African Studies

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http://www.columbia.edu/cu/mesaas/

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The undergraduate program in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African studies (MESAAS) offers students the opportunity to study in depth the cultures, ideas, histories, and politics of several overlapping world regions. The program emphasizes a close engagement with intellectual traditions, creative movements, and political debates, drawing on a wide variety of historical and contemporary sources in literature, religion, political thought, law, the visual and performing arts, and new media. Courses also examine the historical and cultural contexts in which these traditions and debates have been produced.

Majors and Concentrations

Majors develop two closely related skills. The first is linguistic expertise. A minimum of two years of course work in one language is required, and further work (including intensive summer language study) is greatly encouraged, because the aim is to study a cultural field through its own texts and discourses. The Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies offers courses in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, Armenian, Sanskrit, Hindi/Urdu, Bengali, Tamil, Swahili, Wolof, and Zulu.

The second skill is learning how to think and write about complex cultural formations, drawing on a variety of methods and disciplinary approaches. The approaches vary according to the faculty members’ expertise, incorporating methods from relevant fields in the humanities and social sciences, such as literary criticism, film studies, cultural studies, political theory, and intellectual history.

The only difference between the MESAAS major and the concentration is that the latter does not require language proficiency.

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Mamadou Diaouf
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Rym Bettaieb
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Ilhan Gonen
Charry Karamanoukian
Danielle Katz
Khatchig Mouradian
Tyler Richard
Shiv Subramaniam
Mariame Sy

On Leave
Sarah bin Tyeeer
Laura Fair
Mahmood Mamdani
Youssef Nouhi
Sheldon Pollock
Guidelines for all Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies Majors and Concentrators

Introduction to MESAAS

Majors and concentrators begin their work with an introductory course that emphasizes a particular area (the Middle East, South Asia, or Africa). For instance, students interested in the Middle East would take ASCM UN2003 Introduction to Islamic Civilization or ASCM UN2008 CONTEMP ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION. Students keen on learning more about South Asia would take ASCM UN2357 Introduction to Indian Civilization, HSME UN3810 History of South Asia I: al-Hind to Hindustan, or HIST W3811 South Asia II: Empire and Its Aftermath. The introductory course generally recommended for students interested in Africa is MDES UN2030 Major Debates in the Study of Africa.

Required Core Courses

All majors must take two additional core courses. The first is a small seminar in which they explore some of the classic texts of the region, either AHUM UN1399 Colloquium on Major Texts: Middle East and South Asia (for those focusing on the Middle East and South Asia) or AFCV UN1020 African Civilizations (for those focusing on Africa).

With this background, students are ready to take MDES UN3000 Theory and Culture generally in the junior or senior year. This course examines critical approaches to the study of language, culture, and politics and encourages students to reflect on their own work from many different perspectives.

Additional Requirements

Fifteen additional points (generally five courses) are chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. These may include six points of coursework from other departments, subject to the director of undergraduate studies’ approval. Although students may have a particular interest (e.g., Arab political thought, Urdu literature, Armenian history, Iranian cinema, or contemporary West Africa), they are encouraged to gain exposure to the fullest range of courses and approaches offered by the faculty, and to familiarize themselves with other regions beyond their core area.

In Fulfillment of the Language Requirement (for Majors)

Enrollment in language courses is in some cases determined by placement exams. For more information, see Languages on the departmental website (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/mesaas/) and, if necessary, consult the relevant Coordinator listed on that page. The website includes separate pages for each language, describing the program of instruction, courses for heritage speakers, summer language programs, and more. Language courses must be taken for a letter grade. Pass/D/Fail or Registration credit (R) is not permitted. Those seeking to waive a language requirement must take a proficiency test.

Students who enter with language proficiency at only the second-year level must complete one additional year of language study and one additional MESAAS course. When students enter with language proficiency at the third year level (or in cases where only two years of a particular language are offered in MESAAS), they must substitute three additional MESAAS courses.

Advising

Newly declared majors and concentrators should meet with the director of undergraduate studies in order to plan a program of study. The goal is to strike a balance between courses that help a student achieve depth in a particular area/discipline and those that foster a wider perspective.

Although students are encouraged to approach faculty in the department based on their specific interests, the director of undergraduate studies functions as an ad hoc adviser for all entering students, addressing issues of course requirements, credit, approval for courses in other departments or schools, study abroad, and, eventually, honors requirements (including the senior thesis). Students should not hesitate to contact the director of undergraduate studies to set up an appointment.

Grading

Courses in which the grade of D has been received do not count toward the major or concentration requirements, nor do those taken Pass/D/Fail, except for the first course taken toward the major or concentration.

Honors Program/Senior Thesis

Students may also wish to write a thesis. While not required for graduation, the thesis enables a student to be considered for departmental honors. It is advisable to begin planning for the thesis during the student’s junior year. Interested students should attend the relevant information sessions and identify a potential faculty adviser.

All students who wish to write a thesis must enroll in MDES UN3960 MESAAS Honors Thesis Seminar, a full year course consisting of a 1-point segment in the Fall semester and a 3-point segment in the Spring semester. Students work closely with their peers in a supportive environment to produce a substantial piece of research (in the range of 40 pages). The primary intellectual guidance is provided by the faculty adviser, whereas the director of undergraduate studies and the honors seminar teaching assistant oversee the general development of the project. Every year in April, MESAAS hosts a senior colloquium in which students present their research. For more information on the honors program, see Frequently Asked Questions on the departmental website (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/mesaas/).

Major in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies

Students should obtain a Major Declaration form (available in the online major declaration system or from your adviser) and bring it to the director of undergraduate studies for approval. The director of undergraduate studies meets with students as necessary in order to establish and approve their individual programs of study. The requirements for the major are as follows:

Select a one-term introductory culture course, to be approved by the director of undergraduate studies

| AHUM UN1399 | Colloquium on Major Texts: Middle East and South Asia |
| MDES UN3000 | Theory and Culture |

Select two years of a language regularly taught in the department, or substitutional courses for students who test out of this requirement with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies

Select 15 points of coursework, which may include up to six points from other departments, selected in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies

The MESAAS Major and its ‘tracks’
Students majoring in MESAAS are studying the languages, and central cultural and political aspects of the societies of the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa, in past and present. This can be done either with a focus on one of these three regions, i.e. the ‘African Studies’, the ‘South Asian Studies’, or the ‘Middle Eastern Studies’ track, or a comparative perspective on them, the ‘combined track’.

The coursework for each of those ‘tracks’ is composed of the same five elements: 1. an approved introductory course; 2. a seminar on texts from the region; 3. ‘Theory and Culture’; 4. five approved elective courses; 5. the regional language requirement.

Note that some MESAAS courses are already comparative by design and connect more than one region: for example, Societies and Cultures Across the Indian Ocean, or Postcolonial Thought, or courses on Persianate culture that include North India, or Middle East courses that include North Africa. These may satisfy requirements for more than one track, subject to approval by the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS).

African Studies

1. MDES UN3130 Major Debates in the Study of Africa or another approved introductory lecture course.
2. CC1020 African Civilization
3. MDES UN3000 Theory and Culture
4. Five additional courses on Africa, such as: South African Literature and Culture: Apartheid and After; East Africa and the Swahili Coast; or Pan Africanism (see the Courses page for more options). You may include up to two courses from other departments, in fields such as African history, politics, and philosophy, the anthropology of Africa, and African art, subject to the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. For a listing of courses in other departments, see here (http://www.ias.columbia.edu/academics/).

Middle Eastern Studies

1. ASCM UN2003 Islamic Civilization or another approved introductory lecture course.
2. Asian Humanities UN1399 Major Texts: Middle East/India
3. MDES UN3000 Theory and Culture
4. Five additional courses on the Middle East, such as: Arabic Self-Narratives; Central Questions in Islamic Law, Palestinian-Israeli Politics and Society, or Epics and Empires (see the Courses page for more options). You may include up to two courses from other departments, in fields such as Middle Eastern history, politics, and anthropology, or Islamic art, subject to the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Find a list of Middle East courses in other departments here (http://www.mei.columbia.edu/).
5. Language: A minimum of two years of coursework in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, or Armenian. See the MESAAS language programs here (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/mesaas/languages/). Those already fluent in a Middle Eastern language may substitute other courses—see FAQ (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/mesaas/undergraduate/faqs.html#fluent). Not required for the concentration.

South Asian Studies

1. MDES UN2357 Indian Civilization or another approved introductory lecture course.
2. Asian Humanities UN3399 Major Texts: Middle East/India
3. MDES UN3000 Theory and Culture
4. Five additional courses on South Asia, such as: Mughal India; Gandhi and his Interlocutors; or Cinemas of India (see the Courses page for more options). You may include up to six points of course work from other departments, in fields such as South Asian history, politics, and anthropology, or Indian art, subject to the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Find a list of South Asia courses in other departments here (http://sai.columbia.edu/courses/).
5. Language: A minimum of two years of course work in Hindi/Urdu, Sanskrit, Persian, or other South Asian languages. See the MESAAS language programs here (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/mesaas/languages/). Those already fluent in a South Asian language may substitute other courses—see FAQ (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/mesaas/undergraduate/faqs.html#fluent). Not required for the concentration.

Combined

There is also a combined option. For this, you may satisfy the five requirements by choosing courses from any of the three tracks.
1. An approved introductory lecture course.
2. Asian Humanities UN1399 Major Texts: Middle East/India — OR: CC1020 African Civilization
3. MDES UN3000 Theory and Culture
4. Five additional courses, fitting one’s course of study, to be approved by DUS
5. Language: A minimum of two years of course work in any of the regional MESAAS languages, to be approved by the DUS.

Concentration in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies

The requirements are identical with those for the major, except that there is no departmental language requirement. Fifteen points in department courses, selected with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies. These may not include elementary or intermediate language courses. Not more than two courses out of the general 15 points may be devoted to language study.
Lectures and Seminars

**MDES UN1001 Critical Theory: A Global Perspective. 4 points.**
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

The purpose of this foundational course is to introduce Columbia undergraduate students, in the context of their Global Core curriculum, to the seminal field of critical theory. The historical domain of this course is within the last century and its geographical spectrum is global. European critical thinkers are included in this course but not privileged. Thinkers from Asia, Africa, Europe, North, South, and Latin America, are examined here in chronological order and in equal democratic footing with each other. This course as a result is decidedly cross-cultural, one step forward towards de-alienating critical thinkers from around the globe and the issues they address without pigeonholing them as something "other" or "different."

