The Concentration in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies gives students basic knowledge of the Middle East and broader Muslim world, and allows students to employ discipline-specific tools for advanced work in this area.

The faculty at Haverford College who research and study the Middle East and Islam are committed to educating students about the politics, histories, and socio-cultural formations of the Middle East and broader Muslim world. We believe that our students must have basic knowledge about the Middle East and Islam if they are to participate thoughtfully and constructively in the many contentious debates that frame public discourse about Muslims and the Middle East today.

LEARNING GOALS
Students in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies will:
• learn the politics, histories, and socio-cultural formations of the Middle East and broader Muslim world.
• gain knowledge of key political, economic, and social issues in the contemporary Middle East.
• demonstrate competence in a language pertinent to the students’ areas of research.

CURRICULUM
An “Area of Concentration” at Haverford is designed to facilitate a student pursuing an area of study distinct from her major, but which he or she can use the disciplinary tools of the major to pursue. To that end, at least two courses, and no more than three, may fulfill both the student’s major requirements and the concentration requirements. In practical terms, this means that students who want to concentrate in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies usually major in anthropology, comparative literature, history, political science, religion, sociology, or Spanish.

In some cases, students may find that they can combine other majors with a concentration in MEIS (for example, History of Art and Growth and Structure of Cities at Bryn Mawr are two departments that sometimes have two or three course offerings that could count for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies). Students who can demonstrate that at least two courses in their major are about Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies can petition the concentration coordinator and faculty to approve their major as one that can be linked to the MEIS concentration.

We strongly encourage students with interests in the Middle East and Islam to meet with the concentration coordinator early in their college program (during their first and second years). We also invite students to take advantage of Haverford’s study abroad programs in Jordan, Morocco, Israel, and other appropriate locations to advance their work in the concentration.

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS
The MEIS concentration is normally available to students majoring in anthropology, history, political science, religion, sociology, or Spanish. Courses from their major must represent at least two but no more than three of the requirements detailed below. Proposals to concentrate on the basis of other majors must be approved in advance by concentration coordinator.

Language Competence
Students must demonstrate competence above the intermediate level in a language pertinent to their area of research:
• In cases where a student has selected Arabic as his or her relevant language, this means completion of ARAB 004.
• If a student is doing research for which another language is more appropriate, he or she may need to study at the University of Pennsylvania (Pashtu, Persian, Turkish and Swahili) or Bryn Mawr (Hebrew), or take other Haverford language classes (e.g., Chinese, French).

Some study abroad programs are also suitable for gaining language competence. Students should consult with the concentration coordinator about the course of language study to fill this requirement.

Core Courses
Students must take two of the core courses listed below, in which they learn about the Middle East
and Islam. Students must choose from two of the three departments listed (e.g., history and political science, history and religion, political science and religion). Students should consult the concentration coordinator to ensure they fill this requirement.

By completing this core requirement, students gain broad exposure to the history and politics of the Middle East, and to Islam as a major world religion and social and political force that began in, and continues to be affected by, the Middle East.

The core course options are:

- **History:**
  - HIST 117 (Modern Mediterranean History)
  - HIST 266 (Sex and Gender in the Early Modern Islamic World)
  - HIST 270 (From Empire to Nation: The Ottoman World Transformed)

- **Political Science:**
  - POLS 256 (The Evolution of Jihadi Movement)
  - POLS 357 (Conflict in the Middle East)

- **Religion:**
  - RELG 108 (Vocabularies of Islam)
  - RELG 218 (The Divine Guide: An Introduction to Shi'ism)
  - RELG 248 (The Qur’an)

**Elective Courses**

Students should pursue areas of inquiry related to the Middle East and/or Islam and specific to their interests by taking four electives, at least one of which is at the 300 level. Examples might include anthropological approaches to the study of Islam or Middle East, the art of the Muslim world, Islam in African politics, medieval Persian history, Jihadi movements, the Iranian Revolution, modern Arabic literature, etc.

