vocabulary. Familiarizes students with Hebrew’s verbal system and contexts in which the Bible’s later books (e.g., Ruth, Jonah, and Chronicles) were created. Introduces biblical and Qumran Aramaic and texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls. Prerequisite: MEST 3303.

MEST 4503H. Honors Hebrew Literature and Language II. 3 Hours.
Continuation of Hebrew Literature & Language I. Builds upon biblical Hebrew vocabulary. Familiarizes students with Hebrew’s verbal system and contexts in which the Bible’s later books (e.g., Ruth, Jonah, and Chronicles) were created. Introduces biblical and Qumran Aramaic and texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls. Prerequisite: MEST 3303.

This course is equivalent to MEST 4503.