

Program Proposal for a Minor

1. Name of the proposed minor.

Middle Eastern Studies

2. Name of the department(s) involved.

World Languages and Cultures (lead); History; Philosophy and Religious Studies;
Political Science

3. Name of contact person(s).

Chad M. Gasta, Professor and Chair, Department of World Languages and Cultures
(gasta@iastate.edu)

Co-Director: Michael Christopher Low, Assistant Professor, Department of History
(low@iastate.edu)

Co-Director: Nell Gabiam, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Political Science,
Departments of World Languages and Cultures and Political Science
(ngabiam@iastate.edu)

4. General description of the minor.

The minor in Middle Eastern Studies is designed for students who seek to explore the culture, history, society, politics, economics, technology, and environment of the Middle East (including North Africa). The minor provides an interdisciplinary foundation for understanding the past and current forces that shape the region. Students will study the Middle East and its socio-political, historical, cultural, and/or linguistic milieu. Courses that count toward the minor stimulate critical thinking by offering the conceptual and analytical apparatuses to consider the religious, ethnic, and political diversity of the peoples of the Middle East, past and present.

5. Need for the proposed minor.

As is well known, the Middle East boasts a rich history of varied cultural, political, economic, religious, and scientific achievements, but has also experienced more than its fair share of turmoil, conflict, and dislocation. Over the past two decades, demand for employees with knowledge of the various countries and cultures of the Middle East is at an all-time high, with positions posted daily for specialists in Arabic language and culture or those with expertise in diplomacy, government, non-profit and non-governmental work, as well as business, science and technology. Additionally, military officer training programs at ISU are in need of cadets with a background in Arabic language and Middle Eastern cultures (see attached supporting letter).

Following the Middle East Studies Association and its *International Journal of Middle East Studies* definition, we define Middle East studies as the study of the Middle East from the 7th century C.E. (which marks the spread of Islam in the region) to the present. Within this temporal specification, we believe that our Middle East Minor will have an emphasis on the modern Middle East given the ISU student population it is tailored to serve.

The departments listed herein, in conjunction with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, have recognized the demand and need for expertise in the Middle East, and over the past 5+ years, have hired a number of faculty working in several areas involving Middle Eastern Studies. As a result, more students than ever are engaging with the enormous breadth and depth of this vital region. These students, on their own, have acknowledged the importance of the Middle East, and they have committed to taking coursework to improve their understanding of the area while becoming proficient in its languages (see below for enrollments of those courses which will form the core of the minor being proposed). Notwithstanding that commitment, there is no meaningful credential signaling focused completion of coursework in this area, which puts students at a disadvantage when seeking employment.

A secondary, but related, problem is that ISU faculty working in this area lack any sort of formal program around which to share research and teaching interests, recruit graduate students, sponsor extracurricular activities or campus-wide programming, or seek extramural funding. Indeed, ISU is one of only a few universities of its caliber with no Middle East or Islamic studies program. In other words, virtually all peer institutions have a program of this sort. As a result, for example, faculty at ISU have sought scholarly communities elsewhere: Michael Christopher Low, Nell Gabiam, and Ghinwa Alameen are honorary affiliates of the University of Wisconsin's Middle East Studies Program, which has served to strengthen Wisconsin's research and teaching profile, and provides a meaningful point of contact and collaboration within the Midwest. The proposed minor will provide for a community of teachers and scholars with similar interests, and will aid in recruitment and retention efforts of top faculty going forward. This minor would also provide a structure for external grant applications and holding or attending symposia.

We propose to remedy these dilemmas by providing a significant credential for students that contains focused coursework and training (including the possibility of study abroad) while simultaneously offering an area studies minor around which faculty can build their professional careers including teaching and research. As a result, we seek to build a community of scholars who provide high quality and relevant coursework on the Middle East without seeking any new resources but which offers coherent curricular goals and helps to expand the presence of Arab and Middle Eastern cultures on campus.

6. Objectives of the proposed minor including the student learning outcomes and how the learning outcomes will be assessed.

The minor provides an excellent background for careers in business, government agencies and international development, teaching and translation. After completing the minor in Middle Eastern Studies, students will demonstrate:

- some proficiency in oral and written Arabic with an ability to comprehend authentic Arabic texts
- knowledge of the history of the Middle East from classical to modern times
- knowledge of the geographic features of the Middle East and of the major political boundaries, alliances, and power struggles that characterize the contemporary Middle East.