To fulfill their elective credit, students may select from a list of designated electives at Bryn Mawr and Swarthmore, or request approval from the concentration coordinator to take other appropriate courses at Bryn Mawr, Swarthmore, or the University of Pennsylvania’s Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Program. Students may also petition the concentration coordinator and MEIS faculty for approval of a course that is not on the electives list but which the student feels provides important content for his or her specific research topic.

See the end of this section of the Catalog for a list of approved courses for the concentration. A current list is available from the concentration coordinator.

**Senior Thesis**

Students must write a thesis in their major department (anthropology, history, political science, religion or sociology) that addresses Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies and that the concentration coordinator (as well as the major adviser) approves. The concentration coordinator must approve this thesis topic in advance to count for the MEIS concentration. To request approval, students should submit a brief (one page) thesis proposal to the concentration coordinator and arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal.

**STUDY ABROAD**

Students may fulfill some of the required courses for the Concentration in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies in study abroad programs. Some such programs that offer intensive language training can also count toward fulfilling the language requirement. Students are encouraged to consult with Dean Donna Mancini and the concentration coordinator about study abroad options.

**FACULTY**

**Barak Mendelsohn**
Concentration Coordinator and Associate Professor of Political Science

**Kameliya Atanasova**
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion

**Mark Gould**
Professor of Sociology

**Alexander Kitroeff**
Associate Professor of History

**Naomi Koltun-Fromm**
Professor of Religion

**Zainab Saleh**
Assistant Professor of Anthropology

**Susanna Wing**
Associate Professor of Political Science

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COURSES
The following courses at Haverford fulfill the MEIS elective requirement. Courses marked with asterisks will be taught in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Anthropology:
• ANTH 241 (Anthropology of the Mediterranean)
• ANTH 259 (Ethnographies of Islam)
• ANTH 361 (Advanced Topics in Ethnographic Area Studies: Middle Eastern Nationalisms)

History:
• HIST 117 (Modern Mediterranean History)*
• HIST 266 (Sex and Gender in the Early Modern Islamic World)
• HIST 270 (From Empire to Nation: The Ottoman World Transformed)

Peace, Justice, and Human Rights:
• PEAC 304 (Cosmopolitanism and Toleration in Enlightenment Europe)

Political Science
• POLS 151 (International Politics)*
• POLS 253 (Introduction to Terrorism Studies)*
• POLS 256 (The Evolution of the Jihadi Movement)
• POLS 313 (Armed Nonstate Actors in International Politics)*
• POLS 333 (International Security)
• POLS 345 (Islam, Democracy and Development)
• POLS 357 (Conflict in the Middle East)*
• POLS 358 (The War on Terrorism)

Religion:
• RELG 108 (Vocabularies of Islam)*
• RELG 118 (Hebrew Bible: Literary Text and Historical Context)
• RELG 203 (The Hebrew Bible and Its Interpretations)
• RELG 212 (Jerusalem: City, History and Representation)
• RELG 218 (The Divine Guide: An Introduction of Shi’ism)
• RELG 248 (The Qur’an)
• RELG 258 (Gender and Power in Modern Jewish and Christian Thought)
• RELG 306 (Of Monsters and Marvels: Wonder in Islamic Traditions)
• RELG 307 (Imaging Islam: Icon, Object, and Image)
• RELG 308 (Mystical Literatures of Islam)
• RELG 361 (Hindus and Muslims in South Asia)

Sociology:
• SOCL 207 (Internal Disorder: Deviance and Revolution)
• SOCL 233 (Topics in Sociology: Islamic Modernism)
• SOCL 237 (Topics in Historical Sociology)
• SOCL 298 (Law and Sociology)

Spanish/Comparative Literature:
• SPAN 266 (Iberian Orientalism and the Nation)
• SPAN 340 (The Moor in Spanish Literature)

COURSES AT BRYN MAWR COLLEGE (FALL)

ARCH 104 AGRICULTURE & URBAN REVOLUTION
Peter McGee

HIST 234 INTRODUCTION: MIDDLE EAST
Assef Ashraf

POL 283 MODERN MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
Sofia Fenner

POL 360 ISLAM AND POLITICS
Sofia Fenner

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