MEL - Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures

Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: MEL

Lower-Division Courses

MEL 301. Gateway to the Middle East.
Same as Middle Eastern Studies 301C. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 301 and Middle Eastern Studies 301C may not both be counted.

MEL 301J. The Ancient Middle East.
Same as Ancient History and Classical Civilization 310 (Topic 3), History 306Q, and Middle Eastern Studies 301J. Survey the history of the Middle East from the beginning of the Neolithic period (9000 BCE) through the invasion of the region by Alexander the Great in 332 BCE and into the pre-Islamic era. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Ancient History and Classical Civilization 310 (Topic 3), History 306Q, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 301J, Middle Eastern Studies 301J.

Upper-Division Courses

MEL 321. Topics in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures.
Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted unless the topics vary: Islamic Studies 372, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321, Middle Eastern Studies 342. May be repeated for credit when the topics vary. Prerequisite: Varies with the topic.

Topic 1: Introduction to Arabic Literature. Same as Comparative Literature 323 (Topic 13) and Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 1). General survey of major themes, genres, and artists in the Arabic literary tradition from the sixth century to the modern era. Only one of the following may be counted: Comparative Literature 323 (Topic 13), Islamic Studies 373 (Topic 1), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 1), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 1). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 2: Loyalty and Rebellion in Arabic Literature. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 2). Only one of the following may be counted: Islamic Studies 373 (Topic 2), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 2), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 2). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 3: Memory and Identity in Ancient Arabia. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 3). Only one of the following may be counted: Islamic Studies 373 (Topic 3), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 3), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 3). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 4: The Arabian Nights. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 4). Only one of the following may be counted: Islamic Studies 373 (Topic 4), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 4), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 4). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 5: Israel Through Its Literature. Same as Comparative Literature 323 (Topic 15), Jewish Studies 363 (Topic 17), and Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 5). Only one of the following may be counted: Comparative Literature 323 (Topic: Introduction to Israeli Literature), Comparative Literature 323 (Topic 15), English 322 (Topic: Introduction to Israeli Literature), Jewish Studies 363 (Topic 17), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 5), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 5). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 6: Love and the State in Contemporary Israeli Literature. Same as Jewish Studies 363 (Topic 7) and Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 6). Only one of the following may be counted: Comparative Literature 323 (Topic: Love and State in Contemporary Israeli Literature), English 322 (Topic: Love and State in Contemporary Israeli Literature), Jewish Studies 363 (Topic 7), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 6), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 6), Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic: Love and State in Contemporary Israeli Literature). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 7: Postmodernist Israeli Literature. Same as Jewish Studies 363 (Topic 19) and Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 7). Study of the first decades of Israeli literature. Themes include the establishment of a new state in the aftermath of the Holocaust, conflict between Israel and Arab nations, and conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Only one of the following may be counted: Comparative Literature 323 (Topic: Postmodernist Israeli Literature), English 322 (Topic: Postmodernist Israeli Literature), Jewish Studies 363 (Topic 19), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 7), 342 (Topic 7). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 8: The Sacred and the Secular in Contemporary Jewish Literature. Same as Jewish Studies 363 (Topic 10), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 8), and Religious Studies 353L. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Jewish Studies 363 (Topic 10), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 8), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 8), Religious Studies 353 (Topic 3), 353L. Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 9: The Qur'an. Same as Comparative Literature 323 (Topic 37), Core Texts and Ideas 375 (Topic 1), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 16), Religious Studies 325G, and Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic 54). The history, language, style, and themes of the Qur'an. Only one of the following may be counted: Comparative Literature 323 (Topic 37), Core Texts and Ideas 375 (Topic 1), Islamic Studies 340 (Topic 2), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 9), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 16), Religious Studies 325G, Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic 54). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 10: Persian Literature, Past and Present. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 10). Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 10) and Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 10) may not both be counted. Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 11: Iranian Women Writers. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 11) and Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic 10). Only one of the following may be counted: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 11), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 11), WGS 340 (Topic 10). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 12: Iranian Literature in Exile. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 12). Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 12) and Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 12) may not both be counted. Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.


