

Program Requirements for: MA in North African and Middle Eastern Studies (NAMES)

Program Overview

Program Description	The Master of Arts in North African and Middle Eastern Studies (NAMES) offers an intensive study of social sciences and humanities courses focusing on North Africa and the Middle East. The program takes advantage of the school's faculty expertise in Northern Africa, in particular, while also offering opportunities to attend lectures by regional specialists and to conduct fieldwork or archival research.
Exit Requirements	30 credit hours (SCH), including 12 SCH of core courses, 18 SCH NAMES-related graduate courses, and the successful defense of an MA thesis.
Program Length (full time)	30 SCH, one calendar year (Fall, Spring, Summer) + the time necessary to write the thesis.
Required Coursework	<p>Required Courses (12 SCH courses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Graduate Seminar in NAMES (INS5362, 3SCH) ▪ Multidisciplinary Research Methods (SS5302, 3SCH) ▪ Thesis Seminar (SSC5310, 3SCH) ▪ History of North Africa (HIS5361, 3SCH) <p>+ 18 SCH NAMES-Related Courses (see below for full list and descriptions)</p>

Program Structure

Admission Prerequisites (if required)

After admission decisions are made, the admissions committee will evaluate each candidate's academic record to determine which, if any, undergraduate foundation courses the student will take. The following foundation courses, which SHSS intends to make available to students as online courses, are to be completed by students *prior to* their beginning the NAMES program in the fall.

Foundation Courses (if required)

(Requirements dependent on admission committee recommendations)	Graduate Academic Skills (not for credit)
	North Africa and the Middle East in the 20 th century (not for credit)

Required Courses (4 courses, 3SCH each for a total of 12 SCH)

Required	Graduate Seminar (3SCH)
	Multidisciplinary Research Methods (3SCH)
	Thesis Seminar (3SCH)
	History of North Africa (3SCH)

Recommended & Optional Courses (6 courses, 3SCH each for a total of 18 SCH)

NAMES-Recommended Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ History of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, or Egypt (Country Focus, Rotating) ▪ Colonization and Decolonization in North Africa and the Middle East ▪ History of North Africa [Regional Survey] ▪ Popular Culture in North Africa ▪ Society and Politics in North African Literature and Film ▪ Political Economy of North Africa and the Middle East ▪ Sex, Power, & Politics in North Africa ▪ Special Topics (ST) in NAMES ▪ Middle Eastern Politics ▪ North African Migration and Immigrant Communities ▪ The City in the Islamic World
NAMES-Additional Optional Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Islam in the Contemporary World ▪ Beginning Tamazight I & II (Berber) ▪ Issues in Contemporary Islam ▪ Amazigh (Berber) History and Culture ▪ Issues in Contemporary North Africa ▪ Contemporary Issues in Islam: Gender ▪ Modern Imperialism and its Culture ▪ Economic Development in MENA ▪ [Maximum of] One graduate-level course from any program as an elective

Detailed Course Descriptions

HIS 5361 History of North Africa

This course explores the political, social and cultural histories of either pre-modern or modern North Africa. The course picks up on specific themes such as colonialism, social movements, political parties, women's histories, the working class and the peasants, in order to look at the multiple layers of North African history. The class will conduct an analysis of the different historical forces that framed the behaviors of these social groups and trace their agency in reaction to these historical forces.

HIS 5311 Modern Imperialism and Its Culture

This course is a comparative examination of European imperialism in the 19th and 20th centuries. It looks at the historical contexts which led to the emergence of imperialist relations. It also seeks to look at the political, economic, social and cultural dimensions of modern European imperialism. The focus will be primarily on British and French colonial experiences overseas. This course takes a world historical approach to the study of imperialism. It is concerned with the different social and cultural manifestations of European interactions with different societies from Asia and Africa. Through an examination of specific histories, it will explore the various reactions of the colonized peoples to the colonial encounter and the behaviors of the metropolitan colonial elite within the same context. Issues of gender, colonial science, Orientalism, and culture will be dealt with

as part of the complex fabric of the modern European colonial experience. The course will end with a discussion of the process of Decolonization and Nationalism and the effects of the colonial experience on the emerging nation states.

HIS 5312 History of [Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, or Egypt (individual country focus, rotating)]

This course introduces students to the recent history of one of the four countries in contemporary Northern Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt), beginning in the Ottoman-era and continuing up to the present. It explores the relationship between one of these areas of northern Africa and the Ottoman Empire up through the 19th century, the period of colonization, and the era of an independent Maghrib up to the present. Students will have the opportunity to read, watch, and discuss historical materials relating to a variety of themes including early-modern religious and political communities, colonialism and colonial knowledge production, the process of decolonization and the decolonization of history, nationalism, and attempts to create and maintain collective identity in a diverse religious and linguistic landscape.