The course is designed and offered in the true spirit of the "Global Core."

The purpose of the course is to reach for the common denominator of serious critical thinking about the fate of our humanity and the health of our social relations in an increasingly fragile world—where the false binaries of "the West" and "the Rest" no longer hold. The roster of critical thinkers we will examine is by no means exhaustive but representative. Any number of other critical thinkers can be added to this roster but none of those will we examine can be excluded from them.

The course is divided into thirteen successive weeks and for each week a number of seminal, original, and groundbreaking texts are identified. Each week we will examine selected passages from these texts. The course is designed as a lecture course, and my lectures are based on the totality of these texts but students will be assigned specific shorter passages to read.

**ASCM UN2003 Introduction to Islamic Civilization. 4 points.**
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

Lecture and recitation. Islamic civilization and its characteristic intellectual, political, social, and cultural traditions up through 1800. Note: Students must register for a discussion section, ASCM UN2113.

**MDES UN3000 Theory and Culture. 4 points.**
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

Required of all majors. Introduces theories of culture particularly related to the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. Theoretical debates on the nature and function of culture as a symbolic reading of human collectivities. Examines critical cultural studies of the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. Enables students to articulate their emerging knowledge of Middle East, South Asian, and African cultures in a theoretically informed language.

**AHUM UN1399 Colloquium on Major Texts: Middle East and South Asia. 4 points.**
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

Readings in translation and discussion of texts of Middle Eastern and Indian origin. Readings may include the Qur'an, Islamic philosophy, Sufi poetry, the Upanishads, Buddhist sutras, the Bhagavad Gita, Indian epics and drama, and Gandhi's Autobiography.

**MDES UN2641 Cinemas of India. 3 points.**

This course offers an expansive journey through the forms, pleasures, and meanings of Indian cinema. It explores the plural beginnings of popular film; the many competing cinemas produced across India; the diverse protagonists (from vamps to vigilantes) that populate the imagined entity named 'national cinema'; and the varied audiences addressed by these cinemas. Over the course of the semester, we will watch 15 of the most iconic narrative films produced in India, including Diamond Queen (1940), Awara (1951), Deewar (1975), Roja (1992), Mahanagar (1963), and Bandit Queen (1994). As we voyage with the dynamic, shifting codes and priorities of India's fiction filmmaking, we also shadow the emergence of the Indian nation and contestations of its coherence.

**ASCM UN2008 CONTEMP ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION. 4.00 points.**
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

Lecture and recitation. No previous study of Islam is required. The early modern, colonial, and post-colonial Islamic world studied through historical case studies, translated texts, and recent anthropological research. Topics include Sufism and society, political ideologies, colonialism, religious transformations, poetry, literature, gender, and sexuality.
MDES UN2650 Gandhi and His Interlocutors. 4 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

Gandhi is in two senses an extraordinary figure: he was the most important leader of anti-imperialist movements in the twentieth century; yet, his ideas about modernity, the state, the industrial economy, technology, humanity’s place in nature, the presence of God – were all highly idiosyncratic, sometimes at odds with the main trends of modern civilization. How did a man with such views come to have such an immense effect on history? In some ways, Gandhi is an excellent entry into the complex history of modern India – its contradictions, achievements, failures, possibilities. This course will be primarily a course on social theory, focusing on texts and discursive exchanges between various perceptions of modernity in India. It will have two parts: the first part will be based on reading Gandhi’s own writings; the second, on the writings of his main interlocutors. It is hoped that through these exchanges students will get a vivid picture of the intellectual ferment in modern India, and the main lines of social and political thought that define its intellectual culture. The study in this course can be followed up by taking related courses in Indian political thought, or Indian politics or modern history. This course may not be taken as Pass/D/Fail.

HSME UN2915 Africa Before Colonialism: From Prehistory to the Birth of the Atlantic World. 4 points.

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the precolonial history of the African continent. It investigates in-depth the political, social, cultural and economic developments of different Africa communities, covering various regions and periods, from prehistory to the formation of the Indian Ocean and Atlantic worlds. Its focus is the intersection of politics, economics, culture and society. Using world history and Africa’s location in the production of history as key analytical frames, it pays special attention to social, political and cultural changes that shaped the various individual and collective experiences of African peoples and states and the historical discourses associated to them.

Fall 2020: HSME UN2915
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
HSME 2915 001/12654 M W 11:40am - 12:55pm Online Only Mamadou Diouf 4 47/60

MDES UN3004 Islam in South Asia. 3 points.
This course explores the beginnings of Islam in South Asia, its growth over time, and the development of South Asian Muslims’ cultural, social, religious and political life from the 8th century until the present. It assumes no previous background in Islamic or South Asian studies. Readings will include not only scholarly works, but also material in translation from chronicles, biographies, memoirs, novels, stories, and other primary sources.

MDES UN3042 Palestinian and Israeli Politics and Society. 4 points.
The History of the Jewish Enlightenment (Haskala) in 19th century Europe and the development of Zionism through the current ‘peace process’ between the state of Israel and the Arab states and the Palestinian national movement. Provides a historical overview of the Zionist-Palestinian conflict to familiarize undergraduates with the background of the current situation. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES UN3121 Literature and Cultures of Struggle in South Africa. 3 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

Generations of resistance have shaped contemporary life in South Africa – in struggles against colonialism, segregation, the legislated racism known as apartheid, and the entrenched inequalities of the post-apartheid era. Two constants in this history of struggle have been youth as a vanguard of liberation movements and culture as a ‘weapon of struggle.’ As new generation of South African youth -- the ‘born frees’ -- has now taken to the streets and social media to ‘decolonize’ the university and claim their education as a meaningful right, this course traces the ways that generations of writers, artists, and activists have faced censorship, exile, and repression in an ongoing struggle to dismantle apartheid and to free the mind, ‘the most powerful weapon in the hands of the oppressor’ according to Black Consciousness activist Steve Biko. This course traces the profoundly important roles that literature and other cultural production (music, photography, film, comics, Twitter hashtags like #rhodesmustfall and #feesmustfall) have played in struggle against apartheid and its lingering afterlife. Although many of our texts were originally written in English, we will also discuss the historical forces, including nineteenth-century Christian missions and Bantu Education, as well as South Africa’s post-1994 commitment to being a multilingual democracy, that have shaped the linguistic texture of South African cultural life.

MDES UN3130 East Africa and the Swahili Coast. 3 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

This course offers an introduction to East African history and society. It is intended primarily for those who have taken an introductory course in African studies, such as MDES W2030 Major Debates in the Study of Africa or AFCV 1020 African Civilization, or similar courses in South Asian or Middle Eastern studies. Students read anthropological and historical studies of the region, alongside works of literature by a number of leading East African writers. The course emphasizes the historical role of the Swahili coast and Swahili language as forces that shaped an interconnected world stretching far inland and across the Indian Ocean, but that also shaped adversity and antagonisms. CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement.

CLME UN3221 Arabic Literature As World Literature. 4 points.
This seminar focuses on Arabic literature in the world, as World Literature. The focus will be on pre-modern and modern Arabic literary works that traveled and circulated and were adapted to and acquired individual meanings in different cultures. We will look at literary works that achieved ‘worldliness’ through either writing back to the center or through international literary prizes. We will consider how literary works travel and circulate through their fusion with regional concepts, or even take on new meanings at different times and places. Admittedly, also, we will look into the strengths, weaknesses, and criticism surrounding World Literature.
MDES UN3260 Rethinking Middle East Politics. 4 points.  
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

This course examines a set of questions that have shaped the study of the politics of the modern Middle East. It looks at the main ways those questions have been answered, exploring debates both in Western academic scholarship and among scholars and intellectuals in the region itself. For each question, the course offers new ways of thinking about the issue or ways of framing it in different terms. The topics covered in the course include: the kinds of modern state that emerged in the Middle East and the ways its forms of power and authority were shaped; the birth of economic development as a way of describing the function and measuring the success of the state, and the changing metrics of this success; the influence of oil on the politics of the region; the nature and role of Islamic political movements; the transformation of the countryside and the city and the role of rural populations and of urban protest in modern politics; and the politics of armed force and political violence in the region, and the ways in which this has been understood. The focus of the course will be on the politics of the twentieth century, but many topics will be traced back into developments that occurred in earlier periods, and several will be explored up to the present. The course is divided into four parts, each ending with a paper or exam in which participants are asked to analyze the material covered. Each part of the course has a geographical focus on a country or group of countries and a thematic focus on a particular set of questions of historical and political analysis.

MDES UN3331 Urban Space and Conflict in the Middle East. 3 points.

This course explores how civil war, revolution, militarization, mass violence, refugee crises, and terrorism impact urban spaces, and how city dwellers engage in urban resilience, negotiate and attempt to reclaim their right to the city. Through case studies of Beirut (1975-present), Baghdad (2003-present), Cairo (2011-present), Diyarbakır (1914-present), Aleppo (1914-present), and Jerusalem (1914-present), this course traces how urban life adjusted to destruction (and post-conflict reconstruction), violence, and anarchy; how neighborhoods were reshaped; and how local ethnic, religious, and political dynamics played out in these cities and metropolises. Relying on multi-disciplinary and post-disciplinary scholarship, and employing a wealth of audiovisual material, literary works, and interviews conducted by the instructor, the course scrutinizes how conflicts have impacted urban life in the Middle East, and how civilians react to, confront, and resist militarization in urban spaces.

MDES UN3421 Islamic Central Asia. 3 points.

Explores the cultural landscapes of Islamic Central Asia up to the 18th c. Russian conquests, introducing the wide and changing array of meanings that both Islam and Central Asia could take on in this context. Against the association of Central Asia with a periphery, this course restores the centrality of Central Asia to the spheres of exchange that held together a broader Islamic imaginary, including Persian literatures, Sufism, political thought, and the visual arts. Focuses on the empires of the Ghaznavids (977-1186), Mongols (1206-1370), Timurids (1370-1507), and early Mughals. Readings are English translations of primary sources, and modern scholarship to contextualize and theorize these sources. Central questions include: how these texts reflect and shape community, how they mark and make sense of difference, the ways in which they understand and relate to their past(s), and the values that they hold to be most central. No prerequisites.

