

College of Arts and Sciences – Interdisciplinary Programs

Plus:

Sixteen credits in courses numbered 300 or higher in English literature, chosen in consultation with the chair of the Department of English

Option II (administered by the Department of English):

Twenty credits in courses numbered 300 or higher in English literature, chosen in consultation with the chair of the Department of English

Plus:

Sixteen credits in courses numbered 300 or higher in the literature of a non-English language, chosen in consultation with the chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages

Plus:

(required under both options)

Four credits in European history

Recommended:

An additional four credits in European history, four credits in aesthetics, and courses in a third language, preferably a classical language if the second language is modern

Courses such as phonetics, conversation, composition and civilization (if not based on literature) will not count as courses in literature.

Middle East Studies (ACTC)

Farlow (POL), director

The Middle Eastern Studies Program through the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities (ACTC) offers an interdisciplinary minor focusing on the Middle East. The term “Middle East” includes the geographic regions of southwest Asia and north Africa, extending from Turkey to the Sudan and from Afghanistan to Morocco. The minor in Middle East Studies considers the following concepts: 1) the Middle East has global significance and is vital to the national interests of many countries, including the United States; 2) increasing numbers of Americans have some Middle Eastern ethnic or religious background; 3) the region offers numerous opportunities for business and the professions; 4) it is the birthplace of several of the world’s major civilizations.

The minor in Middle East Studies enables students to bring together several courses in different disciplines to constitute a program of area study. This area specialization offers students the opportunity to learn about the religions, economic situation, historical and political developments, literature, philosophy and culture of Middle Eastern peoples and countries. Such an interdisciplinary approach permits students to apply the theory and methodology of several disciplines to a common subject matter and allows a greater mastery of the Middle East area than could normally be attained through strictly disciplinary majors or minors.

A Middle East studies minor provides valuable preparation for careers in government service, research, non-governmental organizations, journalism, education, and consulting in international business. Acquiring some Middle East expertise will make ACTC students more credible candidates for internships with organizations related to the Middle East. The availability of the minor would support honors research programs at the ACTC colleges.

The minor is offered by combining courses already in place at the ACTC institutions. Courses with a focus on the Middle East are being offered regularly in political science (with historical components), sociology, women’s studies and theology. In addition, students may enroll in Arabic language classes through the ACTC language contract with the University of Minnesota. Elementary and intermediate Hebrew are offered at Macalester College.

Minor in Middle East Studies

POL 3580H Politics and Society in the Middle East

Plus 20 credits in area courses

2 courses selected from the social sciences

2 courses selected from the humanities

1 elective chosen from either area

Plus language courses

Students may substitute two courses in a Middle East language for two of the five area studies courses above. Some acquaintance and experience with the Arabic and/or Hebrew languages is highly desirable, particularly for students combining the Middle East studies minor with a major in business, journalism, or political science. A program of study abroad or an internship in the Middle East is recommended strongly and will receive credit toward the minor. All options should be discussed with the student’s advisor.

The following courses have been approved with the understanding that their content is focused on the Middle East. Locations: A-Augsburg; C-St. Catherine; H-Hamline; M-Macalester; T-St. Thomas.

Renaissance Program

Language Courses

CLAS 50M-01	Elementary Hebrew I
CLAS 50M-03	Elementary Hebrew II
CLAS 50M-07	Intermediate Hebrew I
CLAS 50M-09	Intermediate Hebrew II

Required Foundational Course

POL 3580H	Politics and Society in the Middle East
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Social Sciences Courses (Student must select at least two courses from this group):

POL 268-468A	Regional Political Dynamics in the Middle East
POL 459A	Politics and Society in the Middle East Today
POL 335C	Nationalism, War and Revolution in the Middle East
SOCI 35M	Images of Women in the Middle East
CORE 399C	Search for Justice in the Middle East

Humanities Courses (Students must select at least two courses from this group):

ENG 270T	Romance and Resistance: 20th Century Arabic Writers
HIS 63M	Jewish History

Note: The four courses listed below (INS 225, REL 33, REL 198, and THEO 334) are considered to be equivalent in content. Students may receive credit for only one.

INS 225A	Introduction to Islam
REL 33M	Islam
REL 1980H	Islam and the New World Order
THEO 334T	Islam

Note: The three courses listed below (REL 475, REL 146, and THEO 332) are considered to be equivalent in content. Students may receive credit for only one.

REL 475A	Judaism
REL 1460H	Introduction to Judaism
THEO 332T	Judaism
THEO 333T	Contemporary Judaism
REL 3110H	Jewish Ethics
REL 34M	Introduction to Jewish Life and Thought
REL 42M	Women in Judaism
REL 50M	Topics: The Evolution of the Jewish Mind
THEO 370C	Jewish Studies

Internships and Study Abroad

Internships and opportunities for study abroad are available and are accepted for credit toward the minor. No more than one course may be an independent study or internship. Study abroad, internships and independent study are subject to the approval of the student's campus advisor for the minor.

Renaissance Program

Coulter (PHIL), director

The Renaissance Program is an interdisciplinary program which provides students the opportunity of combining the distinct learning experiences of a concentration in a liberal or non-business related field with exposure to career-related studies and significant work experience. It targets students majoring in the liberal arts who want preparation for their career search.

Specifically, the Renaissance Program has a three-fold set of objectives for each of its students.

1. Participants elect a major field of study from any of the liberal arts disciplines, namely, from the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and the like. Majors in the Division of Business or the Department of Health and Human Performance are excluded from this program.
2. Participants take the Renaissance Program Professional Minor, composed of a set of six courses selected by each student according to personal interest and career-plan, from a broad range of pre-professional and professional areas.
3. Participants complete one internship in a career-related field. Students are encouraged to be creative and to search for inventive ways of implementing a plan of practical work experience. A variety of options and opportunities are available through the Career Center.

As part of its commitment to Renaissance Program participants, the University of St. Thomas extends to graduates of this program the offer of undergraduate business courses, free of charge and without limit, on a space-available basis. These courses may be taken either for credit or as audits (but may not be used toward a second degree at the university).