Topic 14: Iranian Film and Fiction. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 14). Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 14) and Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 14) may not both be counted. Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 15: Love and the State in Contemporary Israeli Literature. Same as Jewish Studies 363 (Topic 7) and Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 6). Only one of the following may be counted: Comparative Literature 323 (Topic: Love and State in Contemporary Israeli Literature), English 322 (Topic: Love and State in Contemporary Israeli Literature), Jewish Studies 363 (Topic 7), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 6), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 6), Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic: Love and State in Contemporary Israeli Literature). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 16: Gender in North and West Africa. Same as African and African Diaspora Studies 340S, Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 28), and Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic 34). Examines gender discourses through North African and West African literary works by looking at the role(s) played by Islam and Christianity in the creation of the identities of African men and women. Includes discussion of the question of what gender is, and whether it is socially constructed. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: African and African Diaspora Studies 340S, 372G
Topic 17: The Dead Sea Scrolls. Same as Ancient History and Classical Civilization 330 (Topic 1), History 364E, Jewish Studies 364 (Topic 4), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 23), and Religious Studies 353D. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Ancient History and Classical Civilization 330 (Topic 1), History 364G (Topic 3), 364E, Jewish Studies 364 (Topic 4), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 17), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 23), Religious Studies 353D. Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 18: Islamic Law. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 27), Religious Studies 358K, and Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic 27). Designed to give students a foundation in the substantive teachings of the shariah, which comprises not only what we normally think of as law, but also ethics and etiquette. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Islamic Studies 340 (Topic 5), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic: Islamic Law), 321 (Topic 19), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 27), Religious Studies 358 (Topic: Islamic Law), 358 (Topic 9), 358K, Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic 27). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 19: Islamic Law. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 27), Religious Studies 358K, and Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic 27). Designed to give students a foundation in the substantive teachings of the shariah, which comprises not only what we normally think of as law, but also ethics and etiquette. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Islamic Studies 340 (Topic 5), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic: Islamic Law), 321 (Topic 19), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 27), Religious Studies 358 (Topic: Islamic Law), 358 (Topic 9), 358K, Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic 27). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 20: Women Filmmakers in the Middle East. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 32) and Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic 55). Only one of the following may be counted: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 23), Middle Eastern Studies 322K (Topic: Women Filmmakers in the Middle East), 342 (Topic 32), Turkish 372 (Topic: Women Filmmakers in the Middle East), Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic: Women Filmmakers in the Middle East), 340 (Topic 55). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 21: Palestine and the Palestinians: A Journey Through Time. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 31). Three lecture hours per week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Arabic 360L (Topic: Palestine and the Palestinians), 360L (Topic 10), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 21), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 31). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.


Topic 23: Women Filmmakers in the Middle East. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 32) and Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic 55). Only one of the following may be counted: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 23), Middle Eastern Studies 322K (Topic: Women Filmmakers in the Middle East), 342 (Topic 32), Turkish 372 (Topic: Women Filmmakers in the Middle East), Women's and Gender Studies 340 (Topic: Women Filmmakers in the Middle East), 340 (Topic 55). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 24: Love in the East and West. Same as Comparative Literature 323 (Topic 36), Core Texts and Ideas 343, and Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 33). Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Comparative Literature 323 (Topic 36), Core Texts and Ideas 343, 345 (Topic 10), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 25), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 33). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 25: Islamic Theology. Same as Core Texts and Ideas 357, Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 35), and Religious Studies 358U. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Core Texts and Ideas 375 (Topic 2), 357, Islamic Studies 340 (Topic 7), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 27), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 35), Religious Studies 358 (Topic 14), 358U. Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 26: Rumi and the Persian Sufi Tradition. Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 36). Only one of the following may be counted: Islamic Studies 373 (Topic 12), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 28), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 36). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Topic 27: Islamic Theology. Same as Core Texts and Ideas 343, Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 33), Religious Studies 358U. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Ancient History and Classical Civilization 330 (Topic 17), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 36), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 38). Only one of the following may be counted: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 36), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 38). Only one of the following may be counted: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 36), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 38). Only one of the following may be counted: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 36), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 38). Only one of the following may be counted: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 36), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 38). Only one of the following may be counted: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic 36), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 38).
may be counted: Comparative Literature 323 (Topic: Israel/Palestine: Cultur Persp), 323 (Topic 64), Jewish Studies 363 (Topic: Israel/ Palestine: Cultur Persp), 363 (Topic 23), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic: Israel/Palestine: Cultur Persp), 321 (Topic 40), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic: Israel/Palestine: Cultur Persp), 342 (Topic 56). Additional prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