MDES UN3445 Societies & Cultures Across the Indian Ocean. 4.00 points.  
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

This course introduces the Indian Ocean as a region linking the Middle East, East Africa, South and Southeast Asia. With a focus on both continuities and rupture from the medieval to the modern period, we study select cultures and societies brought into contact through interregional migration and travel from the 10th to 20th centuries. Different types of people - nobles, merchants, soldiers, statesmen, sailors, scholars, slaves - experienced mobility in different ways. How did different groups of people represent such mobilities? What kinds of political, economic, and social cooperation, accommodation or conflict did different Indian Ocean encounters engender? We read some of the newest humanities and social science scholarship, as well as primary sources ranging from manuscript illustrations, sailor’s stories, merchant letters, travelogues, pilgrimage accounts, colonial documents, memoirs, and diplomatic accounts. Students must register for a discussion section, MDES UN3446.

MDES UN3644 Visual Cultures of Modern South Asia. 3 points.

This lecture course introduces students to the power and meaning of popular visual cultures of South Asia. Visual culture is a crucial arena for the enactment of social transformations and the creation of collective imaginaries. We will track such varied modern media types as calendar art, photography, film, architecture, clothing, and religious festivals, loosely following key chronological signposts in the shared histories of the subcontinent. Together, we will practice a new way of understanding history and society — a visual way that will make us aware of the diversity of hopes, fears, and dreams that comprise South Asia. Designed for students with a basic understanding of South Asian history, the course aims to familiarize you with key methodological approaches in visual culture studies and current debates in South Asian art history and media theory.

MDES UN3920 Contemporary Culture in the Modern Arab World. 3 points.

Prerequisites: the instructor’s permission.

This seminar, designed for seniors, aims to acquaint students with the notion and theoretical understanding of culture and to introduce them to a critical method by which they can study and appreciate contemporary culture in the Arab World. The seminar will survey examples of written and cinematic culture (fiction and autobiography), as well as music, dance, and literary criticism in the contemporary Arab world. Students will be reading novels, autobiographies and literary criticism, as well as watch films and listen to music as part of the syllabus. All material will be in translation. Films will be subtitled. Songs will be in Arabic.

Fall 2020: MDES UN3920

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>MDES 3920</td>
<td>001/12851</td>
<td>W 10:10am - 12:00pm Online Only</td>
<td>Joseph Massaad</td>
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MDES UN3923 Central Questions in Islamic Law. 3 points.
Through detailed discussions of certain landmarks in Islamic legal history (e.g., origins; early formation; sources of law; intellectual make-up; the workings of court; legal change; women in the law; legal effects of colonialism; modernity and legal reform, etc.), the course aims at providing an introductory but integrated view of Islamic law, a definition, so to speak, of what it was/is. Please note, this course must be taken for a letter grade.

Fall 2020: MDES UN3923
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
MDES 3923  001/13493  T 4:10pm - 6:00pm  Wael Hallaq  3  23/25

CLME UN3928 Arabic Prison Writing. 3 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement
This course studies the genealogy of the prison in Arab culture as manifested in memoirs, narratives, and poems. These cut across a vast temporal and spatial swath, covering selections from the Quran, Sufi narratives from al-Hallaj oeuvre, poetry by prisoners of war: classical, medieval, and modern. It also studies modern narratives by women prisoners and political prisoners, and narratives that engage with these issues. Arabic prison writing is studied against other genealogies of this prism, especially in the West, to map out the birth of prison, its institutionalization, mechanism, and role. All readings for the course are in English translations.

Fall 2020: CLME UN3928
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
CLME 3928  001/13134  W 2:10pm - 4:00pm  Muhain Al-Musawi  3  33/25

MDES UN3960 MESAAS Honors Thesis Seminar. 4 points.
Open to seniors who have declared MESAAS as their major only.
Prerequisites: minimum GPA of 3.5 in MESAAS courses. The MESAAS honors seminar offers students the opportunity to undertake a sustained research project under close faculty supervision. The DUS advises on general issues of project design, format, approach, general research methodologies, and timetable. In addition, students work with an individual advisor who has expertise in the area of the thesis and can advise on the specifics of method and content. The thesis will be jointly evaluated by the advisor, the DUS, and the honors thesis TA. The DUS will lead students through a variety of exercises that are directly geared to facilitating the thesis. Students build their research, interpretive, and writing skills; discuss methodological approaches; write an annotated bibliography; learn to gain constructive feedback to peers and respond to feedback effectively. The final product is a polished research paper in the range of 40-60 pages. Please note: This is a one-year course that begins in the fall semester (1 point) and continues through the spring semester (3 points). Only students who have completed both semesters will receive the full 4 points of credit.

Fall 2020: MDES UN3960
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
MDES 3960  001/13444  M 12:10pm - 2:00pm  Timothy Mitchell  4  8/12

CLME GU4031 Cinema and Society In Asia and Africa. 4 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement
Introduction to Middle Eastern cinema as a unique cultural product in which artistic sensibilities are mobilized to address, and thus reflect, significant aspects of contemporary society, Arab, Israeli, Turkish, and Iranian cinema. Cultural and collective expressions of some enduring concerns in modern Middle Eastern societies. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

CLME GU4042 Cinematic Cities/Comparative Modernities. 4 points.
Mandatory film screenings will follow each class meeting.
This graduate seminar explores the representational, imaginative, and analytical connections between cinema and the urban experience. Theories of modernity frequently hold up the city as the most emblematic site for locating the modern (e.g., Benjamin, Simmel, Kracauer). Cinema, too, as art and apparatus, can be said to have embodied the ‘shocks’ of the modern (Singer, Gunning, Eisenstein). This course introduces students to a significant corpus of literature on cinema and mediated urbanisms. By insisting on a comparative approach, the seminar seeks to put existing theories of cinematic urbanisms that pertain to Berlin, Paris, or Los Angeles, into dialogue with ‘other’ cinematic sites such as Mumbai, Algiers, Mexico City, Istanbul, Kuala Lumpur, or Dakar. Open to qualified undergraduates with instructor permission. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: CLME GU4042
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
CLME 4042  001/13148  T 2:10pm - 4:00pm  Debashree Mukherjee  4  21/25

MDES GU4049 Climate and Empire. 4 points.
Climate change destabilizes the ontic certainty of this world, time, and history. This course in MESAAS will introduce students to the literature on climate change and its relationship to ontology, religion, violence, politics, and gender. We will explore the resilience and limitations of various theoretical approaches as they relate to empirical cases. Students will become familiarized with important arguments that have been advanced to explain climate change in its more recent incarnations in the Middle East and Asia. How have different trajectories of understanding climate change led to different kinds of political cultures and governing institutions? Have some qualities of the “environment” or “climate” remained the same throughout history and across the globe? What is the role of colonialism in modern understandings of climate change? The core of this course will seek to develop a mode of conceptualizing the present by rendering relevant geological time in addition to historical time, earth’s history in addition to world’s history.

The course begins with the question of how the “climate” has been historically and ethnographically conceptualized in various intellectual trajectories of human sciences. We consider how religion is connected to environmental change, how the “human” and “non human” are conceptualized in various ontologies, and how religious norms and ethics enact environmental practices. We interrogate the everyday sociality of climate adaption and how climate conflict informs social, political, and environmental citizenship. The course concludes by contemplating the creative ways of being in this new world. We study the innovative forms of cosmopolitan neo-humanism (post-humanism) that emerge from the specter of environmental change.

Fall 2020: MDES GU4049
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
MDES 4049  001/13149  M 12:10pm - 2:00pm  Timothy Mitchell  4  7/25

CLME 4042
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
CLME 4042  001/13148  T 2:10pm - 4:00pm  Debashree Mukherjee  4  21/25
MDES G4052 Locating Africa in the Early 20th Century World. 4 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

During the early twentieth century the meaning of Africa and its location within the “universal” historical narrative was a source of discussion and debate among western and African elites. In this seminar, we will study how African and people of African descent participated in this discussion. Through primary and secondary readings, we will learn about how African, African American and European writers, artists and activists engaged and (re) interpreted international and regional resources (including the insights of the new sciences of Man) to (re)imagine their political and social situations, and to participate in various political expressions, including surrealism, pan-Africanism, communism, feminism, black internationalism, and anti-imperialism. We will also engage critically debates (e.g., Egyptianisms and Ethiopianisms) and theoretical developments in African, imperial, transnational, international and global scholarship that seeks to understand the complex traffic of people and ideas across national and imperial boundaries.

MDES GU4122 The Novel in Africa. 4 points.
The main task of this course will be to read novels by African writers. But the novel in Africa also involves between the literary genre of the novel and the historical processes of colonialism, decolonization, and globalization in Africa. One important question we’ll consider is how African novels depict those historical experiences in their themes and plots—we’ll read novels that are ‘about’ colonialism, etc. A more complex question is how these historical processes relate to the emergence of the novel as an important genre for African writers. Edward Said went so far as to say that without imperialism, there would be no *European* novel as we know it. How can we understand the novel in Africa (whether read or written) as a product of the colonial encounter? How did it shape the process of decolonization? What contribution to history, whether literary or political, does the novel in Africa make? We’ll undertake a historical survey of African novels from the 1930s to the present, with attention to various subgenres (village novel, war novel, urbanization novel, novel of postcolonial disillusion, *Bildungsroman*). We’ll attend to how African novelists blend literate and oral storytelling traditions, how they address their work to local and global audiences, and how they use scenes of characters reading novels (whether African or European) in order to position their writing within national, continental, and world literary space.

MDES GU4144 Africa: Modernity and the Post Colonial Experience. 4 points.
This 4000 level seminar course is organized around weekly readings that represent substantial contributions to the debate about both ‘modernity’ and ‘postcolonial experience’ in Africa, from a range of interrelated disciplinary perspectives. In readings and discussions, we will keep the relationship between the two main discursive fields in view, and also (re-)consider the ongoing relevance of colonialism and colonial experiences in relation to them. Conceptual reflections on modernity and postcolonial experience(s) need to be based upon empirical research, and underpinned by regional socio-historical knowledge of the settings and scenarios discussed - there is no ‘modernity’ per se and no ‘postcolonial experience’ as such. We will involve comparative, historical and contemporary angles of discussion, and pursue an interest in critical conceptualization in relation to social and political realities in Africa, and with a view to African thinkers.

