INTRODUCTION

Developments in the Middle East over the course of the past decade have broadly and profoundly affected the world in which we live. They have revealed stark gaps in our understanding of the region’s economies, governments, religions, histories, and languages, on both an individual and collective basis. Established in 2010, the Middle Eastern Studies Minor is an interdisciplinary curriculum that expands and builds upon Wesleyan’s course offerings in Middle Eastern studies.

Although individual courses are open to any major (departmental prerequisites may apply), the minor offers students interested in a Middle East concentration with a formal curriculum that integrates government, history, religion, art history, and either Arabic or Hebrew.

ADMISSION

Students may declare the minor at any point in their undergraduate career at Wesleyan by submitting the minor declaration form in Wesportal. For tracking, advising, and co-curricular purposes, they are encouraged to sign on early.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

The Middle Eastern Studies Minor requires eight courses, of which at least one course must be from the courses listed under the Jewish and Israel Studies minor and one must be on the Muslim Middle East. Additionally, the eight required courses include

- Two courses (one full year) or equivalent at the intermediate level (second year) of Hebrew or Modern Standard Arabic (waived if the student demonstrates proficiency). Elementary language courses do not count toward the eight required courses for this minor.
- One gateway course
- One course on historical texts and traditions
- One course on contemporary society and politics
- Three electives

Students who are granted a waiver of the language course requirement by the director of the minor will take additional electives to complete eight courses toward the minor. With the approval of the director of the minor, one relevant tutorial and two relevant study-abroad courses may count toward the minor. Normally, no more than two courses from any one department or program may count toward the minor (this does not apply to language courses or to the gateway course).