MEL 321C. Iranian and Iranian-American Identity. 
Same as Comparative Literature 323 (Topic 63), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 62), and Women’s and Gender Studies 340 (Topic 81). Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Comparative Literature 323 (Topic: Iran/Iranian-Amer Ident), 323 (Topic 63), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic: Iran/Iranian-Amer Ident), 321C, Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic: Iran/ Iranian-Amer Ident), 342 (Topic 62), Women’s and Gender Studies 340 (Topic: Iran/Iranian-Amer Ident), 340 (Topic 81). Prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

MEL 321D. Debating Genesis. 
Same as Jewish Studies 363 (Topic 26), Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 65), and Religious Studies 353M. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Jewish Studies 363 (Topic: Debating Genesis), 363 (Topic 26), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic: Debating Genesis), 321D, Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic: Debating Genesis), 342 (Topic 65), Religious Studies 353 (Topic: Debating Genesis), 353M. Prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

MEL 321P. The Persian Epic and Popular Culture. 
Same as Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic 60). Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 321 (Topic: Persian Epic/Pop Culture), 321P, Middle Eastern Studies 342 (Topic: Persian Epic/Pop Culture), 342 (Topic 60). Prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

MEL 323. Engaging the Middle East. 
Same as Middle Eastern Studies 323C. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 323 and Middle Eastern Studies 323C may not both be counted. Prerequisite: Upper-division standing, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 301 or Middle Eastern Studies 301C.

MEL 358Q. Supervised Research. 
Supervised research experience in Middle Eastern languages, literatures and cultures. Individual instruction. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 301, and six hours of upper-division Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish.

MEL 379. Conference Course. 
Supervised individual study of selected problems in Middle Eastern languages and cultures. Conference course. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Upper-division standing and consent of instructor.

MEL 679H. Honors Tutorial Course. 
Supervised individual reading for one semester, followed by research and writing to produce a substantial paper on a literary or linguistic problem. Conference course for two semesters. Prerequisite: For 679HA, admission to the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures Honors Program; for 679HB, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 679HA.

Graduate Courses

MEL 380. Topics in Middle Eastern Cultures. 
Three lecture hours a week for one semester. May be repeated for credit when the topics vary. Prerequisite: Graduate standing; additional prerequisites may vary with the topic.

Topic 1: Gender, Clothing, and Identity in Muslim Societies. 
Same as Middle Eastern Studies 386 (Topic 25). Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 380 (Topic 1), Middle Eastern Studies 381 (Topic: Gend/Cloth/Ident in Muslim Soc), 386 (Topic 25). Additional prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Topic 2: Introduction to Islamic Studies. 
Introduction to the academic field of Islamic Studies. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Additional prerequisite: Graduate standing.

MEL 380C. Topics in Middle Eastern Languages. 
Advanced studies in Middle Eastern languages. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. May be repeated for credit when the topics vary. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of instructor; additional prerequisites may vary with the topic.

Topic 1: Targumic Aramaic. 
Examines Aramaic translations of the Hebrew bible that contain many exegetical deviations from the Hebrew text, and provide a glimpse of Jewish theology at the time of their composition. Additional prerequisite: Consent of instructor; some knowledge of Hebrew is recommended.

Topic 2: Syriac. 
Study of the eastern Aramaic dialect that was spoken in the ancient Near East until the Muslim occupation. Examines the use of the dialect as a vehicle for Christianity in the East; its use in poetry, science, and philosophy; and its influence on Arabic. Covers the essentials of Syriac grammar for the purpose of reading Syriac texts. Hebrew 380C (Topic 9: Syriac) and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 380C (Topic 2) may not both be counted. Additional prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Topic 3: Classical Ethiopic. 
Study of the fourth-century language of the Semitic people who lived in what is now Ethiopia and Eritrea. Covers the alphabet and grammar needed for reading translations of the Bible and other texts. Additional prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Topic 4: Ugaritic. 
Study of the West Semitic languages from the city of Ugarit in what is now Syria, which was spoken from the fourteenth through twelfth century BC. Covers the essentials of grammar needed for reading Ugaritic texts. Additional prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Topic 6: Akkadian I. 
Introduction to the study of Akkadian, the principal language used in ancient Assyria, Babylonia, and their environs. Explore Old Babylonian grammar and the cuneiform writing system. Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 380C (Topic: Akkadian I) and 380C (Topic 6) may not both be counted.