MDES GU4151 Debates on Capitalism: Africans and the Eurocentric Lens. 4 points.
Within the literature on the history of capitalism there is a lively debate that seeks to explain the world-historical transition from feudal and tributary modes of production to the capitalist mode of production. Substantial issues raised in this debate include the question of whether capitalism can be characterized as a mode of production dominated by the exploitation of free labour; the role of international trade in the origin and development of capitalism; and the role of agriculture in promoting a transition to capitalism. Through the publication of two key texts in the late 1970s Robert Brenner’s proposition that capitalism had its origins in English agriculture came to dominate the transition debate. More recently, however, there have been a number of publications that seek to challenge the Anglo-centric and Eurocentric tendencies of the entire transition debate. This course begins with the Brenner debates and then takes up revisions, critiques and challenges to that debate. Ultimately, the aim of the course is to more clearly understand the place of non-European polities and peoples in the history and development of capitalism.

MDES GU4160 Major Debates in the Study of Africa. 4 points.
This course will focus on key debates that have shaped the study of Africa in the post-colonial African academy.

We will cover six key debates: Historiography; Slavery: Premodern and Modern; State Formation; Colonialism and Difference; Nationalism; Political Identity and Political Violence.

The approach will be multi-disciplinary. To the extent possible, readings will be illustrative of different sides in the debate.
CLME GU4226 Arabic Autobiography: Global Dimensions. 4 points.
This course draws a map of Arab thought and culture in its multiple engagements with other cultures. It works globally along two lines: a theoretical one that accommodates conceptualizations of self-narrative in relation to shifting categories of center and margin; and a thematic one that selects a number of Arabic autobiographical texts with strong thematic concerns that cut across multiple cultures. Although Europe sounds at times more conspicuous in early 20th century autobiography, the Afro-Asian and Latin American topographical and historical itinerary and context are no less so, especially in writings we associate with societal and cultural transformations. More than historical accounts, these intellectual itineraries speak for the successes and failures of the secular ideology of the Arab nation-state. They convey the struggle of intellectuals— as self-styled leaders, for an ideal state on the ruins of the past. The course studies a number of autobiographical works; memoirs and reminiscences that are meant to rationalize and reproduce a writer’s experience. Probably self-censored, these serve nevertheless as trajectories for a secular journey rather than one from denial to affirmation. Staunchly established in modernity and its nahdah paradigms, most of these writings are secular itineraries that rarely end in a search for faith. They are the journeys of a generation of Arab intellectuals who are facing many crises, but not the crisis of faith. They provide another look at the making of the Arab intelligentsia—and probably the Afro-Asian and Latin American one, since the early 20th century, and help us discern not only achievements on the level of education and public service, but also the mounting discontent with failures that have been wrapping the formation of the nation state. No prior knowledge of Arabic language is required.

CLME GU4227 The Islamic Context of the Arabian Nights since the Establishment of Baghdad. 4 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
This course questions the popular assumption that the tales of the *Thousand and One Nights* lack any Islamic content and that their fantastic or erotic dimensions are the only dynamic narrative components behind the vogue. This collection is read against a number of contemporaneous writings (in English translation), including al-Hamadan’s *Manama*, to discuss issues that relate to market inspectorships, economy, social order, marginal groups like the mad, the use of public space including the hammed, and the position on fate, destiny, time, afterlife, sex and love. The course takes its starting point from classical Arabic narratives, poetry and epistolary art and follows up the growth of this repository as it conveys, reveals, or debates Islamic tenets and jurists’ stand. The course aspires to provide students with a solid and wide range of information and knowledge on Islamic culture since the emergence of the Islamic center in Baghdad (b. 762). Students are expected to develop a critical method and insightful analysis in dealing with the text, its contemporaneous works from among the belletristic tradition and popular lore, its adaptations, and use and misuse in Arabic culture since the ninth century. No prior knowledge of Arabic language is required.

CLME GU4228 The Arab Street: Politics and Poetics of Transformation. 4 points.
This course responds to the sweeping winds of change in the Arab region, covering a great amount of archival and media material including documentaries, films, narratives, poetry and songs. It substantiates and synthesizes its analysis with a theoretical frame that makes use of Arab intellectual thought in translation, along with legacies of popular revolutions and liberation movements in the Arab region and in the three continents, along with readings of significance in the literature of World War I and II. The course initiates its discussion with experts’ speculations on the difference between the deliberate ‘creative chaos’ as part of an imperial strategy, and popular revolutions that swept some autocratic and dictatorial regimes. To reach a better understanding of this difference, the course will explore the rites of passage through which these movements grow and authenticate their presence before finding the right medium or occasion to burst out in a volcanic fashion. The course explores: memory, the changing role of the elite, youth movements, people’s leadership, the changing lexicon, conceptualization of nationhood, social media and solidarity, regional specifics and common concerns, and the rise of a new poetics as a confederation of semiotics, rhetoric and expressive devices. In their presentations and research students are encouraged to participate in archival material gathering, analysis of required texts and active participation in roundtable discussions.

CLME GU4231 Cold War Arab Culture. 4 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement
This course studies the effects and strategies of the cold war on Arab writing, education, arts and translation, and the counter movement in Arab culture to have its own identities. As the cold war functioned and still functions on a global scale, thematic and methodological comparisons are drawn with Latin America, India and Africa.

MDES GU4232 Arabic Literary Heritage. 4 points.
Prerequisites: one semester of fourth-year Arabic, or demonstrate equivalent competence.
The sessions for this course cover a number of excerpts from texts that are systematically arranged to enable close reading and further discussion and analysis that lead to an active engagement with Arab literary [cultural] tradition. There are samples from pre-Islamic poetry, including that of the Renegades and the Ravens, the Maqamat, al-Jahiz’s oeuvre [selections from a number of books and epistles], Abu Hayyan al-Tawhidi’s writings, prose by ibn Wahb on use and misuse of language, epistles by prominent epistolographers, Hikayat Abi al-Qasim by al-Azdi, selections from al-Bayhaqi, and the *Thousand and One Nights*. There are excerpts from the middle and premodern period, along with specific selections of commentaries of pertinence to the rise or devaluation of genres, modes, and practices. We address cases in which language is the contested space. The theoretical framework takes language as the dynamic force and also the battlefield through our reading of the movement of the word from transparency [where no distance exists between signifiers and signified], representation, and discourse. Every epistemic shift has its ideological base which we need to detect. The underlying premise is that through close reading and discussion we can draw a genealogy of generic growth or decay in terms of historical, geographical, and religio-political dynamics. The class involves reading, discussion, and written assignments in both Arabic and English.
This course studies Sufism as it has emerged, developed, and assumed its presence in Sufi autobiographies and religious and literary writings. The Sufi Path is traced in these writings that include poems like ibn al-Farid’s Poem of the Way. Sufi States and Stations are analyzed to understand this Path that reaches its culmination in an ecstatic sense of Oneness. Sufism is also a social and political phenomenon that unsettles formal theologies and involves Sufis in controversies that often end with their imprisonment and death.

This course explores three major thematic concerns that distinguish Iraqi narrative after 2003. War, love, and exile are at the center of Iraqi writers’ narrative which has been winning the attention of very large audiences in Iraq, the Arab world, the US and Europe. These narratives demonstrate richness and dexterity and have been winning high acclaim as great writings of war, estrangements and love.

This seminar deals with three paradigmatic sets of questions in the history of Islamic law, each set representing and encompassing key themes pertaining to three important historical phases. Long-standing debates on the “origins” of the Shari’a will be explored, as will the constitution of the formative period, which is variably claimed to stretch from two to four centuries. Scholarship on this period will be examined as ideology. In the second set of questions, squarely situated in the post-formative period (ca. 11th – 17th c.) we examine the relationship between and among social custom, juridical practice and formal legal doctrine, discussing in outline the structural mechanisms the Shari’a has developed to accommodate legal change. Scholarship on this period and on what the features of this period came to represent in the overall constructed history of the Shari’a will also be examined as ideology. In the third set of questions, we analyze so-called legal reform and the role of state in converting the Shari’a to a modern institution that is qualitatively different from its pre-modern predecessor. Scholarship on the Shari’a in the modern period will also be examined as ideology. Finally, but not necessarily at the end of the course, we will pose questions about the nature of interpretation and language in the construction of a paradigmatic idea (and history) of the Shari’a.

This course works along a number of axial structures that aim to let texts voice their informing theoretical, political, and poetic strategies. It draws on war narratives in other parts of the world, especially Vietnam, insofar as these find their way into Arabic writing. A poetics of prose gives these narratives the power of literary production that makes them more readable, appealing, and provocative than ordinary journalistic reporting.

Through close readings of a number of Arabic war novels and some long narrative poems, this course proposes to address war in its varieties not only as liberation movements in Algeria and Palestine, but also as an engagement with invasions, as in Iraqi narratives of war, or as conflict as was the case between Iran and Iraq, 1980-1988, as proxy wars in other parts of the region, or ‘civil’ wars generated and perpetuated by big powers. Although writers are no longer the leaders of thought as in the first half of the 20th century, they resume different roles of exposition, documentation, reinstatement of identities, and geographical and topographical orientation. Narrators and protagonists are not spectators but implicated individuals whose voices give vent to dreams, desires, intimations, and expectations. They are not utterly passive, however. Behind bewilderment and turbulence, there is a will to expose atrocity and brutality. Writing is an effort to regain humanity in an inhuman situation.

The course is planned under thematic and theoretical divisions: one that takes writing as a deliberate exposure of the censored and repressed; another as a counter shock and awe strategy [implemented under this name in the wars on Iraq] whereby brutalities are laid bare; and a third that claims reporting in order to explore its limits and complicity. On the geographical level, it takes Algeria, Palestine as locations for liberation movements; Iraq as a site of death; Egypt as the space for statist duplicity and camouflage; and Lebanon as an initial stage for a deliberate exercise in a seemingly civil war.

A number of films will be shown as part of students’ presentations.
CLME G4261 Popular Islam: Asia and Africa. 4 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

This course explores common beliefs and practices that are held by Muslims across ethnicities and national borders. It looks at these not only from a Herder's perspective of a national-popular dynamic as a formative part in cultural capital, but also from a deep-rooted Islamica as an accumulated faith that got woven into local and indigenous cultures. Hence, it questions the whole idea of Islamic modernity, in its ethnic and national images, as a culmination of the encounter with Europe. It interrogates the premise as an elitist worldview that has overlooked the formation processes in the makeup of cultural and identitarian politics and poetics. Laying emphasis on the shared and common beliefs among the Muslim mass audience, it studies visitations, sites of intercession like shrines, amulets, encomiums to the Prophet, Sufi tales, dhikr recitations, dreams and their interpretation, divination, and many other common beliefs and practices that cut across modernity paradigms and binary structures. Through close analysis of these practices in texts, poetry, narrative, travelogue and memoirs, it argues that the bane of modernity is its subordination to a Western ideal that minimizes or even negates its engagement with Islamic and Arabic-writing tradition. The nation state and through codification processes and as led by the intelligentsia forged a social program that usually invalidates common practices and rural culture. Only after 1967, the unsettling experience of total bankruptcy, that intellectuals question the dichotomies of science versus religion and the myth of progress versus tradition. The rise of Islamic movements since the Iranian Revolution began to pose questions with respect to modernity and the viable means of economic and social welfare. New writings, forms and modes of expression take to the street where they find substance and faith that has been ignored for long under cultural dependency. Under the increasing role of social media and cyberspace, non-traditional forums, modes of expression and mediums gradually take over the right to speak for religion and disseminate its own languages that ironically converse with pre-modern venues and means of dialogue. These works receive due attention in relation to theoretical studies that may help increase readers' critical insight. No prior knowledge of Arabic language is required.

