Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES)

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The Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES) is an interdepartmental, interdisciplinary unit that seeks to enhance the understanding of the Middle East and Islamic civilization and to encourage informed scholarship in all related academic disciplines. 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 seven-week intensive language courses in Modern Standard Arabic and Lebanese Colloquial Arabic in the summer.

CAMES offers MA programs in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies (see Graduate Catalogue) and a select number of courses at the undergraduate level. To complement students’ course work and to promote scholarship about the Middle East and Islamic civilization at AUB, the center also sponsors visiting lectures and conferences and holds occasional events, such as film showings and readings.

Courses

MEST 201 Introduction to the Middle East 3.0; 3 cr.
This course provides an introductory survey of the history, politics, political economy, international relations, and cultures of the contemporary Middle East.

MEST 210 Special Topics in Middle Eastern Studies 3.0; 3 cr.

MEST 240 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. Every semester.
MEST 241  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 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. This course concentrates on increasing vocabulary and command of syntax enabling students to reach a higher level of fluency. For undergraduate and graduate students. Consent of instructor required. *Prerequisite: MEST 240 or placement based on a placement interview. Every semester.*

MEST 242  Advanced Lebanese Arabic  3.0; 3 cr.
This course is the continuation of the sequence begun in MEST 241 Intermediate Lebanese Arabic and MEST 240 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. 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. Consent of instructor required. *Prerequisite: MEST 241 or placement based on a placement interview. Every semester.*