



# Program of Study Request

**Form Id: 16438**

**Form Status: Process**

**Please take action on the form.**

This service has been developed initially to support the conversion of the university's course inventory from a quarters to a semesters curriculum.

**Getting started ...**

**Type of Request:**

- New  Modify  Deactivate  Terminate  Quarter to Semester

For *Deactivate*, the program must be terminated no later than the conclusion of 7 years from the deactivation and all students must complete degree requirements by this date. The Registrar's Office will notify the department when all students have completed degree requirements of the deactivated program.

**Client Info**

**Name:** Mary A. Chamberlain  
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**Phone:** 937.775.2274  
**Department:** Religion Philosophy & Classics  
**Location:** Millett Hall 373, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.

**Program of Study**

REL - Liberal Studies - BA / Middle Eastern and Islamic Stu

**Effective Term:** Fall 2017

**Level:** Undergraduate

College of Liberal Arts

**Degree:** Bachelor of Arts

**Major:** Liberal Studies

**Minor:**

**Program:** Liberal Studies - BA

**Concentration:** Middle Eastern and Islamic Stu \*New

**Add'l Info:**

This program modification creates a a concentration in the Liberal studies major. The title of the concentration is Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. Because Liberal Studies is housed in the Departments of Religion, Philosophy, and Classics, I am submitting this request.

**Approvals**

Activity	Role	Client	Status	Time
<b>Primary Route</b>				
Dept_Review	Dept of Religion	Mary A.	Review	03/24/2017

Chamberlain

09:18:21

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CCC_Eval	UG Chair of College of Liberal Arts	Linda Caron	Approve	03/27/2017 11:06:00
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Dean_Review	Dean of College of Liberal Arts	Linda Caron	Review	03/27/2017 11:06:27
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UCAP_Eval	UCAP Chair	Karen Meyer	Approve	05/17/2017 12:54:03
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**Office Route**

Registrar_Proc	Registrar Office	Pending
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## Academic Program of Study

College:	Liberal Arts
Department:	
Degree (A.A. B.S., B.F.A., etc.) & Title:	B.A. Liberal Studies
Concentration, Track, Option, Specialization:	Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies
Minor Program Title:	
Certificate Program Title:	

**Note, please highlight additions & modifications. Please strikethrough deletions**

Current Program: Liberal Studies	Hours	Revised Program: Concentration in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies	Hours
<p><b>I. Wright State Core</b></p> <p>Wright Core courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Element 1: Communication (6)</li> <li>Element 2: Mathematics (3)</li> <li>Element 3: Global and Cultural Studies (6)</li> <li>Element 4: Arts and Humanities (3)</li> <li>Element 5: Social Sciences (8)</li> <li>Element 6: Natural Sciences (6)</li> </ul>	38	<p><b>I. Wright State Core</b></p> <p>Wright Core courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Element 1: Communication (6)</li> <li>Element 2: Mathematics (3)</li> <li>Element 3: Global and Cultural Studies (6)</li> <li style="background-color: yellow;">RST 2910 is recommended(3 hours)</li> <li>Element 4: Arts and Humanities (3)</li> <li>Element 5: Social Sciences (8)</li> <li>Element 6: Natural Sciences (6)</li> </ul>	38
<p><b>II. Department Requirements:</b></p> <p><b>Core Curriculum: 12 Hours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 courses in three areas: Fine Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities. (12 hours)</li> </ul> <p><b>Concentration: 21 hours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five upper-division classes in one of the three core areas (15 hours)</li> <li>• (including two Integrated Writing)</li> <li>• 1 inter-disciplinary studies course (3hours)</li> <li>• 1 professional component course (3 hours)</li> </ul>	33	<p><b>II. Department Requirements</b></p> <p><b>Core Curriculum: 12 Hours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REL 3310 (3 hours)</li> <li>• One course each from Fine Arts and Social Sciences (6 hours)</li> <li>• One course selected from any of Fine Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (3 hours)</li> </ul> <p><b>Concentration: 21 hours</b></p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">HST 3450 or HST 4450(3 hours)</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">PLS 4540 or PLS 4550 or PLS 4640 (3 hours)</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">Capstone: Select one of ARA 3980, HST 4950, PLS 4900/4910, REL 4810, SOC 4080(3 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four additional upper-division classes in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies selected from a list of approved courses, at least one of which must be an Interdisciplinary Studies course.(12 hours)</li> </ul>	33

<b>III. Related Requirements</b>	
<b>IV. College Requirements</b> Foreign Language Through 2020 level of one language (12 hours) Methods of Inquiry (3 hours) Quantitative Thinking (3 hours)	18
<b>V. Electives</b>	31
<b>Total:</b>	120

<b>III. Related Requirements</b>	
<b>IV. College Requirements</b> <b>Foreign Language</b> ARA 1010, 1020, 2010, 2020(12 hours) Methods of Inquiry (3 hours) Quantitative Thinking (3 hours)	<b>18</b>
<b>V. Electives</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>

**Proposal for a Major in Liberal Studies  
with a Concentration in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies  
College of Liberal Arts  
Wright State University**

**I. Title and Program Responsible for Administration:** The proposed program, titled “Major in Liberal Studies with a Concentration in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies” (MEI), will be based in the College of Liberal Arts and administered by the Liberal Studies Program.

