Concentration in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

Program Description:

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

To complete the concentration, students are required to fulfill several requirements:

1) They must demonstrate competence above the intermediate level in a language pertinent to their area of research. Students are encouraged to consider taking language courses already in their freshman year.

2) Students must take two courses about the Middle East and/or Islam, from two different departments, selected from a list of core courses for the concentration. The core courses are: History 117 Modern Mediterranean History, History 266 Sex and Gender in the Early Modern Islamic World, History 270 From Empire to Nation: The Ottoman World Transformed; Political Science 256 The Evolution of Jihadi Movement, Political Science 357 Conflict in the Middle East, Religion 108 Vocabularies of Islam, Religion 218 The Divine Guide: an Introduction to Shi’ism, and Religion 248 The Qur’an

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

4) Students must write a thesis (in their major department) that addresses Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies and is approved by the Concentration Coordinator (as well as the major advisor).

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

**MEIS courses offered at Haverford in 2013-14 suitable to first-year students:**

**Fall 2013:**
- Anthropology 253, Anthropology of the Middle East and North Africa, Zainab Saleh
- Political Science 256, Evolution of the jihadi movement, Barak Mendelsohn
- History 270, From Empire to Nation: The Ottoman World Transformed, Alex Kitroeff

**Spring 2013:**
- Religion 108, Vocabularies of Islam, Jamel Velji
- Religion 118, Hebrew Bible: Literary Text and Historical Context, Alison Joseph
- History 117, Modern Mediterranean History, Alex Kitroeff
- Political Science 151, International Politics, TBA
- Religion 212, Jerusalem: City, History and Representation, Naomi Koltun-Fromm

For more information about the Concentration visit http://www.haverford.edu/meis/index.php