CLME GU4262 Themes in the Arabic Novel. 4 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

The focus of this seminar will be novels by Arab writers. The course will explore the history of the Arabic novel: its rise, development, and evolution. We will read and analyze novels belonging to various periods in Arab history and representing diverse points of views, including gender, identities, and different sub-cultures and sub-genres. We will look into the connections therein between the novel and the historical backdrops of colonialism, decolonization, globalization, war, rights and personal independence from several perspectives and writers across the Arab world. We will also consider the modern Arabic novel's engagement with the global, glocal, and local as well as its nod to the Arabic literary tradition; its engagement with technology, scientific progress, absurdity, loss, trauma, the human condition, as well as dystopic themes. No knowledge of Arabic is required.

MDES GU4265 #ūfism, Sharī'a, and Politics. 4.00 points.
This seminar is geared toward advanced undergraduate students. Arguably, #ūfism and Sharī'a constituted the two central domains of premodern Islamic cultures. A central domain is recognized as one that defines other domains. If a domain becomes central, “then the problems of other domains are solved in terms of the central domain—they are considered secondary problems, whose solution follows as a matter of course only if the problems of the central domain are solved” (C. Schmitt). Within this understanding, the seminar aims to introduce the fundamental concepts and (briefly) histories of both #ūfism and Sharī'a, with a focus on how the former overlapped with and was often integral to the latter; how #ūfism produced traditions and institutions; and the role it played in the political landscapes of Islam. By necessity, then, the seminar moves from a coverage of #ūf thought and praxis, to community and institution building, to political activism (or inactivism, which is seen here as a move toward the political or ethical). The coverage, deliberately tilted toward #ūfism,1 aims to be historical and considerably chronological, moving from the earliest Islamic period to late modernity, including the migration of #ūf entities to the West. In keeping with the claim of #ūfism as a central domain, we will examine how this phenomenon, together with the Sharī'a, rendered the other domains subsidiary to their imperatives. The subordinate idea here is also to try to map out the strongly symbiotic relationship of the two domains, and isolate for analysis contestations and antagonisms. Although the sources – especially the Orientalist – are underdeveloped theoretically, class discussions will call upon the help of various relevant theories in philosophy, intellectual history, politics, and anthropology.

MDES G4326 The Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust: Memory and Representation. 4 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

This course is an investigation of the impact of genocide on the self and the imagination's representations in literature, film, and video testimony; primary texts will include poetry, memoir, video testimony, film, and visual art. Scholarly methodology will involve readings of literary criticism and theoretical works in the study of trauma, literary theory, and testimony. Among the questions the course will ask are: how does trauma shape imagination and open up access to the site of disaster that is now carried in fragments which inform memory; how do representations of violence shape and inflect aesthetic orientations and literary and artistic forms. In asking these questions, we will engage in the process of formal analysis of texts, psychological and historical contexts (for those texts), and finally ethical assessments about the function and role of these texts in the broader discourse of social thought and historical memory. The course will concern itself with the aftermath of two twentieth century genocides—that of the Armenians in Turkey during World War I and of the Jews in Europe during World War II—both seminal events of the twentieth century that, in various ways became models for ensuing genocides. Students will be permitted to write about other post-genocidal texts with the instructor's permission.
MDES GU4349 Concentration Camps from Cuba to East Asia. 3 points.
Forcibly moving civilians to designated areas as a wartime measure has constituted a widely practiced military strategy for centuries. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, colonial powers increasingly provided more structure and organization to these policies of relocation and internment in the Americas, Africa, and East Asia. This course provides a social history of civilian internment and mass murder from late-19th century colonial cases to World War II.

Through case studies of the Spanish-Cuban war, the South African War, the Philippines-American War, the genocide of the Herero and Nama in Southwest Africa, the Armenian Genocide, and the Holocaust, the course traces the evolution of the concentration camp from a counter-insurgency strategy in wartime to a weapon of mass murder. The course also examines the internment of Japanese Americans, and the Japanese “comfort stations” in comparative perspective.

MDES GU4357 WAR, GENOCIDE, & AFTERMATH COMP PERSPECTIV. 3 points.
This 4000-level course examines how societies grapple with the legacy of mass violence, through an exploration of historical texts, memoirs, textbooks, litigation, and media reports and debates on confronting the past. Focusing on case studies of the Herero Genocide, the Armenian genocide during WWI, and the Holocaust and the Comfort Women during WWII, students investigate the crime and its sequels, looking at how societies deal with skeletons in their closets (engaging in silence, trivialization, rationalization, and denial to acknowledgment, apology, and repair); surveying responses of survivors and their descendants (with particular attention to intergeneration transmission of trauma, forgiveness, resentment, and the pursuit of redress); and dissecting public debates on modern day issues that harken back to past atrocities.

MDES GU4358 Apologies and Non-Apologies. 4 points.
Why do we apologize? What are the elements of an effective apology? When is an apology not an apology? Can resentment and unforgiveness be a virtue? We will tackle these questions by delving into research in the fields of history, sociology, linguistics, political science, and clinical and social psychology. Students will analyze texts, audio, and video of apologies offered by governments, political leaders, and other public figures, ascertaining their weaknesses and strengths, and their reception by various parties. Students will also analyze apologies and their manifestation in the media, public discourse, and literary works (memoirs, poetry, novels, and parables). After tackling interpersonal and collective apologies (and non-apologies), the course delves into literature that responds to these apologies, tackling issues of forgiveness, unforgiveness, and (re)conciliation.

MDES GU4601 Politics in India. 4 points.
This course will combine study of long-term historical sociology with more short term understanding of policies and their possible effects. Though its main purpose will be to provide students with an understanding of politics after independence, it will argue, methodologically, that this understanding should be based on a study of historical sociology – plotting long-term shifts in the structure of social power. The course will start with analyses of the structures of power and ideas about political legitimacy in pre-modern India, and the transformations brought by colonialism into that order. After a brief study of the nature of political order under the colonial state, the courses will focus primarily on the history of the democratic state after independence.

CLME GU4621 Court Cultures of India. 4 points.
This course approaches the phenomenon of princely India from a range of perspectives. Students learn about the political and cultural practices of specific courts that played a major role in Indian history such as the Guptas, Vijayanagaram and the Mughals, while also being exposed to aspects of Indian courtly life more generally. Topics include, among others, literature, art, architecture, intellectual practices, music and the science of erotics (Kamasutra). While the emphasis is on Indian court culture as seen from within India, cross cultural perspectives are also introduced. For instance, why were Sanskrit literature and Indian architecture emulated far afield in Southeast Asia in the first millennium? And how was Indian court culture perceived by Europeans in the early modern and colonial periods? The course concludes with some reflections on the legacy of Mughals and maharajas in postcolonial India.

MDES GU4629 Transregional. 4.00 points.
History, Politics, Literature, Society – all these are studied as within national, or, at best, regional frames. What other scales and approaches might be appropriate to the study of particular phenomena or categories in the past, as well as some of the challenges of the present? This course introduces advanced undergraduates and graduate students to transregional studies. We explore topics, approaches, methods, problems, and disciplines through which we can cross the regions, particularly the regions of MESAAS. Case studies will consider thinking through and with oceanic studies, circulation, diaspora, shared hermeneutical traditions, lingua francas and their stories (world literatures?), and connected histories to rethink concepts of societies, collective affiliations, cosmopolitanism, and world history. Undergraduates must have taken at least one of the following: Intro to Islamic Civ (UN 2003), Intro to Indian Civ (UN 2357), African Before Colonialism (UN 2915). Societies and Cultures across the Indian Ocean (UN 3445), or some equivalent (check with me)

MDES GU4630 Histories of Translation in Premodern India. 4 points.
This course will provide a survey of the historical practices of textual translation in India as well as some of the ways in which translation has been used to open up analysis of a broad set of cultural practices. Discussion topics will range from methods of translation to conceptual commensurability, translatability, patronage and vernacularization, as the class rigorously examines how to approach the following questions: What was translation in India? What were the ways in which it was theorized? What was the relationship between translation and political power? How does a history of translation challenge nationalist narratives of culture, if at all?

MDES GU4631 Transcultural Studies. 3 points.
MDS GU4632 Translation Studies. 3 points.
MDS GU4633 Translation as a Social Practice. 3 points.
MDS GU4634 Translation in Contemporary India. 3 points.
MDS GU4635 Translation and the Postcolonial Imagination. 3 points.
MDS GU4636 Translation, Translation Studies, and Transnationalism. 3 points.

Fall 2020: MDES GU4629

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MDES GU4652 Mughal India. 4 points.
The Mughal period was one of the most dynamic eras in world history, when India was the meeting place of many cultures. Of Timurid ancestry, the earliest Mughal rulers drew upon the heritage of Central Asia in their ruling styles and cultural practices, but they would soon adapt to the complexities of their Indian milieu, which had longstanding traditions that were a blend of Sanskrit and Persian, Hindu and Muslim idioms. European culture, whether filtered through Jesuit sermons, itinerant merchants, or Flemish engravings, was also making inroads into India during this period. This course is a broad cultural history of Mughal India as seen from a range of perspectives and sources. We consider the Mughals’ major achievements in visual culture as manifested in painting and architecture, as well as exploring diverse topics in religion, literature, politics, and historiography. Yet another approach is to listen to the voices of the Mughal rulers as recorded in their memoirs, as well as investigating the signal contributions of the dynasty’s women.