Topic 7: Akkadian II. 
Continue the study of Akkadian and Old Babylonian grammar, syntax, and signs. Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 380C (Topic: Akkadian II) and 380C (Topic 7) may not both be counted. Additional prerequisite: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 380C (Topic 6).

Topic 8: Akkadian III. 
Read Akkadian texts from a variety of genres and time periods, including Assyrian and Babylonian letters and royal inscriptions. Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 380C (Topic: Akkadian III) and 380C (Topic 8) may not both be counted. Additional prerequisite: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 380C (Topic 7).

Topic 9: Akkadian IV. 
Read Akkadian texts from a variety of genres and time periods, including Standard Babylonian literary texts. Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 380C (Topic: Akkadian IV) and 380C
MEL 381. Topics in Middle Eastern Literatures.
Three lecture hours a week for one semester. May be repeated for credit when the topics vary. Prerequisite: Graduate standing; additional prerequisites vary with the topic.

MEL 382. Topics in Middle Eastern Linguistics.
Three lecture hours a week for one semester. May be repeated for credit when the topics vary. Prerequisite: Graduate standing; additional prerequisites vary with the topic.

MEL 383. Topics in the Ancient Near East.
Three lecture hours a week for one semester. May be repeated for credit when the topics vary. Prerequisite: Graduate standing; additional prerequisites vary with the topic.

MEL 383C. Current Issues in Hebrew Bible.
Examines the issues that are current in one major area of Hebrew Bible scholarship. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Hebrew 380C (Topic: Hebrew Bible Doctoral Seminar I), Jewish Studies 383 (Topic: Hebrew Bible Doctoral Seminar III), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 383 (Topic: Hebrew Bible Doctoral Seminar III), 383C, 383 (Topic 1: Hebrew Bible Doctoral Seminar I), 383 (Topic 3: Hebrew Bible Doctoral Seminar III), Religious Studies 386H (Topic: Hebrew Bible Doctoral Seminar III). Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of instructor.

MEL 383D. Exegetical Seminar in Hebrew Bible.
Examines a biblical book (e.g. Song of Songs) or subject (e.g. Jubilee) applying history, philology, literary theory, poetics, history of interpretation, and linguistics. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Only one of the following may be counted: Hebrew 380C (Topic: Hebrew Bible Doctoral Seminar II), Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 383 (Topic: Hebrew Bible Doctoral Seminar IV), 383 (Topic 2: Hebrew Bible Doctoral Seminar II), 383 (Topic 4: Hebrew Bible Doctoral Seminar IV), 383D. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of instructor.

MEL 389. Conference Course in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures.
Supervised individual study of selected problems in Middle Eastern languages and cultures. The equivalent of three lectures a week for one semester. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing, consent of the instructor and graduate adviser.

MEL 194, 294, 394. Professional Development in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures.
For each semester hour of credit earned, one lecture hour a week for one semester. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing, and consent of instructor and the graduate adviser.

MEL 698. Thesis.
The equivalent of three lecture hours a week for two semesters. Offered on the credit/no credit basis only. Prerequisite: For 698A, graduate standing in Middle Eastern languages and cultures and consent of the graduate adviser; for 698B, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 698A.

MEL 398R. Master's Report.
Preparation of a report to fulfill the requirement for the master's degree under the report option. The equivalent of three lecture hours a week for one semester. Offered on the credit/no credit basis only. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Middle Eastern languages and cultures and consent of the graduate adviser.

MEL 398T. Supervised Teaching in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures.
Teaching under the close supervision of a faculty member; weekly group meetings with the instructor, individual consultation, and reports throughout the teaching period. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

May be repeated for credit. Offered on the credit/no credit basis only. Prerequisite: Admission to candidacy for the doctoral degree.

Professional Courses