- an understanding of cultural diversity issues in the Middle East in the context of the prevalent political, social, and cultural institutions and structures

To ensure that the program is meeting these learning outcomes, the program Co-Directors will:

- Meet annually to review the aforementioned outcomes and adjust as courses are added, changed, or deleted from the program;
- Meet annually to review the outcomes of all courses offered in the minor program and seek to align them with the programmatic learning outcomes mentioned above;
- Carefully examine the findings of the Continuous Improvement Plans for all courses eligible for credit in the minor each year (provided CIPs are required) and adjust learning outcomes as needed;
- Conduct a survey of students who complete the minor to determine their learning vis-à-vis the program outcomes.

7. Relationship of the minor to other programs at Iowa State University.

Currently, there is no program of study involving the Middle East nor is there a mechanism for building an individualized program through any cross-disciplinary program or particular department. On the contrary, there is rather a series of courses in language, history, political science, classical studies religious study, and the environment that, when brought together, can constitute a minor.

8. Relationship of the minor to the strategic plans of the university, of the college, and of department or program.

This minor builds on the core educational mission and strengths of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences within the LAS signature theme of *Global Citizens, Education, and Technology*. The proposal will contribute to one of the LAS goals to help students “thrive in a global, rapidly changing world” and prepare “culturally literate individuals who are able to live and work effectively in diverse communities” such as those found in the Middle East.

The minor also encompasses the LAS Strategic Plan goals for 2017-2022 since it will enhance the education of students by helping them “be successful in the world and in addressing global challenges” and by maximizing their impact and competitiveness. Moreover, it will contribute to the goal of increasing “the effectiveness of LAS communication and outreach programs” by cultivating and expanding relationships around the world, in this case, the Middle East. In sum, the minor fits into the LAS commitment to “diversity, inclusion, and cultural competency” as it prepares students to “work successfully in a diverse, globally connected world.”

With respect to the ISU strategic plan, given that the minor being proposed serves to educate and culturally-inform ISU students who may work globally, most of the goals of the ISU Strategic Plan are relevant. In particular, we cite Sub goal 1.3, “Provide learning opportunities to prepare students for lives and careers in a dynamic, global community.” Because of its geopolitical location, the Middle East has been a site of intersection for

world cultures throughout history, and migrations from—and within—the region have enormous consequences on the world. In particular, groups who have migrated to the U.S. have contributed to the nation’s ever-growing demographic diversity which has concurrently yielded a need for cultural understanding of these groups by ISU students. Similarly, the countries and regions that constitute the Middle East are a focus for specific socio-political, cultural, and economic issues that face the rest of the world—and the U.S. in particular. As such, ISU will benefit in its leadership role by providing skills such as critical thinking and communication on topics that are often considered challenging to students from the U.S. while providing a solid foundation and knowledge on which to build a successful career in the global workplace.

9. Comparison of the proposed minor with similar programs at other universities, including the Regent’s universities.

No Iowa Regents university currently offers a Middle Eastern Studies major or minor. Instead, the University of Iowa has an “Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies” track within its multidisciplinary International Studies B.A. Similarly, the University of Northern Iowa offers coursework in Middle Eastern studies leading to the completion of a minor or certificate in international business.

As noted above, many AAU universities and R1 universities currently have a minor (or major) in Middle Eastern Studies or a closely related, but otherwise named, areas such as Arabic, Arabic Studies and Islamic or Muslim Studies. Nationally, Middle Eastern Studies is a growing area of humanities and social science scholarship and we fear that ISU is falling behind its peers.

Specifically, among Iowa State’s Peer Land Grant Universities, the following universities offer a major or minor:

- University of California-Davis: Major in Middle East/South Asia Studies
- University of Illinois-Urbana: MA in Middle Eastern Studies; Minor in Study of the Islamic World
- Michigan State University: Minor in Muslim Studies
- University of Minnesota: Middle Eastern Studies Minor
- North Carolina State University: Minor in Middle East Studies
- Ohio State University: B.A. in Arabic, Minor in Arabic, Islamic Studies Major, and a concentration within the International Studies B.A.
- Pennsylvania State University: Middle Eastern Studies Minor
- Purdue University: Islamic Studies Minor
- Texas A&M University: Middle Eastern Studies Track within International Studies Major
- University of Wisconsin-Madison: Middle Eastern Studies Certificate

10. Program requirements and procedures, including:

a. All students pursuing the minor in Middle Eastern Studies must:

-Take the following Courses:

HIST 435: Modern Middle East (3 cr.)