MDES GU4654 Gender, Power and Culture in Early Modern India. 4 points.
Explores gender, culture, power in India, c. 1500-1800 by reading theoretical works on gender and sexuality, historical scholarship relevant to early modern India, and a variety of primary sources. Topics include morality, mysticism, devotion, desire, kingship, heroism, homosocial relations, and homoerotic practices. The focus is largely on Persianate contexts, in conversation with broader South Asian and Islamic studies. This discussion seminar is designed for graduate and advanced undergraduate students, with some previous background in South Asian, Islamic, or gender studies.

MDES GU4718 Persian Poetry (In Translation). 4 points.
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the long history and multiple genres of Persian poetry. The seminar will begin with the classical period and come down to the contemporary periods. The geographical span of the course extends from Central Asia to the Indian subcontinent to Iran.

MDES GU4721 Epics and Empires: Shahnameh. 4 points.
The purpose of this course is an examination of the genre of epic and its narrative connection to empire-building. The primary text that will be used in this critical examination is the Persian epic poem Shahnameh, composed by Abolqasem Ferdowsi circa 1000 CE.

MDES GU4733 IRAN: FILM, FICT, POETRY, HIS. 4 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

This is a general introduction to modern Iranian history with a particular emphasis on film, fiction, and poetry. Through varied exposure to Iranian film and fiction, and Persian poetry, this course is designed to introduce students to critical themes and creative effervescence of modern Iranian culture. The course will concentrate on Iranian cultural history of the last two centuries, with particular emphasis on contemporary issues. But a broader historical context of the last 1400 years will always inform our discussions.

MDES GU4760 SHIITES AND SHI’ISM. 4 points.
This is a seminar devoted to a historical and comparative examination of the rise and spread of Shi’ism from its earliest stages in Islamic history to its contemporary conditions in various nation-states (in India, Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon in particular). In this seminar we will cover a range of issues, extended from historical, doctrinal, intellectual, and spiritual roots of Shi’ism to its contemporary political manifestations. The course is intended as a seminar, and students will be expected to conduct guided research in an aspect of Shi’ism that interests them most. The course will be conducted in a combination of weekly lectures, semester-long research, and seminar conversations. Knowledge of Arabic and Persian is not required for this course but would be highly beneficial in conducting research for the final paper.

African Studies

MDES UN2120 First Year Arabic I. 5 points.
Fee: Materials Fee - 10.00

An introduction to the language of classical and modern Arabic literature. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES UN2111 First Year Arabic II. 5 points.
Fee: Materials Fee - 10.00

Prerequisites: First Year Arabic I or instructor permission.

MDES UN2208 Arabic For Heritage Speakers I. 5 points.
Intended for heritage speakers only.

Prerequisites: Instructor permission.

This is an intensive course that combines the curriculum of both First and Second Year Arabic in two semesters instead of four, and focuses on the productive skills (speaking and writing) in Modern Standard Arabic (Fusha). Students are exposed intensively to grammar and vocabulary of a high register. After successful completion of this course, students will be able to move on to Third Year Arabic. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.
MDES UN2090 Arabic For Heritage Speakers II. 5 points.
Intended for heritage speakers only.

Prerequisites: Instructor permission.
This is an intensive course that combines the curriculum of both First and Second Year Arabic in two semesters instead of four, and focuses on the productive skills (speaking and writing) in Modern Standard Arabic (Fusha). Students are exposed intensively to grammar and vocabulary of a high register. After successful completion of this course, students will be able to move on to Third Year Arabic. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4210 Third Year Arabic I. 5 points.
NOTE: There are 2 sections of Third Year Arabic I. Section 001 follows the standard curriculum building all 4 language skills, as described below. Section 002 follows a reading-intensive curriculum, with less emphasis on listening and writing while still conducted in Arabic, and is intended for those preparing for advanced research in modern or classical Arabic texts. Students in the regular third-year Arabic track improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through close reading, compositions, class discussions, and presentations in Arabic on topics such as cultures of the Arab world, classical and modern Arabic literature, and contemporary Arabic media. Review of grammatical and syntactic rules as needed. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES GU4210
Course Number 001/10507
Times/Location M T W Th 11:40am - 12:45pm
Instructor Reem Faraj
Points 5 Enrollment 10/12

MDES GU4211 Third Year Arabic II. 5 points.
Students in the regular third-year Arabic track improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through close reading, compositions, class discussions, and presentations in Arabic on topics such as cultures of the Arab world, classical and modern Arabic literature, and contemporary Arabic media. Review of grammatical and syntactic rules as needed. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4214 Fourth Year Classical Arabic I. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Students should have completed Third Year Arabic. Through reading excerpts from thirteen essential works, starting with Jabarti’s history of the French Campaign in Egypt to a chapter from al-Qur’an, students will be able to increase their fluency and accuracy in Arabic while working on reading text and being exposed to the main themes in Classical Arabic literature, acquire a sense of literary style over a period of fourteen centuries as well as literary analytical terminology and concepts. The texts are selections from essential works that the students will read in detail, write critical pieces, engage in discussion and have assignments which will expand their vocabulary, manipulation of advanced grammar concepts, and employing stylistic devices in their writing. This course will enable students to start doing research in classical Arabic sources and complements MESAAS’s graduate seminar Readings in Classical Arabic. The course works with all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). Arabic is the language of instruction. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4216 Advanced Arabic Grammar Review. 4 points.
Through reading and writing, students will review Arabic Grammar concepts within the context of linguistic functions such as narration, description, comparison, etc. For example, within the function of narration, students will focus on verb tenses, word order, and adverbials. Based on error analysis in the past twelve years that the Arabic Program has been using Al-Kitaab, emphasis will be placed on common and frequent grammatical errors. Within these linguistic functions and based on error analysis, the course will review the following main concepts:
- Types of sentence and sentence/clause structure. The Verb system, pattern meanings and verb complementation. Quadrilateral verb patterns and derivations. Weak Verbs derivations, conjugation, tense frames and negation. Case endings. Types of noun and participle: Noun of time, place, instance, stance, instrument, active and passive participles. Types of construct phrase: al-Dafa. Types of Adverbials and verb complements: Hal, Tamyz, Maf’ul mutlaq, Maf’ul li’ajlihi, adverbs of time, frequency, place and manner. The number system and countable nouns. Types of maa. Diptotes, al-mamnu’ min-aSSarf. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4218 Spoken Arabic I. 4 points.
Prerequisites: (MDES UN2021) and (MDES UN2202) $10 Arabic Materials Fee; $15 Language Resource Fee.
This is an introductory course to Levantine Arabic for students who have completed two years of Standard Arabic studies, at the Intermediate level. The course is designed to further develop fluency in oral communication, through building students’ familiarity with a less formal register of Arabic, namely the Levantine dialect. The course will convert and recycle some of the previous Standard Arabic knowledge to the dialect, by comparing their prior knowledge to its dialectal counterpart; while at the same time developing students’ new communicative skills in a diverse range of contexts that are essential in any conversational interaction. The course will build students abilities to interact effectively in various areas where Levantine Arabic is spoken. In addition to varied thematic topics, the course exposes students to cultural aspects specific to the region. Additionally, the course will work on both constructing students’ knowledge of dialectal diction as well as other grammatical features of the dialects. Even though the course is designed for communication in the four skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking), the emphasis will be mostly on speaking and listening. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4219 Spoken Arabic II. 4 points.
Prerequisites: MDES UN2202
This is an introductory course to Levantine Arabic for students who have completed two years of Standard Arabic studies, at the Intermediate level. The course is designed to further develop fluency in oral communication, through building students’ familiarity with a less formal register of Arabic, namely the Levantine dialect. The course will convert and recycle some of the previous Standard Arabic knowledge to the dialect, by comparing their prior knowledge to its dialectal counterpart; while at the same time developing students’ new communicative skills in a diverse range of contexts that are essential in any conversational interaction. The course will build students abilities to interact effectively in various areas where Levantine Arabic is spoken. In addition to varied thematic topics, the course exposes students to cultural aspects specific to the region. Additionally, the course will work on both constructing students’ knowledge of dialectal diction as well as other grammatical features of the dialects. Even though the course is designed for communication in the four skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking), the emphasis will be mostly on speaking and listening.
Armenian Language Courses

MDES UN1301 ELEMENTARY ARMENIAN I. 4.00 points.
In Elementary Armenian I, students learn the Armenian script and the basic grammar that will enable them to communicate about topics relating to themselves and their immediate surroundings: family, school, daily occupations, describing people, expressing likes and dislikes, requesting and giving information about themselves and others, proper forms of greetings, etc. They also begin to read signs, advertisements, and develop the skills to read texts like short stories and Armenian fables. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fee: Language Resource Center Fee - 15.00

Fall 2020: MDES UN1301
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 1301 001/15318 M T W Th 3:10pm - 4:00pm Online Only Karamanoukian 4.00 4/12

MDES UN1309 Intensive Armenian for Heritage Speakers. 4 points.
Intensive Armenian for Heritage Speakers is an accelerated course for students of Armenian origin who already have basic knowledge of the spoken language and are able to converse on familiar topics relating to themselves and their immediate surroundings. The course will focus on developing their skills in reading, writing, and speaking Armenian grammar and vocabulary. By the end of the course, students will be able to read, write and discuss simple texts. Placement will be based on an interview and questionnaire about their background. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES UN1309
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 1309 001/10761 M T W Th 2:10pm - 3:00pm Online Only Charry 4 1/12

MDES UN2301 Intermediate Armenian I. 4 points.
Fee: Language Resource Center Fee - 15.00

Prerequisites: MDES UN1301 and MDES UN1302 or the equivalent. A continuation of the study of reading, writing and speaking of Armenian. In Intermediate Armenian I, students learn to communicate about a wide range of topics. Such topics include biographical narration, cooking and recipes, health and well-being, holidays and celebrations, travel and geography, etc. At this level, students continue to develop their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening while perfecting the grammatical concepts to which they were introduced in the first year. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES UN2301
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 2301 001/15319 M T W Th 1:10pm - 2:00pm Online Only Charry 4 8/12

MDES GU4314 Readings in Armenian Texts. 3 points.
Prerequisites: (MDES UN2301) and MDES UN2302) MDES UN2301 and MDES UN2302, Intermediate Armenian or equivalent.
Readings in Armenian Texts is the highest-level language course offered by the Armenian Language Program at MEALAC. It is designed for students who have a good foundation of the language or have attained the equivalent of Intermediate level Armenian and wish to perfect their knowledge of grammar while developing their skills in independent reading. The content of the course will change each term. Students will be introduced to a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts in Armenian. Texts will consist of full length short stories and newspaper articles as well as excerpts from lengthier works, all in modern Western Armenian. The emphasis will be on analyzing context, syntax and grammatical structures as clues towards comprehension. In addition to grammar and vocabulary analysis, students will produce translations, brief summaries and commentaries on the texts they read, both orally and in written form. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Hebrew Language Courses

MDES UN1501 First Year Modern Hebrew: Elementary I. 5 points.
This is an introductory course for which no prior knowledge is required. Equal emphasis is given to listening, speaking, reading, writing and grammar. Daily homework includes grammar exercises, short answers, reading, or paragraph writing. Frequent vocabulary and grammar quizzes. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES UN1501
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 1501 002/10575 M T W Th 11:40am - 12:45pm Online Only Illan Gonen 5 14/15

MDES UN2501 Second Year Modern Hebrew: Intermediate I. 5 points.
Prerequisites: 1st Year Modern Hebrew II or the equivalent and instructor’s permission.
Equal emphasis is given to listening, speaking, reading and writing. Regular categories of the Hebrew verb, prepositions, and basic syntax are taught systematically. Vocabulary building. Daily homework includes grammar exercises, short answers, reading, or short compositions. Frequent vocabulary and grammar quizzes. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES UN2501
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 2501 002/10589 M T W Th 1:10pm - 2:15pm Online Only Illan Gonen 5 8/12
MDES UN2517 Hebrew for Heritage Speakers I. 4 points.

