

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL
concerning
REVISION OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) PROGRAM
IN MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUDAIC AND NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

Presented at the
769th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
May 4, 2017

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The Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies is proposing to revise its BA program in Middle Eastern Studies, by expanding the set of courses that can be used to satisfy the program's upper-level credits requirement. The goal of the proposal is to support both students and enrollments in program courses by giving students more course options for meeting degree requirements.

At its meeting on April 12, 2017, the Academic Matters Council voted unanimously to recommend Faculty Senate approval of the proposal. It was submitted as Proposal #3856 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Program in Middle Eastern Studies in the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 17-073.

31-17

Please describe your proposal.

Apply 200-level courses to the required 24 credits in Middle Eastern subjects.

Please describe the existing program requirements, listing all required courses and available electives, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

1. HISTORY 130 and 131
2. Fulfilling the intermediate level requirement (two years) in a Middle Eastern language
3. 24 upper-level credits (300+ level courses) in Middle Eastern Studies subjects
4. Junior Year Writing requirement
5. The Integrative Experience seminar in senior year

Please describe the requirements that you are proposing, listing course requirements, elective options, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

1. HISTORY 130 and 131 (or approved 100-level Middle Eastern Studies courses)
2. Two years of a language of the region, normally fulfilled by two-year Modern Standard Arabic classroom sequence at UMass (101, 102, 201 and 202 OR 126, 146, 226 and 246)
3. 24 credits in Middle Eastern Studies courses chosen from an approved list of courses offered by the Five College consortium.
4. Junior Year Writing requirement
5. The Integrative Experience seminar in senior year

Notes:

- The major in Middle Eastern Studies requires at least a C grade in courses taken towards the major.
- No course with a Pass grade can be accepted for major credit.
- Departmental Honors require an Honors project undertaken during a student's final year.

Middle Eastern Studies Courses at UMass Amherst

HISTORY 130, 131 Middle East History I & II
189 Culture & Immigration in Israel
190A Water, Oil and Blood: The Middle East in Global Policy
190B Women, Gender, and Sexuality in the Middle East
COMPLIT 261H Modern Arabic Literature
290A The Middle East and the World 1400-1800
HISTORY 343H Modern Middle East
344 Film and Society in Israel
ARTH 347, 348 Islamic Art & Architecture I & II
ANTHRO 350 Israel & Palestine
360 Arabic & Hebrew in their Social Settings
377 Popular Culture in Israel & Palestine
390B Borderlands of Islam
390D Sufism: Islamic Mystical Traditions
391A Islamic Society and Cultures in the Middle Ages
391PT Medieval Political Thought
392MA Modern Arab Political Thought
393R Islamic Political Thought
HISTORY 394TI Mongol & Turkish Empires
HISTORY 397AH Regional History: Mediterranean Since 1500
ANTHRO 397FF ST: Archaeology of Egypt & Nubia
ANTHRO 498F Archaeology, Survey and Conservation

Additional Five College Courses are included on our website: <https://www.umass.edu/jne/courses-middle-eastern-studies>

Please provide the rationale for these revisions.

Including 200-level courses in our requirements will support both our students and enrollments, by giving students more opportunities to take classes in the department which count towards the major. We have recently begun offering 200 level courses, and this change will offer them with a greater chance of enrollment.

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

No additional resources required.

We anticipate an increase in our enrollments with the addition of 200-level courses in our department, targeting those who wish to fulfill general education requirements, and those who may be interested in majoring or minoring in the department. As our department has modest enrollments beyond the 100-level, we are equipped to accommodate greater enrollments, and do not require additional resources at this time.