POLS 350: Politics of the Middle East (3 cr.)
RELS 358: Introduction to Islam (3 cr.)

-Choose at least six elective credits chosen from a list of approved courses:

ARABC 201: Intermediate Arabic I (4 cr.)
ARABC 202: Intermediate Arabic II (4 cr.)
ARABC 375: Arabic Culture (3 cr.)
ART H 384: Art of Islam (3 cr.)
HIST 331: Islamic World to 1800 (3 cr.)
RELIG 242: History of Christianity: Beginnings to the Reformation
RELIG 259x: The Quran (3 cr.)
RELIG 333: Introduction to Judaism (3 cr.)
WLC 370B: Topics in World Languages and Cultures in English Translation: Middle East (topics such as Environmental Issues in the Middle East, 1001 Arabian Nights, etc.)

Catalog Note: students interested in focusing on Arabic language should take ARABC 201 and ARABC 202.

Additionally, we intend to propose a variety of new, more specialized courses in order to round out a robust roster of electives. Our tentative plans include the following areas: Migration/Exile; Gender in the Middle East; Political Islam; Environmental History of the Middle East, etc. However, while these are courses planned for the future, the viability of the minor is not dependent upon them, rather students can already choose from a variety of existing courses that will count for credit. Students who wish to transfer credit to the minor may do so.

Advising will be handled by existing advisers in the Department of World Languages and Cultures who will be supported by the advising team in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Credit earned on an ISU-approved study abroad program in a Middle Eastern or North African country can apply toward the minor Middle Eastern Studies.

b. application and selection process

The minor is intended for students pursuing or holding a baccalaureate degree at ISU and no prior experience with courses in the subject matter is required. Open to all interested parties.

c. language requirements;

All students pursuing the minor in Middle Eastern Studies must demonstrate proficiency in Arabic (or another approved language from the region) by completing the 102 level (or higher). Other languages spoken in the Middle East (e.g. Hebrew, Persian [Farsi], Kurdish, Turkish, Pashto, etc.) would be accepted upon petition to the program Directors.

These languages are not currently taught at Iowa State, however, so it is expected that students with study in any of them would transfer the credit into the program.

d. courses and seminars presently available for credit toward the program;

Current courses related to Arabic language and Middle Eastern Studies are listed below. Please also see the addendum at the end of this document which provides their course descriptions:

- ARABC 101: Elementary Arabic I (4 cr.)
 - ARABC 102: Elementary Arabic II (4 cr.)
 - ARABC 201: Intermediate Arabic I (4 cr.)
 - ARABC 202: Intermediate Arabic II (4 cr.)
 - ARABC 375: Arabic Culture (3 cr.)
 - ARABC 490: Independent Study (1-6 cr.)
 - ART H: Art of Islam (3 cr.)
 - HIST 331: History of the Islamic World to 1800 (3 cr.)
 - HIST 435: Modern Middle East (3 cr.)
 - POLS 350: Politics of the Middle East (3 cr.)
 - RELIG 242: History of Christianity: Beginnings to the Reformation
 - RELIG 333: Introduction to Judaism (3 cr.)
 - RELIG 358: Intro to Islam (3 cr.)
 - RELIG 359x: The Quran (3 cr.)
 - WLC 370B: Topics in World Languages and Cultures in English Translation: Middle East (topics such as Environmental Issues in the Middle East, 1001 Arabian Nights, etc.)
- Up to 3 credits related to Middle Eastern topics that are earned on an approved study abroad program can be applied toward the minor.
 - e. proposed new courses or modifications of existing courses:

At the time of writing this proposal, one new course is being proposed, History 2XX: Political Islam, and there is discussion of developing “Women and Gender in the Middle East” in conjunction with Women and Gender Studies. Also, courses from Philosophy and Religious Studies dealing with the pre-Modern Islamic world are also being discussed.