Fee: Language Resource Center Fee - 15.00

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor.

Hebrew for Heritage Speakers I forms part of a year-long sequence with Hebrew for Heritage Speakers II. The course is intended for those who have developed basic speaking and listening skills through exposure to Hebrew at home or in day-school programs but do not use Hebrew as their dominant language and have not reached the level required for exemption from the Columbia language requirement. Heritage speakers differ in the degree of their fluency, but their vocabulary is often limited to topics in daily life and many lack skills in reading and writing to match their ability to converse. The course focuses on grammar and vocabulary enrichment, exposing students to a variety of cultural and social topics in daily life and beyond. By the end of the semester students are able to read and discuss simple texts and write about a variety of topics. Successful completion of the year-long sequence prepares students to enroll in third-year modern Hebrew. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES UN2517

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MDES GU4501 Readings in Hebrew Texts I. 4 points.

Prerequisites: (MDES GU4510) and (MDES GU4511) 3RD Year Modern Hebrew or the instructor’s permission.

This course focuses on central identities shaping Israeli society and is designed to give students extensive experience in reading Hebrew. Through selected readings of contemporary literary works and media texts, students will increase their proficiency in Hebrew and enhance their understanding of Israeli culture and society. All readings, written assignments, and class discussions are in Hebrew. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES GU4501

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MDES GU4510 Third Year Modern Hebrew I. 4 points.

Prerequisites: 2nd Year Modern Hebrew II, Hebrew for Heritage Speakers II, or the instructor’s permission.

This course is designed to take students from the intermediate to advanced level. Students will further develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in Hebrew through an examination of a wide range of sources, including short stories, poems, visual arts, popular music, television shows and films. All readings, written assignments, and class discussions are in Hebrew. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES GU4510

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Persian Language Courses

MDES UN1701 Elementary Persian I. 4 points.

An introduction to the spoken and written language of contemporary Iran. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES UN1701

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<th>Course Number</th>
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MDES UN2701 INTERMEDIATE PERSIAN I. 4.00 points.

Prerequisites: Elementary Persian II or the equivalent. This course involves reading, writing, translating, conversation and grammatical foundations for Persian Language (PL). The materials are selected from two books: Āmuzesh-e Fārsi: Intermediate Level (required) and English-Persian Dictionary, plus verb system and charts (recommended). These books are assigned and have to be available to every student. There are also handouts, which will be provided throughout the course. This course serves as intermediate and makes students able to read and compose proper Persian language as well as the colloquial one. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES UN2701

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MDES GU4710 Advanced Persian I. 3 points.

While helping students advance their levels of oral and written expression, this course focuses on literature of the modern and medieval periods, with particular emphasis on the development of the modern novel and traditional and new forms of poetry. In addition to literature, students are introduced to a wide variety of genres from political and cultural essays and blogs to newspaper translations of the early 20th century. They will be further exposed to ta’rof in reference to a wide variety of socio-cultural contexts and be expected to use ta’rof in class conversations. Students will be exposed to popular artists and their works and satirical websites for insight into contemporary Iranian culture and politics. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES GU4710

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Turkish Language Courses

MDES UN2901 Intermediate Modern Turkish I. 4 points.
A continuation of the study of the written and spoken language of Turkey, with readings of literary, historical, and other texts. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES UN2902 Intermediate Modern Turkish II. 4 points.
A continuation of the study of the written and spoken language of Turkey, with readings of literary, historical, and other texts. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4910 Advanced Turkish I. 3 points.
Advanced Turkish I is designed to use authentic Turkish materials around projects that are chosen by the student in a research seminar format where students conduct their own research and share it in class in a friendly atmosphere. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4921 Elementary Ottoman Turkish I. 3 points.
Prerequisites: two years of modern Turkish.
Elementary Ottoman Turkish aims to focus on reading selected authentic print materials that are enjoyable and interesting, such as authentic detective novels, historical documents, and literary materials. The class materials are designed according to the interests of students in a fast-paced learning environment. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4926 Intermediate Ottoman Turkish I. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Elementary Ottoman Turkish.
Intermediate Ottoman deals with authentic Ottoman texts from the early 18th and 19th centuries. The class uses Turkish as the primary language for instruction, and students are expected to translate assigned texts into Turkish or English. A reading packet will include various authentic archival materials in rika, talik and divani styles. Whenever possible, students will be given texts that are related to their areas of interest. Various writing styles will be dealt with on Ottoman literature, history, and archival documents. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Hindi-Urdu Language Courses

MDES UN1601 Elementary Hindi-Urdu I. 5 points.
An introduction to the most widely spoken language of South Asia. Along with an understanding of the grammar, the course offers practice in listening and speaking. The Hindi (Devanagari) script is used for reading and writing. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES UN1608 Hindi for Heritage Speakers I. 5 points.
This is an accelerated course for students of South Asian origin who already possess a knowledge of basic vocabulary and limited speaking and listening skills in Hindi. They may not have sufficient skills in reading and writing but are able to converse on familiar topics such as: self, family, likes, dislikes and immediate surroundings. This course will focus on developing knowledge of the basic grammar of Hindi and vocabulary enrichment by exposing students to a variety of cultural and social topics related to aspects of daily life; and formal and informal registers. Students will be able to read and discuss simple texts and write about a variety of everyday topics by the end of the semester. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.
MDES UN1614 Urdu for Heritage Speakers I. 5 points.
Prerequisites: a knowledge of basic vocabulary and limited speaking and listening skills in Urdu.
This is an accelerated course for students of South Asian origin who already possess a knowledge of basic vocabulary and limited speaking and listening skills in Urdu. They are not expected to know how to read and write in Urdu but are able to converse on familiar topics such as self, family, likes, dislikes and immediate surroundings. This course will focus on developing knowledge of the basic grammar of Urdu and vocabulary enrichment by exposing students to a variety of cultural and social topics related to aspects of daily life, and formal and informal registers. Students will be able to read and discuss simple Urdu texts and write about a variety of everyday topics by the end of the semester. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES UN1614
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 1614 001/10783 M T W Th 2:40pm - 3:45pm Aftab Ahmad 5 7/15

MDES UN1615 Urdu for Heritage Speakers II. 5 points.
This is an accelerated course for students of South Asian origin who already possess a knowledge of basic vocabulary and limited speaking and listening skills in Urdu. They are not expected to know how to read and write in Urdu but are able to converse on familiar topics such as self, family, likes, dislikes and immediate surroundings. This course will focus on developing knowledge of the basic grammar of Urdu and vocabulary enrichment by exposing students to a variety of cultural and social topics related to aspects of daily life, and formal and informal registers. Students will be able to read and discuss simple Urdu texts and write about a variety of everyday topics by the end of the semester. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES UN2601 Intermediate Hindi-Urdu I. 5 points.
Prerequisites: (MDES UN1601) and (MDES UN1602) MDES UN1601-UN1602 or the instructor's permission.
Continuing practice in listening, speaking, and grammatical understanding. Along with the Hindi (Devanagari) script, the Urdu (Perso-Arabic) script is taught in the class; both scripts are used for reading and writing. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES UN2601
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 2601 001/10784 M T W Th 4:10pm - 5:15pm Aftab Ahmad 5 7/15

MDES UN2602 Intermediate Hindi-Urdu II. 5 points.
Prerequisites: MDES W1610-W1611 or the instructor's permission.
Continuing practice in listening, speaking, and grammatical understanding. Along with the Hindi (Devanagari) script, the Urdu (Perso-Arabic) script is taught in the class; both scripts are used for reading and writing. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES W4610 Readings In Hindi Literature I. 4 points.
May be repeated for credit; content varies.
Prerequisites: MDES W1613 or the instructor's permission.
The course introduces students to the riches of the classical Hindi tradition. We read bhakti and Sufi literature in tandem, with a special interest in Tulsidas and the Indo-Islamic romance. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4611 Readings In Hindi Literature II. 4 points.
May be repeated for credit; content varies.
Prerequisites: MDES UN2602 or the instructor's permission.
This course introduces students to the riches of the classical Hindi Tradition. We read Bhakti and Sufi Literature in tandem, with a special interest in Tulsidas and the Indo-Islamic Romance.

