

# Summer 2007

## Study Abroad in EGYPT

Research current Middle Eastern issues and travel back in time!

### Location and Tentative Dates

Feb-May, 2007	Pre-Departure Course meets weekly at UST
July 1, 2007	Depart for Cairo, Egypt
June-August, 2007	eight-week program in Egypt
Late August	Depart for Minneapolis/St. Paul

### Course

Researchers have been fascinated with Egypt and the Nile since Roman times, and the country continues to offer mysteries and complexities that draw our interest. The pyramids, the sphinx and ancient temples and tombs of Luxor remind us of its 4,000-year history; the Black Desert and coral reefs of the Red Sea are just two of its natural wonders. Contemporary Egypt is the most populous Arab country and has led the Arab world in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the arts and literature. It is a land of many contrasts and layers of culture, where western European, ancient pharaonic, African and Arab Islamic cultures converge. Coptic Christians make up 12% of the population, the largest Christian population in an Arab Muslim country. Today it is a site of many creative tensions that are part of the Middle Eastern landscape: the struggle for democratic institutions and development of civil society; an expanding media influence; human rights, women's rights and literacy programs; and a diverse art scene.

**Credits:** 8 UST credits

**Prerequisite:** none

**Counts toward:** various major or minor courses, with the approval of appropriate department chair

**Fulfills:** no core requirement

### Program Structure

Perhaps the most compelling reason to do research in Egypt today is to understand Arab perspectives on a variety of timely topics. The U.S. is deeply involved in the Middle East through the Iraq War, its support for Israel, and the war on terror; yet Americans know very little about Arab perspectives on these and many other subjects. English is the second language in Egypt, and commonly used in academic circles, so research can be done in this language (although a knowledge of Egyptian Arabic would be a plus for street communication). Researchers in politics, history, economics, sociology, women's rights, and religion would find many possibilities. Cairo is home to the American University in Cairo (AUC), where students will have library privileges, and Cairo University, where students might do research at the American Cultural Studies Center to analyze Egyptian views of the U.S.

- Spring semester—An outbound preparatory phase during which students select a research topic and begin arranging research connections and personal accommodations. They meet regularly with others in their group to discuss history, culture, language, and current events..
- Summer—Eight to ten weeks field research in Egypt. Dr. Nice accompanies the group to provide support but students are on their own much of the time.
- Fall semester—Upon return, students compile their research findings and write an extensive paper due spring semester, 2008.
- Housing & Meals—Student responsibility. Advisor will help with locating housing.

### Faculty Director

*Pamela Nice is the Coordinator of the ACTC Middle Eastern Studies minor and teaches 20th Century Arab literature and film at the University of St. Thomas. She is a contributing editor of Al Jadid, a review of contemporary Arab arts and literature, is on the editorial board of the Middle Eastern journal Critique, and has studied Arab music with Simon Shaheen. She works in theatre and film as a writer and director, having directed at the Guthrie Theatre, the Minnesota Opera, Jawaahir Middle Eastern Dance Company, Zorongo Flamenco and Kathak Dance Theatre. Her recent documentary, Letters from Cairo, is about Egyptians' views of America post 9/11.*

**Cost** Program fee is approximately \$3295 plus \$1835 for U of M tuition (8 credits). This fee includes SPAN program fee, airfare, accommodations, meals, in-country transportation, visa and insurance costs.

### Application Procedures and Deadlines

Applications and more information available from Dr. Pamela Nice, 403 O'Shaughnessy Library (651-962-6020) or from the SPAN website:

<http://spanalumni.org/application.htm>

Complete applications are to be submitted to the International Education Center.

**Application deadline is November 13**