No modifications to existing courses that will complement the Middle Eastern Studies minor are planned. Given that Arabic 101-102 is required for the minor, please note that student demand for Arabic language has been consistent over the past 4-5 years with around 40 students taking 101 and 25 taking 102. In short, there will be no problems offering 101-102 in the future. Similarly, HIST 435 has been successfully offered twice with enrollments of 26 (its enrollment limit); HIST 331 has been offered four times with enrollments between 19 and 44 students. POL S 350 has been taught twice with enrollments of 41 and 55.

- f. advising of students;

The Department of World Languages and Cultures employs two full time advisers and will assume all advising duties and responsibilities related to the Middle Eastern Studies minor. They currently advise majors in Anthropology, French, German, and Spanish as well as minors in those disciplines as well as Chinese and Russian. Additionally, the WLC advisers support the LAS Cross Disciplinary Studies programs in American Indian Studies (minor), Classical Studies (major and minor), and U.S. Latino/a Studies (minor)

and consult on the International Studies (major and minor). Moreover, it provides support to the other areas taught in WLC: world film studies (minor), Arabic, American Sign Language, Greek, Italian, Latin, Portuguese, and Swahili. As one can see, the WLC advisers are well positioned to advise for the Middle Eastern Studies minor as they are well versed on a wide array of offerings, policies, and procedures at Iowa State.

The minor co-directors, Drs. Gabiam and Low, will have discretion over approving course substitutions, study abroad credit, and making appropriate changes to the minor in the event that one or another course cannot be offered.

- g. implications for related areas within the university.
- The proposed minor will enhance the demand for currently offered courses. In particular, the demand for all of the courses related to the Middle East will increase.
- The proposed minor also will provide a meaningful credential for students in all areas of the university who seek to put their study of the Middle East to work in their profession, particularly in the area of science and technology, agriculture and life sciences, and government and non-governmental organizations.
- The proposed minor will be a significant credential that would assist and increase the numbers of students looking to apply for Critical Language Scholarships, Boren NSEP scholarships, Fulbrights, the ROTC's Project GO, and other major awards with language study/national security implications. Recent graduates from Iowa State were better positioned to take advantage of such opportunities due to their study of courses related to Arabic and the Middle East.
- Since there is absolutely no competing program in any ISU College, the Middle Eastern Studies minor should enhance the university offerings and will not compete in any way with existing academic programs.
- Co-Director Dr. Nell Gabiam (along with Drs. Cristina Poleacovshi from Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering and Carl Weems from Human Development and Family Studies) has received funding under the "Bridging the Divide" program to study the European response to refugee crises emanating from the Middle East which demonstrates the program's commitment to interdisciplinarity as it seeks collaboration across campus.
- Co-Director Michael Cristopher Low is a member of a major partnership grant awarded by the Social Science and Humanities Council of Canada Partnership Grant for 2018-2025. Dr. Low is a member of one team that will focus on issues in the Middle East in the area of Human-Environment interaction. The project, led by McGill University's Indian Ocean World Centre, is comprised of more than twenty international researchers who are partnering with over twenty other international universities and centers, including faculty and centers with strong Middle East presences: Aga Khan University (London/Karachi), Zentrum Moderner Orient (Berlin), Boğaziçi University (Turkey), Namık Kemal University (Turkey), as well as several insitutions in the U.S. such as the University of Minnesota. As part of the project, Dr. Low will develop a campus working group made

up of faculty from the humanities, social sciences and hard sciences who will organize an international conference at Iowa State as well as other possible events. As part of the Middle Eastern research team, Low and Iowa State's prospective Ph.D. student will receive support to attend international summer schools, pursue project-related research, attend project functions and contribute to partnership publications. Their work will have a positive impact the proposed minor and its future success as they work to increase awareness of the Middle East.

11. General description of the resources currently available and future resource needs, in terms of:

As discussed below, no new resources (facilities, collections, student or administrative support, faculty hires) are needed for this minor.

Faculty members currently involved in the project include:

- Michael Christopher Low, Assistant Professor History (Co-Director)
- Nell Gabiam, Associate Professor, World Languages and Cultures and Political Science (Co-Director)
- George Archer, Assistant Professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies
- Ghinwa Alameen, Lecturer, World Languages and Cultures
- Jean-Pierre Taoutel, Senior Lecturer, World Languages and Cultures

12. Describe the needs for new resources and/or reallocated resources. Attach to the program proposal memos from the department chair(s), the college dean(s), and other appropriate persons, agreeing to the allocation of new resources and/or the reallocation of resources.

