Middle East Studies Learning Goals

Middle East Studies concentrators study a broad variety of topics through which they will acquire a comprehensive grasp of the regional context. Students will apply this comprehensive knowledge through core examinations and a capstone thesis. Student will be proficient in Arabic or Persian/Farsi.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will understand the historical background of the Middle East, including its Islamic history, and how history has shaped the region;
2. Recognize the ethno-religious makeup of the region—including when those cleavages can become politically salient;
3. Comprehend geo-strategic issues of the region, in the context of relationships with great powers and emerging powers;
4. Students should understand the role of natural resources in the region, and their impact on the economy as well as other socio-political dynamics.
5. Students should be familiar with the political economy of the various states of the Middle East.
6. Students should be familiar with current events, and be able to speak extemporaneously on these themes; and
7. Express their views using cogent arguments in the form of policy memos, briefings, oral presentations, or reports and papers of publishable quality.