The special nature of SLU’s Middle East Studies program is its expansive breadth across time and across the many cultures present in the Middle East. Through this minor, students will gain an impressive introduction to the Middle East, a crucial region in the world."

--Cathleen A. Fleck, Ph.D., Director

Please contact Dr. Mikail if you are interested in meeting to discuss the minor and how to get started!

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“Spending a semester studying abroad in Morocco was one of the most transformative experiences I have had in college. My time abroad allowed me to completely immerse myself in Moroccan culture and traditions; a cross-cultural experience that I was able to bring back to SLU’s campus.”

- Sara Rahim, SLU ‘14
Components of the Minor

Why Middle East Studies?
SLU’s Center for International Studies is excited to offer a minor in Middle East Studies. In addition to courses with a focus on Islam’s historical development, theology, and role in the contemporary Middle East, SLU also offers courses that examine the roles of Jewish, Christian, and other cultures from ancient to modern times.

Middle East Studies covers the geographic area of the traditional Middle East and also the areas influenced by or tied to the cultures of the Middle East, such as Spain and Africa. This broad introduction to the region provides a strong foundation on which to pursue further study.

Language
This minor requires two semesters (6 credit hours) of university-level Arabic or equivalent proficiency; further language study is encouraged. Native speakers of Arabic may be exempt from the language requirement but must take an additional elective in its place. Students who are proficient in another Middle East language should discuss their course of study with the director of the minor.

Capstone
Students will revise a research paper that was originally written for one of the elective courses from the minor. The students will present the revised papers during an annual capstone event their senior year.

Courses
A variety of electives allows students to tailor the minor to their individual interests. Students are required to take a minimum of 16 credits from approved courses in consultation with the Middle East Studies director. The Middle East Studies minor enhances other international programs offered at SLU, giving students a special perspective on this key part of the world.

Study Abroad
Though studying abroad is not required for the minor, SLU offers a wealth of Study Abroad programs to give students a meaningful foreign learning experience.

The Middle East is “a region...[that is] a mosaic of cultures, stories, traditions, and warm, welcoming people.”

--HM Queen Rania of Jordan

By uniting courses on numerous topics across departments at SLU—from Political Science to History, from Business to Theology, and from Art History to International Studies, this program provides a special multidisciplinary approach to Middle East Studies.