No new resources are being requested and no reallocations are needed. All of the courses that will comprise the minor concentrations are currently in place and are regularly taught. New courses eligible for inclusion in the minor are being planned separately and are not dependent upon the ratification of this minor proposal. Moreover, sufficient flexibility is built into the minor such that if any existing course cannot be offered, other approved options exist. Administration and advising for the minor will be assumed by the Department of World Languages and Cultures as part of its existing portfolio of majors and minors.

13. Attach to the program proposal, letters of support, recommendations, and statements when appropriate, from programs and departments at ISU which are associated with the proposed program or have an interest in the proposed program.

Letters of support have been collected from the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Chairs from the Departments involved (WLC, HIST, POLS, PHIL/RELIG), and from stakeholders from ISU who are interested in the success of the minor such as ROTC and Military Science.

14. If the new program is interdisciplinary, a governance document should be created and submitted to the Associate Provost for Academic Programs. Indicate here that it has been completed.

The proposed minor is not an interdisciplinary (or inter-collegiate) program. Like other programs administered through WLC, responsibility for overseeing the curriculum for the minor will

belong to the Directors of the Middle Eastern Studies Program in consultation with department advisers. Any changes to the minor including new course will be proposed by the Directors and be approved by the WLC Curriculum Committee, and the Department Chair has final authority. The Co-Directors will serve an initial term of 3 years. After which time, the program faculty and the Department Chair will reappoint or rotate the directorship.

Appendix: Courses related to Arabic language and Middle Eastern Studies

ARABC 101: Elementary Arabic I (4 cr.)

Beginning level development of reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking in Arabic, within the context of Arabic culture. Attention to the use of the Arabic alphabet.

ARABC 102: Elementary Arabic II (4 cr.)

Prereq: ARABC 101 or placement by department exam.

Continuation of ARABC 101. Beginning level development of reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking in Arabic, within the context of Arabic culture.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

ARABC 201: Intermediate Arabic I (4 cr.)

Prereq: ARABC 102 or placement by department exam

Intermediate level development of reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking in Arabic, within the context of Arabic culture.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

ARABC 202: Intermediate Arabic II (4 cr.)

Prereq: ARABC 201 or placement by department exam

Continuation of Arabic 201. Intermediate level development of reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking in Arabic, within the context of Arabic culture.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

ARABC 375: Arabic Culture (3 cr.)

Survey of contemporary Arabic culture in the Middle East and North Africa as reflected in history, language, the arts, and social institutions with attention to the Arab Diaspora. Taught in English.

ARABC 490: Independent Study (1-6 cr.)

Prereq: Permission of Arabic staff and department Chair.

Independent study with focus on areas other than those in which courses are offered. No more than 6 credits in ARABC 490 may be counted toward graduation.

ART H 384: Art of Islam (3 cr.)

Historical survey of the painting, sculpture, crafts, and architecture of the various civilizations of the Islamic world. Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

HIST 331: History of the Islamic World to 1800 (3 cr.)

Prereq: 3 credits of 200-level HIST at Iowa State and sophomore classification.

Survey of the Islamic world from pre-Islamic Arabia to the 19th century covering the life of the Prophet Muhammad, the spread of Islam through the Arab conquests and the Caliphal dynasties of the Umayyads and the Abbasids, the Mongol conquests, Turkic migrations from Central Asia, and the rise of the Ottoman Empire.

HIST 435: Modern Middle East (3 cr.)

Prereqs: HIST 201, 202, 331X, or RELIG 358. Ottoman and Qajar reform movements; constitutional revolutions; European legal imperialism; colonialism; World War I and the mandate system; Israeli-Palestinian conflict; Arab

nationalism; the Islamic Revolution in Iran; Islamist movements; oil resources; terrorism; sectarianism.
Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

POLS 350: Politics of the Middle East (3 cr.)

Introduction to the Middle East as a region and to issues of political importance to the Middle East and its place in the world. Topics covered include political Islam, regional conflicts and alliances, local leaders, political economy, democracy, and human rights.
Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

RELIG 242: History of Christianity: Beginning to the Reformation (3 cr.)