MDES GU4624 Advanced Hindi I. 5 points.
Advanced Hindi I and II are third year courses in the Hindi-Urdu program that aim to continue building upon the existing four language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) along with grammar and vocabulary in a communicative approach. The objective of these courses is to strengthen students' language skills and to go beyond them to understand and describe situations and the speech community, understand and discuss Hindi literature and films, news items, T.V. shows and current events. Students will also be given opportunities to work on their areas of interest such as popular culture, professional and research goals in the target language. Students will be expected to expand their vocabulary, enhance grammatical accuracy and develop cultural appropriateness through an enthusiastic participation in classroom activities and immersing themselves in the speech community outside. This course will be taught in the target language. All kinds of conversations such as daily life, on social/public interests' topics as well as on academic interests, will occur in the target language. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4625 Advanced Hindi II. 5 points.
Advanced Hindi I and II are third year courses in the Hindi-Urdu program that aim to continue building upon the existing four language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) along with grammar and vocabulary in a communicative approach. The objective of these courses is to strengthen students' language skills and to go beyond them to understand and describe situations and the speech community, understand and discuss Hindi literature and films, news items, T.V. shows and current events. Students will also be given opportunities to work on their areas of interest such as popular culture, professional and research goals in the target language. Students will be expected to expand their vocabulary, enhance grammatical accuracy and develop cultural appropriateness through an enthusiastic participation in classroom activities and immersing themselves in the speech community outside. This course will be taught in the target language. All kinds of conversations such as daily life, on social/public interests' topics as well as on academic interests, will occur in the target language. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.
MDES GU4635 Readings In Urdu Literature I. 4 points.
Prerequisites: two years of prior coursework in Hindi-Urdu (MDES UN1612 & MDES UN1613), one year of Urdu for Heritage Speakers (MDES UN1614 & MDES UN1615), or the instructor's permission.
This course is a literary course, with in-depth exposure to some of the finest works of classical and modern Urdu prose and poetry. In the fall semester, our focus will be on some of the most famous Urdu short stories while, in the spring semester, we will focus on various genres of Urdu poetry. The content may change each semester. This course is open to both undergraduates and graduates. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4636 Readings In Urdu Literature II. 4 points.
Prerequisites: two years of prior coursework in Hindi-Urdu (MDES W1612 & MDES W1613), one year of Urdu for Heritage Speakers (MDES W1614 & MDES W1615), or the instructor’s permission.
This course is a literary course, with in-depth exposure to some of the finest works of classical and modern Urdu prose and poetry. In the fall semester, our focus will be on some of the most famous Urdu short stories while, in the spring semester, we will focus on various genres of Urdu poetry. The content may change each semester. This course is open to both undergraduates and graduates. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4640 Advanced Urdu. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Two years of prior study in Urdu or one year of Urdu for Heritage Speakers I&II courses at Columbia University, or approval of the professor.
This is a one-semester course in advanced Urdu language. It will be taught in the fall semester. The goal of the course is to develop students’ linguistic skills i.e. listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural skills in Urdu, and give students in-depth exposure to some of the finest works of classical and modern Urdu prose. Special emphasis will be given to developing a high-register vocabulary. Necessary grammar points will also be explained for developing an accurate and nuanced understanding of the Urdu language. After completing this course, students will be able to read and enjoy Urdu classics and critical academic texts related to various disciplines i.e. old tales, short stories, essays, history, satire, criticism, politics, current issues etc. along with effective speaking skills suited to active interaction in the speech community and a more advanced academic discussion for undergraduate and graduate students. Students will develop an in-depth understanding of South Asian society and culture as well. This course will prepare students to take MDES GU4635 Readings in Urdu Literature I.

Sanskrit Language Courses

MDES UN1401 Elementary Sanskrit I. 4 points.
This course constitutes the first half of a year-long introduction to Classical Sanskrit, the translocal language of religious, intellectual, and literary life in South Asia for nearly two millennia. Assuming no prior experience with the language, this introductory sequence provides students with the grammar, reading strategies, and cultural context necessary to begin accessing the language’s many rich textual traditions, including scripture (sruti), epic (itiḥāsā), poetry (kāvya), drama (nāṭaka), systematic thought (śāstra), and more.

Fall 2020: MDES UN1401

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<th>Course</th>
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<th>Times/Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UN1401</td>
<td>001/11773</td>
<td>M T W Th 9:10am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Subramaniam</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5/15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

MDES UN2401 Intermediate Sanskrit I. 4 points.
Fee: Language Resource Center Fee - 15.00
Prerequisites: Elementary Sanskrit II or instructor permission.
This course constitutes the first half of a year-long reading course designed to give students the tools necessary for advanced study in Classical Sanskrit. Readings in epic (itiḥāsa), poetry (kāva), systematic thought (śāstra), and commentary (vyākhyāna) will introduce students to a variety of important genres and their distinctive conventions. A focus upon the Sanskrit tradition’s own categories of analysis—grammatical, commentarial, and prosodic—will enable students to begin to make sense of original Sanskrit texts as generations of the tradition’s own readers have. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES UN2401

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Section/Call Number</th>
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<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>UN2401</td>
<td>001/11776</td>
<td>T Th 10:10am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Subramaniam</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3/15</td>
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MDES GU4810 ADVANCED SANSKRIT I. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: Two years of Sanskrit or the instructor’s permission.
This course constitutes the first half of a year-long advanced reading course in Classical Sanskrit. In 2020-2021, the focus of Advanced Sanskrit will be the genre of scholastic, commentarial prose (śāstra). Placing equal attention on stylistic conventions, discursive strategies, and technical vocabulary, this course will introduce students to select philosophical debates lying at the intersections of epistemology, metaphysics, and philosophy of language. Textual excerpts may be drawn from an array of intellectual disciplines, including Nyāya, Mīmāṃsā, Yogācāra, and Vākāra. Rigorous analysis of primary texts will be supplemented with occasional discussions about what implications the disciplined reading of Sanskrit śāstra may hold for practices such as translation, comparative philosophy, and transdisciplinarity. Prerequisites: Intermediate Sanskrit II or instructor’s permission. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2020: MDES GU4810

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<tr>
<td>GU4810</td>
<td>001/13736</td>
<td>M W 10:10am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Tyler Richard</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>4/25</td>
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Tamil Language Courses

MDES UN1101 Elementary Tamil I. 4 points.
This course constitutes the first half of a year-long introduction to Tamil, the official language of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu as well as an official language of Sri Lanka and Singapore. In addition to being spoken by almost 80 million people worldwide, Tamil also has an impressive classical past, having served as a language of religious, intellectual, and literary life in South India for nearly two millennia. Assuming no prior experience with the language, this introductory sequence provides students with the grammar, language skills, and cultural context necessary for achieving their individual Tamil language goals, whether they be conducting fieldwork or scholarly research, chatting with relatives back home, or simply waxing poetic over an artful dosai. In order to cultivate students’ reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension skills, this course draws upon a wide variety of teaching materials, including the core textbook, oral drills, audio recordings, short films, music videos, memes, and more. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES UN1102 Elementary Tamil II. 4 points.
Introduces students to the basic grammatical and syntactical skills required to function adequately in a Tamil-speaking environment. Of particular interest to students planning to conduct scholarly research or fieldwork in that region of the world. Introduces students to the rich culture of the Indian subcontinent where Tamil is spoken. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES UN2101 Intermediate Tamil I. 4 points.
Prerequisites: MDES W1101-W1102 or the instructor’s permission. Further develops students’ written and oral proficiency in order to allow them to function adequately in a Tamil-speaking environment. Of particular interest to students planning to conduct scholarly research or fieldwork in a Tamil-speaking context. Develops the students’ appreciation for the rich culture of the Indian subcontinent where Tamil is spoken. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES UN2102 Intermediate Tamil II. 4 points.
Prerequisites: MDES W1101-W1102 or the instructor’s permission. Further develops students’ written and oral proficiency in order to allow them to function adequately in a Tamil-speaking environment. Of particular interest to students planning to conduct scholarly research or fieldwork in a Tamil-speaking context. Develops the students’ appreciation for the rich culture of the Indian subcontinent where Tamil is spoken. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

MDES GU4812 Advanced Sanskrit II. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Two years of Sanskrit or the instructor’s permission. This course aims at students improving further their language proficiency. It aims at students getting introduced to the long and continuous literary history of Tamil by reading non-contemporary Tamil writings, sometimes the ancient Tamil literary works.

MDES UN3301 Advanced Tamil I. 3 points.
Prerequisites: MDES W1201-W1202 or the instructor’s permission. This course aims at students improving further their language proficiency. It aims at students getting introduced to the long and continuous literary history of Tamil by reading non-contemporary Tamil writings, sometimes the ancient Tamil literary works.

MDES UN3302 Advanced Tamil II. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Advanced Tamil I or instructor permission. This course aims at students improving further their language proficiency. It aims at students getting introduced to the long and continuous literary history of Tamil by reading non-contemporary Tamil writings, sometimes the ancient Tamil literary works.

Pulaar Language Courses

Swahili Language Courses

SWHL UN1101 Elementary Swahili I. 4 points.
Essentials of grammar, basic vocabulary, practice in speaking and reading Swahili the most widely used indigenous language of East Africa. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

SWHL UN1102 Elementary Swahili II. 4 points.
Essentials of grammar, basic vocabulary, practice in speaking and reading Swahili the most widely used indigenous language of East Africa. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

SWHL UN2101 Intermediate Swahili I. 4 points.
Prerequisites: SWHL W1101-W1102 or the instructor’s permission. A review of the essentials of Swahili grammar; detailed analysis of Swahili texts; practice in conversation. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

SWHL UN2102 Intermediate Swahili II. 4 points.
Prerequisites: SWHL W1101-W1102 or the instructor’s permission. A review of the essentials of Swahili grammar; detailed analysis of Swahili texts; practice in conversation. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Wolof Language Courses

WLOF UN1101 Elementary Wolof I. 4 points.
Introduction to the basic grammatical structures of Wolof, a major language of West Africa spoken in Senegal and Gambia. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

WLOF UN1102 Elementary Wolof II. 4 points.
Introduction to the basic grammatical structures of Wolof, a major language of West Africa spoken in Senegal and Gambia. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

SWHL UN1101

Fall 2020: SWHL UN1101

Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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SWHL 1101 | 001/10606 | M T W Th 9:10am - 10:00am | Abdul Nanji | 4 | 13/15

SWHL UN2101

Fall 2020: SWHL UN2101

Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
SWHL 2101 | 001/10607 | M T W Th 10:10am - 11:00am | Abdul Nanji | 4 | 6/15

WLOF UN1101

Fall 2020: WLOF UN1101

Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
WLOF 1101 | 001/10875 | M T W Th 12:10pm - 1:00pm | Mariame Sy | 4 | 2/12
WLOF UN2101 Intermediate Wolof I. 4 points.
Prerequisites: WLOF W1101-W1102 or the instructor's permission.
Further develops a student's knowledge of Wolof, a major language of
West Africa spoken primarily in Senegal and Gambia. No P/D/F or R credit
is allowed for this class.

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<th>Times/Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>WLOF 2101</td>
<td>001/10877</td>
<td>M W 2:10pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Mariame Sy</td>
<td>4</td>
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WLOF UN3301 Advanced Wolof I. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Two years of Wolof or instructor permission.
No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>WLOF 3301</td>
<td>001/10879</td>
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<td>Mariame Sy</td>
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Of Related Interest
History (Barnard)