**II. Objectives:** The objective of the Concentration in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies is to provide an opportunity for students to create a multidisciplinary concentration of courses in the study of Arabic, Islam, and Middle Eastern history, politics, and culture. A MEI minor already exists, with approximately a dozen students registered. The intent is to expand the options for students learning about the Middle East, Arabic, and Islam and offer them the opportunity to pursue it as a major.

The study of the major is restricted to the geographic region of the Middle East, encompassing the modern Arab states of North Africa, the Levant and the Persian Gulf, as well as the non-Arabic speaking countries of Iran, Israel, and Turkey. The periodization encompasses the emergence of Islam in the seventh century until the present. In the seventh century, Islam expanded throughout the region, and the Arabic language began to proliferate. Today, Arabic is the predominant language spoken by 280 million people and Muslims form over ninety per-cent of the population. Over the centuries, an Islamic culture and literature developed throughout the region, shaping identities, political ideals, and religious dogmas.

The MEI concentration will provide students a strong, foundational knowledge of a region of the world that has assumed a central place in global history and culture. Since the emergence of Islam in the seventh century, the Middle East region has assumed a political, cultural, and commercial importance for different peoples within and beyond the region. Islam remains central to how Muslims in the region shape their identity, relate to one another, and to those outside of their faith. The Arabic language continues to define how Muslims and Arabs articulate their identity, faith, culture, and political awareness, composing a rich corpus of religious and secular literature throughout the centuries. As Islam has expanded beyond the Middle East, studying this religion in a global context allows students to examine the many ways Muslim communities from throughout the world have drawn upon their faith to respond to dynamic and evolving social, historical, and political changes.

Upon completion of the major, students will have gained an advanced proficiency in Arabic and gained a sound knowledge of Islam and its multifaceted practices in different

environments throughout the globe during various historical periods. Students will also have acquired a broad knowledge of the region's history since the seventh century, as well as its contemporary politics. By studying the region's literature and culture, they gain a rich and creative ways language and culture define a people.

This major will attract students from the Social Sciences and Humanities. It will prepare them for graduate studies in the Middle East, Arabic, and Islam. Most graduate programs require two years of Arabic to be admitted to a program. The degree will also interest those seeking careers demanding advanced levels of critical thinking and research skills. Most importantly, in a globalized economy, private and public employers are seeking students with a knowledge of other cultures, languages, religions, and peoples.

**III. Admission Requirements:** Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 to be admitted into the major.

**IV. Program Requirements:** The program requirements can be found below in the section "Description,"

**V. Program Quality:** Several initiatives will be implemented to maintain and improve the quality of the MEI concentration, student success, and course alignment with learning objectives and competencies, for example:

- The program should be completed in four years or less. Students will be required to meet with both the Director of Liberal Studies and the Coordinator of the MEI program to ensure they are registered in the required classes to complete their degree.
- The MEI Coordinator will review the grades of students to determine if they are meeting the requirements of achieving at least a "C" in the required classes.
- Students will be encouraged to begin studying the two years of Arabic by their sophomore year to ensure timely graduation.
- Alumni will be tracked to follow graduate successes and failures.
- Data from these measures will be presented to the MEI faculty, which will make recommendations for continuous improvement to enrich the student experience.

**VI. Student Performance:** Students must complete all courses required for the MEI concentration with a grade of "C" or better.

**VII. Curriculum Coordination:** This is a new concentration in the Liberal Studies Program that incorporates preexisting Wright State University courses. As no new courses were created and all courses are regularly offered there are no coordination issues at this time.

**VIII. Resource Coordination:** No additional resources will be needed to offer the degree in Liberal Studies with a MEI concentration.

**IX. Program Staffing:** No additional staffing will be needed to offer the degree in Liberal Studies with a MEI concentration.

**X. Description:**

#### **Requirements for the Major in Liberal Studies:**

In addition to the Wright Core courses and the College of Liberal Arts basic requirements (two years of a foreign language and Methods of Inquiry courses), Liberal Studies majors take 12 hours of coursework for the Liberal Studies core with at least one course in each of the three Liberal Arts areas of study: Fine Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities. Students select one area to take 15 hours of upper division courses (two courses must be designated Integrated Writing). Finally, students also must take one Interdisciplinary Studies course and a Professional Component course chosen in consultation with and approved by the Liberal Studies program director.

**Professional Component:** One course selected by the student and approved by the Liberal Studies program director must relate directly to the student's career choice. Examples include courses in Business, Computer Science, Public Administration, Technical Writing.

