

Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES)

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CAMES' goal is to enhance understanding of the Middle East and encourage informed scholarship of the region in all academic disciplines. This is achieved through its program offerings, cooperation with other institutions, its publications, and a lecture series that it sponsors throughout the year. CAMES is an interdepartmental, interdisciplinary unit with the educational aim of assisting students to acquire a sound grounding in an academic discipline and in the languages and civilizations of the Middle East.

CAMES achieves this objective through its MA degree program - a two-year thesis program. Students at CAMES are required to complete a minimum of 21 credit hours in courses numbered 300 and above in addition to a thesis. All CAMES students are required to take the core course, MEST 301. Students who are not native speakers of Arabic are required to complete 6 credits of Arabic language study. No more than 9 credits of Arabic language instruction may be taken for credit toward the MA degree. Students may take their remaining courses in topics related to Middle Eastern Studies at departments other than CAMES.

The program focuses on current methodologies and approaches to the general field of Middle Eastern scholarship. Students structure their own course of study in such areas as contemporary Middle Eastern history, archaeology, the social sciences, and Arabic language and literature. The courses and the thesis requirements encourage students' critical and independent thinking and the undertaking of analytical in-depth research. CAMES is committed to the study of the Arabic language and offers courses at all levels in coordination with the Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages, as well as a six-week intensive Arabic language course in the summer.

Courses Offered

MEST 301 Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies 3.0; 3 cr.

A general course in modern Middle Eastern studies designed to introduce students to the interdisciplinary study of the Middle East. Faculty from the various departments associated with CAMES such as History and Archaeology, Philosophy, Arabic, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Economics, and Political Studies are asked to present a seminar that illustrates the approaches and methodologies used in their respective fields to study the region. *Consent of instructor required. Annually.*

- MEST 310 Seminar in Early Islamic History 3.0; 3 cr.**
A seminar course that provides a social and intellectual introduction to approximately the first five hundred years of Arabic Islamic history, using a thematic rather than a chronological approach. *Consent of instructor required. Annually.*
- MEST 311 Special Topics in Medieval Islamic Cultural History 3.0; 3 cr.**
Consent of instructor required. Biennially.
- MEST 315 Special Topics in Modern Middle Eastern Social and Political History 3.0; 3 cr.**
Consent of instructor required. Biennially.
- MEST 316 Special Topics in Modern Arabic Cultural and Intellectual History 3.0; 3 cr.**
Consent of instructor required. Biennially.
- MEST 302/305 Graduate Tutorial 3.0; 3 cr. (each)**
- MEST 321/322 Arabic as a Foreign Language I and II 5.0; 3 cr. (each)**
A thorough course in basic literary Arabic, with emphasis on the vocabulary of modern literature, the press, and current affairs. This course teaches grammar and structure enabling students to read, understand, and translate from and into Arabic within a tightly controlled syntactical milieu. *Annually.*
- MEST 323/324 Arabic as a Foreign Language III and IV 5.0; 3 cr. (each)**
A continuation of the carefully graded approach begun in MEST 321 and MEST 322, and culminating with the exposition of the derivation system. This course empowers students to use lexica and to read, understand and translate, unhampered by any loopholes in their knowledge of basic Arabic syntax and morphology. *Annually. Prerequisites: MEST 321 and 322 or equivalent.*
- MEST 325/326 Arabic as a Foreign Language V and VI 3.0; 3 cr. (each)**
The main goal for this level is to reach a superior level of proficiency. Reading texts containing opinions, hypotheses, and intellectual discussions, in addition to selections from classical Arabic literature. Grammar consists largely of details, such as the full conjugation of irregular verb classes and fine points of complex sentence structure. Instruction is totally in Arabic. *Prerequisites: MEST 323 and 324 or equivalent. Annually.*
- MEST 329 Special Topics in Arabic Language and Literature 3.0; 3 cr.**
Occasionally.
- MEST 330 Introductory Syriac 3.0; 3 cr.**
The course provides students with a working knowledge of Syriac language and grammar. With the help of a lexicon, students are expected to read and translate simple Syriac texts. *Occasionally.*
- MEST 331 Introduction to Syriac Literature 3.0; 3 cr.**
The aim of this introductory course is to provide the student with an overview of Syriac literature from its origins to the present day. *Prerequisite: ARAB 215/MEST 330, or consent of instructor. Occasionally.*

MEST 240/340 Introduction to Lebanese Arabic**5.0; 3 cr.**

This course is for foreign speakers of Arabic only. The course builds proficiency in Lebanese Arabic through the introduction of the grammatical features of the Lebanese dialect and the practice of interactive functional skills, including listening comprehension, conversation tasks, and vocabulary building. *For undergraduate and graduate students. Consent of instructor required. Each semester.*

MEST 241/341 Intermediate Lebanese Arabic**5.0; 3 cr.**

This course is for foreign speakers of Arabic only. Intermediate Lebanese Arabic is a continuation of MEST 240/340 Introduction to Lebanese Arabic. The course emphasizes the further development of conversational skills in Lebanese Arabic, and therefore targets primarily speaking and listening skills. Knowledge of the Arabic alphabet is required to join MEST 241/341. This course concentrates on increasing vocabulary and command of syntax enabling students to reach a higher level of fluency. *For undergraduate and graduate students. Prerequisite: MEST 240/340 or equivalent. Consent of instructor required. Each semester.*

MEST 242/342 Advanced Lebanese Arabic**3.0; 3 cr.**

This course is the continuation of the sequence begun in MEST 241/341 Intermediate Lebanese Arabic and MEST 240/340 Introduction to Lebanese Arabic. Like the preceding courses, it focuses on spoken rather than written Arabic, and will therefore target primarily the oral/aural skills; speaking and listening. Knowledge of the Arabic alphabet is required to join MEST 242/342. The course is designed to meet the needs and expectations of non-native young adults and adults who are seeking to develop a comfortable level of proficiency in a variety of complicated communicative tasks and social situations. *For undergraduate and graduate students. Prerequisite: MEST 241/341 or equivalent. Consent of instructor required. Each semester.*

MEST 399 MA Thesis**9 cr.**