A survey of the major historical developments in Christian thought and practice that shaped Christianity from the time of Jesus through the late medieval period. Attention given to significant persons and major events, including those involving relations with Judaism and Islam.
Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

RELIG 295x: The Quran (3 cr.)

A study of the Qur'an, the sacred text of Islam, with attention to its history, its major themes, and the diverse ways it is interpreted and applied.
Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

RELIG 333: Introduction to Judaism (3 cr.)

An introduction to basic Judaism. Special attention is given to Jewish sacred texts, rituals, social practices, and modern forms.
Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

RELIG 358: Intro to Islam (3 cr.)

An introduction to Islamic religion, culture, and society from 700 to the present.
Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

RELIG 359X. Quran. (3-0) Cr. 3 S. *Prereq: Recommended: RELIG 358.* A study of the Quran, the sacred text of Islam, with attention to its history, its major themes, and the diverse ways it is interpreted and applied.
Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

WLC 370B: Topics in World Languages and Cultures in English Translation: Middle East (3 cr.)

Topics vary according to faculty interest. Author, genre or period study, women's writing, cinema, or cultural studies of a non-English speaking world culture or cultures. Readings, discussion, and written work in English.
Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

Appendix:

Letters of Support from LAS Chairs and Program Directors

From: Geirsson, Heimir [PH RS] geirsson@iastate.edu
Subject: RE: Minor in Middle Eastern Studies
Date: February 27, 2019 at 9:52 AM
To: Gasta, Chad [WLC] gasta@iastate.edu



Chad, a very nice job and a nice addition to the ISU offerings. I am also pleased to see that one of our own, George Archer, is participating in the program.

Heimir

From: Gasta, Chad [WLC]
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:19 AM
To: Cordery, Simon C [HIST] <scordery@iastate.edu>; Geirsson, Heimir [PH RS] <geirsson@iastate.edu>; Shelley, Mack C [POL S] <mshelley@iastate.edu>; McTernan, William E [AFAS] <mcternan@iastate.edu>; Dial, Ethan P [M S] <epdial@iastate.edu>; Curtis, Scott B [N S] <sbcurtis@iastate.edu>
Cc: Gabiam, Nell [WLC] <ngabiam@iastate.edu>; Low, Michael C [HIST] <low@iastate.edu>
Subject: Minor in Middle Eastern Studies

Dear Colleagues,

I have been working with Nell Gabiam and Chris Low on a proposal for an interdisciplinary minor in Middle Eastern Studies which takes advantage of existing courses in this area (from WLC, History, Political Science, and Philosophy and Religious Studies) as well as a few others that are planned in the future. The minor proposal is attached and we are seeking your support for this project. If you agree, you would only need provide me a statement by email indicating your support.

FYI: the proposal has already been vetted by Associate Dean Amy Slagell. From here, the WLC Curriculum Committee will review before WLC faculty vote. At that point, pending a successful outcome, the proposal will go to the LAS Curriculum Committee and the LAS Representative Assembly.

I believe the proposal maps out the reasons and justifications for a minor in this area and it details the courses included. If you have any questions, please let me, Chris, or Nell know... we would be happy to discuss further. In the interim, I hope you will agree that this minor would make an important addition to LAS' curricular offerings.

Many thanks,
Chad

Chad M. Gasta
Professor and Chair
World Languages and Cultures
Director, International Studies
Co-Director, Languages and Cultures for Professions (LCP)
Iowa State University
3102 Pearson Hall
Ames, IA 50011

From: Curtis, Scott B [N S] sbcurtis@iastate.edu

Subject: RE: Minor in Middle Eastern Studies

Date: February 27, 2019 at 10:52 AM

To: Gasta, Chad [WLC] gasta@iastate.edu, Cordery, Simon C [HIST] scordery@iastate.edu, Geirsson, Heimir [PH RS] geirsson@iastate.edu, Shelley, Mack C [POL S] mshelley@iastate.edu, McTernan, William E [AFAS] mcternan@iastate.edu, Dial, Ethan P [M S] epdial@iastate.edu

Cc: Gabiam, Nell [WLC] ngabiam@iastate.edu, Low, Michael C [HIST] low@iastate.edu, Curtis, Scott B [N S] sbcurtis@iastate.edu

Chad,

I certainly support this minor and I think there is significant value in offering this. The fact that the U.S. military is now in our 17th year of conflict in Afghanistan stems, in large part, from the lack of comprehension of the Afghan tribal culture when we invaded in 2001.

