



**AUD**  
AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY  
IN DUBAI

# **CERTIFICATE IN MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES**



Developing a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Middle East  
and its history, cultures, politics, and social structures



# **CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES**

**PROGRAM**

## **About the Certificate Program in Middle Eastern Studies**

The Middle East is a complex region that defies simplistic definitions and understandings. Local and international students at the American University in Dubai have demonstrated a keen interest in developing their knowledge of this region and in pursuing their careers here.

In order to help them gain a deeper appreciation of the Middle East and its history, cultures, politics, and social structures, AUD offers a Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies.



## **Program Mission**

The Middle Eastern Studies Certificate is an 18-19 credit-hour program designed to give students an appreciation for and understanding of the region in which they are currently studying and in which many will be pursuing professional careers. It is an opportunity for students to enhance their knowledge of the cultural, historical, and political factors that have shaped the Middle East through time and, to a large extent, explain the profile and texture of the current Middle Eastern landscape.

For Study Abroad students, the certificate program offers the unique opportunity to develop their interest in, and awareness of, Middle Eastern culture by living in a Middle Eastern country while earning credit at an American-accredited university.

# **PROGRAM GOALS**



## **Program Goals**

**The Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies program seeks to**

- Educate students to such a level that they can function successfully in a contemporary global forum with an understanding of other ethnicities and nationalities, specifically those in the Middle East
- Provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the culture(s) of the Middle East region
- Provide students with the necessary skills to critically analyze current situations/events in the Middle East region, considering both cultural and historical backgrounds
- Provide students with an understanding of the geopolitical role of the region in the context of the current concept of “globalization”

## **Program Learning Outcomes**

**Upon completion of the Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies, students will be able to**

- Demonstrate required familiarity with Modern Standard Arabic
- Exhibit a geographic knowledge of the region, including both physical and economic aspects
- Identify and discuss the historical underpinnings of the region
- Explain the basic tenets of the Islamic faith and the role various religions lay in the societies of the Middle East
- Identify and discuss the various cultures whose presence contributes to and presents challenges to the cohesiveness of the region
- Identify the various political systems historically and currently practiced in the region
- Identify significant contributions to human culture by civilizations in the region





**WHO  
SHOULD BE  
INTERESTED?**

## **Who should be interested?**

The Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies should be of potential interest to all baccalaureate degree candidates.

Students who plan to seek employment in the Middle East will gain a deeper understanding of the region – historical, cultural, and political – which will serve them well, regardless of their chosen profession.

Study Abroad students benefit from the structured study of the Middle East as a means of complementing their experiences gained from living in the region.

The Certificate serves to complement the undergraduate degree programs in which students are enrolled, the result being a broadening of cultural knowledge and sensitivity – both of which play a role in professional endeavors and future success.

## **Who is eligible?**

Students pursuing bachelor's degrees at AUD, attending AUD as visiting students, enrolled in the Study Abroad Program, or attending as exchange students,

or

Students who have already completed a bachelor's degree and are only seeking admissions to the Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies program.











## What are the requirements?

To qualify for admission to the Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies program, students must

- Be in good academic standing at AUD or their primary university of study
- Be pursuing or having pursued or earned a bachelor's degree at an institution accredited by the MOE in the UAE, or by the relevant national or regional institutional accrediting body in the case of international applicants
- Have successfully completed ENGL 102 (Advanced Composition and Research), or its equivalent for students coming from institutions in which English is the language of instruction
- Satisfy the English-language requirements for students coming from institutions in which English is not the language of instruction
- Satisfy all other requirements for admission to AUD
- English Language Requirements: Official TOEFL® / Academic IELTS™ test scores

### **Note**

AUD students should apply for the Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies by completing the Interest in Pursuing the Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies Form, which is available in the Registrar's Office.

### **Transfer Credits**

Please consult [www.aud.edu](http://www.aud.edu)

**PROGRAM**

## Requirements

Course Components	Credit Hours
Arabic Language*	3-4
Required Courses	6
Humanities/Social Sciences	3
Religion	3
Area Studies	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>18-19</b>

\*The number of credit hours depends on the Arabic course that students take. 100- and 200-level Arabic courses are 4 credit hours each. The two 300-level Arabic courses are 3 credit hours each.