#### **Three Liberal Arts Areas of Study:**

- Fine Arts: Art, Art History, Music, Theatre Arts
- Social Sciences: Economics, Political Science, Social Work, Sociology, Anthropology, Urban Affairs, Geography, History
- Humanities: Classical Languages and Cultures, Communication, English, History, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Religion

**Interdisciplinary Studies:** Students take one course (3 hours) selected from a list approved by the Liberal Studies program director. These include courses in African and African American Studies; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; International Studies; and other courses of a multidisciplinary nature.

#### **Requirements for the Concentration in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies:**

The Liberal Studies Major concentration in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies (MEI) requires 36 credit hours to complete. The courses for the MEI concentration are offered in the Social Sciences and the Humanities. This concentration consists of taking four Arabic language courses\* (12 credits); "Introduction to Islam" (3 credits); at least one course from History (3 credits); at least one course from Political Science (3

credits); and four elective classes, though no more than two can be from the “Cross-listed and General Courses. (12 credits). Many of the MEI courses are upper-level classes. Students are required to request a faculty member of the MEI program to direct their capstone project offered through the departments of History, Religion, Political Science, Modern Languages, and Sociology (3 credits). The MEI curriculum also has classes that are either cross-listed with other programs, or can be taken to fulfil their program requirements (e.g. AAFS and WSG).

### **Description and Requirements**

The requirements for the Major require the student to complete 36 credit hours:

**A minimum grade of “C” is required in each class** to receive credit for the minor.

- **Required**: ARA 1010/1020 and ARA 2010/2020\* **(12 credits)**
- **Required**: REL 3310 “Introduction to Islam” **(3 credits)**
- **Required**: Two class: one from History *and* one from Political Science **(6 credits)**
- **Electives**: Choose 4 courses from eligible courses in the Departments of History, Modern Languages, Political Science, Religion, or Sociology & Anthropology, or from “Cross-Listed and General Courses.” No more than two can be from the “Cross-Listed and General Courses” list. **(12 credits)**
- **Capstone Project** (must receive the approval of a MEI faculty member **(3 credits)**
  - ARA 3980 Independent Study
  - HST 4950 Independent Readings
  - PLS 4900 (Independent Reading)
  - PLS 4910 (Independent Research)
  - REL 4810 Independent Study
  - SOC 4080 Independent Study

**Total: 36 Credit Hours**

\* Native speakers of Arabic are required to take four ARA 3000- or 4000-level courses in lieu of ARA 1010/1020 and ARA 2010/2020 (12 credits)

### **Eligible Courses**

**Cross-listed and General Courses:**

- HST 4220 Russia and Islam
- ML 3990 / AFS 3990 / WGS 3800 Arab World Cultures and Gender
- ML 3990 / AFS 3990 / WGS 3800 Women's Voices in Arabic Film
- ML 3500 "Summer Program to Arabic speaking countries"
- PLS 4750 Weapons of Mass Destruction
- PLS 4940 Special Topics: Oman Summer Program
- REL 2040 The Bible, the Qur'an, and Western Cultures
- RST 2910 Regional Studies: Middle East

**Dept. of Modern Languages:**

- ARA 3110 Arabic Conversation I
- ARA 3120 Levantine Arabic
- ARA 3210 Advanced Arabic Syntax and Grammar I
- ARA 3220 Advanced Arabic Syntax & Grammar II
- ARA 3700 Internship
- ARA 4510 Introduction to Media Arabic
- ARA 4310 Classical Arabic Texts
- ARA 4410 Introduction to Arabic Fiction

**Dept. of History:**

- HST 3450 Survey of Middle Eastern History:
  - Ottoman Empire, 1200-1800
- HST 4450 Topics in Middle East History:
  - Arab Peoples from 1850 to the Present
  - Middle East Under Colonial Rule, 1832-1962
  - Middle East from WWI to WWII
  - Middle East from WWII to the Present
  - Middle Eastern History Through Literature and Film

**Dept. of Political Science:**

- PLS 4540 Politics of the Middle East
- PLS 4550 Politics of Iraq
- PLS 4640 Politics of Israel/Palestine

**Dept. of Religion:**

- REL 3310 Introduction to Islam (applies to AAFS program)
- REL 3320 / PLS 4600 Islam in the Modern World
- REL 3300 Topics in Islam:
  - Islamic Law and the Qur'an (PLS 4930, and applicable to WGS program)

- Islamic Tradition and Culture

**Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology:**

- Special Topics: SOC 4090 Sociology of Middle Eastern Society

**Capstone Project** (must receive the approval of a MEI faculty member)

- ARA 3980 Independent Study
- HST 4950 Independent Readings
- PLS 4900 (Independent Reading) and 4910 (Independent Research)
- REL 4810 Independent Study
- SOC 4080 Independent Study

**Faculty:**

- Dr. Awad Halabi, Co-ordinator of the MEI program, Departments of History and Religion
- Dr. Liam Anderson, Political Science
- Professor Azdeh Jahanbeglo, Sociology
- Dr. Joshua Mabra, Modern Languages,
- Professor Amira Ben-Amer Orr, Modern Languages
- Dr. Vaughn Shannon, Political Science