Among my Midshipmen, there will be limited opportunity to participate, however. This is because the vast majority (~70%) are engineering majors who, when combined with their Naval Science course requirements, are normally around 18 credits per semester. So adding additional courses, that do not dual-count toward their degree, will be difficult.

That being said, I do have a number of non-technical majors (e.g., political science, criminal justice) that would be able to take advantage.

Thanks for offering this – I'll pass on to my Midshipmen once it's somewhat official.

Scott

Captain Scott Curtis
Commanding Officer
Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps
Iowa State University
(515) 294-0326
RM 3, Armory
2519 Osborn Drive
Ames, Iowa 50011-1049

From: Gasta, Chad [WLC] <gasta@iastate.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:19 AM

To: Cordery, Simon C [HIST] <scordery@iastate.edu>; Geirsson, Heimir [PH RS] <geirsson@iastate.edu>; Shelley, Mack C [POL S] <mshelley@iastate.edu>; McTernan, William E [AFAS] <mcternan@iastate.edu>; Dial, Ethan P [M S] <epdial@iastate.edu>; Curtis, Scott B [N S] <sbcurtis@iastate.edu>

Cc: Gabiam, Nell [WLC] <ngabiam@iastate.edu>; Low, Michael C [HIST] <low@iastate.edu>

Subject: Minor in Middle Eastern Studies

Dear Colleagues,

I have been working with Nell Gabiam and Chris Low on a proposal for an interdisciplinary minor in Middle Eastern Studies which takes advantage of existing courses in this area

From: Dial, Ethan P [M S] epdial@iastate.edu

Subject: RE: Minor in Middle Eastern Studies

Date: February 27, 2019 at 1:00 PM

To: Gasta, Chad [WLC] gasta@iastate.edu, Cordery, Simon C [HIST] scordery@iastate.edu, Geirsson, Heimir [PH RS] geirsson@iastate.edu, Shelley, Mack C [POL S] mshelley@iastate.edu, McTernan, William E [AFAS] mcternan@iastate.edu, Curtis, Scott B [N S] sbcurtis@iastate.edu

Cc: Gabiam, Nell [WLC] ngabiam@iastate.edu, Low, Michael C [HIST] low@iastate.edu

Sir,

I echo CAPT Curtis' comments that sustained efforts by the US Government in this region indicate a definite need for a deeper understanding of the people, culture, and how conflicts can be resolved through education.

Of note, Army ROTC Cadets must complete a one-semester or equivalent course in American Military History offered by the University, developing their awareness of the relationship between the military establishment in society, particularly in the US. This minor for our history majors may be an excellent addition to their course load for future career opportunities in the Army in the Civil Affairs, Foreign Area Officer, Strategic Intelligence, or Strategic Plans and Policy tracks.

V/R,

Ethan P. Dial, LTC, AV

Professor of Military Science

College of LAS, Army ROTC

Iowa State University--Cyclone Battalion

ethan.p.dial.mil@mail.mil

epdial@iastate.edu

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Iowa State website: (www.armyrotc.iastate.edu)

Facebook: (<http://www.facebook.com/CycloneBattalionArmyRotc>)

Instagram: [cyclone_army_rotc](#)

Twitter: [@CycloneROTC](#)

Military Science Classes: (http://catalog.iastate.edu/azcourses/m_s/)

"Be Strong And Courageous!"

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Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:19 AM

To: Cordery, Simon C [HIST] <scordery@iastate.edu>; Geirsson, Heimir [PH RS] <geirsson@iastate.edu>; Shelley, Mack C [POL S] <mshelley@iastate.edu>; McTernan, William E [AFAS] <mcternan@iastate.edu>; Dial, Ethan P [M S] <epdial@iastate.edu>; Curtis, Scott B [N S] <sbcurtis@iastate.edu>

Cc: Gabiam, Nell [WLC] <ngabiam@iastate.edu>; Low, Michael C [HIST] <low@iastate.edu>

Subject: Minor in Middle Eastern Studies

Dear Colleagues,

I have been working with Nell Gabiam and Chris Low on a proposal for an interdisciplinary minor in Middle Eastern Studies which takes advantage of existing courses in this area