## Course Sequencing

The recommended course sequence for students pursuing the Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies is as follows:

### Semester I (Six Credits)

MEST 210 and MEST 310, MEST 323, or MEST 343

### Semester II (SIX CREDITS)

Arabic Language Course and MEST Religion Course

### Semester III (Six Credits)

MEST Area Studies Course and MEST Humanities/Social Sciences Course

*Study Abroad Students who only take courses within the scope of the Certificate may complete the program in one semester by incurring an overload.*

## Completion Requirements

The Certificate will be awarded upon students' completion of all Certificate requirements.

All courses applied towards the Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies must be completed with a grade of C or above, and students must achieve a minimum 2.0 CGPA for the Certificate.

Students completing the program should request the Certificate from the Registrar's Office.

For information on transfer credits, please refer to the AUD Undergraduate Catalog.







## MEST Course Classifications

The Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies is an 18-19 credit-hour program. Students select from the courses below.

Language (3-4)*	
MEST 101	Elementary Arabic I
MEST 102	Elementary Arabic II
MEST 201	Intermediate Arabic I
MEST 202	Intermediate Arabic II
MEST 301	Arabic Proficiency I
MEST 302	Arabic Proficiency II

Religion (3)	
MEST 320	Elementary Arabic I
MEST 323	Elementary Arabic II
MEST 327	Intermediate Arabic I
MEST 329	Intermediate Arabic II
MEST 350	Arabic Proficiency I

Required Courses (6)	
MEST 210	An Introduction to Middle East
MEST 310	History And one of the following courses: Islamic Civilization
MEST 323	Islam: Historical and Societal Aspects
MEST 343	Business in the Modern Middle East

Area Studies (3)	
MEST 380	Elementary Arabic II
MEST 381	North Africa: Nation, Society and Culture
MEST 382	The Levant: Arab Lands of Eastern Mediterranean
MEST 383	Iraq: Reinventing the Nation
MEST 384	Egypt: Literature Since 1952

Humanities/Social Sciences (3)	
MEST 310	An Introduction to Middle East
MEST 315	History And one of the following courses: Islamic Civilization
MEST 317	Islam: Historical and Societal Aspects
MEST 318	Business in the Modern Middle East
MEST 319	Politics in the Middle East
MEST 320	The Qur'an: Text, History, Meaning
MEST 323	Islam: Historical and Societal Aspects
MEST 327	Islamic Politics
MEST 329	Islamic Art and Architecture
MEST 330	The Ancient Near East (c. B.C.E. - 100 C.E.)
MEST 333	The Middle East in Late Antiquity (c. 800 - 250 C.E.)
MEST 352	Conflicts in the Middle East
MEST 353	Women and Gender in the Middle East

*\*Students who already know Modern Standard Arabic should arrange to take a placement test with the MEST language instructor. If a student's level is sufficient to place out of the Arabic courses being offered, then he or she should take another MEST Certificate-qualifying course as a substitute.*

*For a full description of the courses, please refer to the AUD Undergraduate Catalog or browse online.*

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## School of Arts and Sciences

The School of Arts and Sciences exemplifies the tradition that a college education liberates the mind. The School values the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake and believes that all college graduates are capable of studying a broad spectrum of subjects and of following a rational process to draw conclusions and inferences.

## ADMISSIONS AT AUD

The Mission of the Office of Admissions is to admit to AUD's degree programs students who possess appropriate credentials and the demonstrated capacity and potential to successfully complete the educational programs provided by the University and meaningfully participate in the total educational experience offered by AUD.

The Admissions Office consists of a professional team that assists prospective students gain accessibility to opportunities in higher education. The Admissions team is held to a high level of integrity and is charged with providing quality service and accurate information to all students.

### AUD OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

P. O. Box 28282, Dubai, UAE  
T. +971 4 399 9000  
[admissions@aud.edu](mailto:admissions@aud.edu)  
[www.aud.edu](http://www.aud.edu)

For specific admissions requirements, please check the AUD Undergraduate Catalog at our website or contact the Office of Admissions.

### ACCREDITED IN THE UAE & THE USA

AUD is officially licensed by the U.A.E. Ministry of Education – Higher Education Affairs (MOE-HEA) The Ministry has accredited the university's undergraduate and graduate programs, in addition to Certificate programs in Middle Eastern Studies and Professional Teaching.

AUD is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award Baccalaureate and Master's degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of AUD may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 USA, by calling +1 (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).