From: Shelley, Mack C [POL S] mshelley@iastate.edu

Subject: RE: Minor in Middle Eastern Studies

Date: February 27, 2019 at 11:44 AM

To: Gasta, Chad [WLC] gasta@iastate.edu, Cordery, Simon C [HIST] scordery@iastate.edu, Geirsson, Heimir [PH RS] geirsson@iastate.edu, McTernan, William E [AFAS] mcternan@iastate.edu, Dial, Ethan P [M S] epdial@iastate.edu, Curtis, Scott B [N S] sbcurtis@iastate.edu

Cc: Gabiam, Nell [WLC] ngabiam@iastate.edu, Low, Michael C [HIST] low@iastate.edu

Chad,

Political Science is delighted to support the Middle Eastern Studies minor.

Thanks very much for this initiative.

--Mack

From: Gasta, Chad [WLC] <gasta@iastate.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:19 AM

To: Cordery, Simon C [HIST] <scordery@iastate.edu>; Geirsson, Heimir [PH RS] <geirsson@iastate.edu>; Shelley, Mack C [POL S] <mshelley@iastate.edu>; McTernan, William E [AFAS] <mcternan@iastate.edu>; Dial, Ethan P [M S] <epdial@iastate.edu>; Curtis, Scott B [N S] <sbcurtis@iastate.edu>

Cc: Gabiam, Nell [WLC] <ngabiam@iastate.edu>; Low, Michael C [HIST] <low@iastate.edu>

Subject: Minor in Middle Eastern Studies

Dear Colleagues,

I have been working with Nell Gabiam and Chris Low on a proposal for an interdisciplinary minor in Middle Eastern Studies which takes advantage of existing courses in this area (from WLC, History, Political Science, and Philosophy and Religious Studies) as well as a few others that are planned in the future. The minor proposal is attached and we are seeking your support for this project. If you agree, you would only need provide me a statement by email indicating your support.

FYI: the proposal has already been vetted by Associate Dean Amy Slagell. From here, the WLC Curriculum Committee will review before WLC faculty vote. At that point, pending a successful outcome, the proposal will go to the LAS Curriculum Committee and the LAS Representative Assembly.

I believe the proposal maps out the reasons and justifications for a minor in this area and it details the courses included. If you have any questions, please let me, Chris, or Nell know... we would be happy to discuss further. In the interim, I hope you will agree that this minor would make an important addition to LAS' curricular offerings.

Many thanks,
Chad

Chad M. Gasta

From: Cordery, Simon C [HIST] scordery@iastate.edu

Subject: Re: Minor in Middle Eastern Studies

Date: February 28, 2019 at 3:18 PM

To: Gasta, Chad [WLC] gasta@iastate.edu, Geirsson, Heimir [PH RS] geirsson@iastate.edu, Shelley, Mack C [POL S] mshelley@iastate.edu, McTernan, William E [AFAS] mcternan@iastate.edu, Dial, Ethan P [M S] epdial@iastate.edu, Curtis, Scott B [N S] sbcurtis@iastate.edu

Cc: Gabiam, Nell [WLC] ngabiam@iastate.edu, Low, Michael C [HIST] low@iastate.edu

Chad,

I agree that this Minor should go forward,

Simon

Simon Cordery
Professor and Chair
Department of History
Iowa State University
603 Ross Hall
527 Farm House Lane
Ames, IA 50011-1202

515-294-7266

scordery@iastate.edu

From: "Gasta, Chad [WLC]" <gasta@iastate.edu>

Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 9:18 AM

To: "Cordery, Simon C [HIST]" <scordery@iastate.edu>, "Geirsson, Heimir [PH RS]" <geirsson@iastate.edu>, "Shelley, Mack C [POL S]" <mshelley@iastate.edu>, "McTernan, William E [AFAS]" <mcternan@iastate.edu>, "Dial, Ethan P [M S]" <epdial@iastate.edu>, "Curtis, Scott B [N S]" <sbcurtis@iastate.edu>

Cc: "Gabiam, Nell [WLC]" <ngabiam@iastate.edu>, "Low, Michael C [HIST]" <low@iastate.edu>

Subject: Minor in Middle Eastern Studies

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