HIS 5325 Colonization and Decolonization in North Africa and the Middle East

The course examines the various experiences with colonization and decolonization processes in the North Africa and Middle East region from a comparative perspective. Starting with Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion of Egypt in 1798, case studies present the different patterns of direct French rule in North Africa and Britain's "informal Empire" in the Middle East. Also, the role of the Ottoman Empire as a colonizing power is taken into account. Furthermore, the course compares the motivations and strategies of national liberation movements in different parts of the region, contrasting secular and religious ideologies with the pragmatic and charismatic uses of power by military leaders as the dominant agents of decolonization.

HUM 5310 Amazigh (Berber) History and Culture

This course examines the history of the Imazighin (Berber) peoples from the Neolithic period to the present. The course covers the Imazighin peoples who live from Siwa Oasis in Egypt's Western Desert to the Atlantic and south to Niger and Burkina Faso. Imazighin political movements in the 20th and 21st centuries and French colonial influence in creating a "Berber" identity are examined. While the emphasis in the course is on the history and politics of Imazighin peoples and movements in North Africa, the course also touches on Amazigh culture and its legacy in such topics as toponyms, linguistics (dialects of Arabic as well as the various dialects of Tamazight, or Berber Language), epic poems (including in the Arabic Abu Zaid Hilali

tales), and folk lore in North Africa. The course considers how Imazighin have emerged in recent years from the stereotype of rural, colorful folk used to attract tourists to buy handicrafts to a viable cultural force in contemporary North Africa. Comparison is made between Imazighin movements in the Maghreb with indigenous peoples in other parts of the world (North and South America, Europe, and New Zealand, for example).

HUM 5312 Popular Culture in North Africa

Various types of popular expression in North African societies are examined, starting with religious practices such as popular Islam. Other forms of popular expression often overlooked in the past, such as pop music, theater, television, and film, are covered. The course moves from a discussion of North Africa itself to the growing influence of such North African pop cultural forms as raised in other regions of the Arab world, Europe, and beyond.

HUM 5323 Society & Politics in North African Literature and Films

This course examines the handling of political themes and issues through a selection of North African films and works of literature over a varied time period.

HUM 5360 Issues in Contemporary Islam

This course is a survey of different issues in contemporary Islamic thinking and practice. For example, the focus could include topics such as the interaction between Islam and politics, and discussing the relationship between Islam and democracy or social and cultural issues, such as Islam and Modernity and Islam and women. Course topics depend on the semester offered and the instructor.

INS 5361 Political Economy of North Africa and the Middle East

The course studies the connection between the political and economic foundations of the societies of the Middle East and North Africa. Starting from the analysis of the natural resource base, the course covers some of the 'classic' debates that have marked the study of the economies of the region: the challenges posed by rapid demographic growth, or by the imperative of agricultural development in an arid or semi-arid environment, the problem of the ambivalent opportunities offered by oil and other mineral wealth, and the persistent imbalance of the economic structures. In presenting these debates, the course addresses questions concerning the choices and conditions, which influenced the evolution of the economy of the states of the region and their impact on the political and social systems that have experienced them. Particular attention is dedicated to the origins and effects on the region of neo-liberal political economy approaches over that last three decades.

INS 5362 Graduate Seminar in NAMES

This course is a seminar for graduate students, providing them with a 'state of the art' through exposure to a mixture of classic scholarly studies of NAMES as well as new, innovative research in the field.

HUM 5370 Contemp. Issues in Islam: Gender

The focus of this interdisciplinary course is on contemporary Muslim women, the factors informing constructions of gender identities in the Muslim world, the role and legal status of women in Muslim societies and in the West. This course will examine the roles women have played in Islamic history (Middle East & North Africa) and the changing discourse in Muslim communities concerning gender roles. The class will compare and contrast the religious, historical, and literary images of women to their actual lived experiences.

INS 5399 Special Topics (ST) in NAMES

Specially scheduled courses on significant issues or topics relevant to the study of North Africa and the Middle East region.

PSC 5350 Middle Eastern Politics

The course provides an introduction to the politics of the Middle East. Students develop the ability to reflect comparatively on a number of political systems of the region (the 'populist-authoritarian republics', the 'family-ruled monarchies', Lebanon, Israel, Turkey, and Iran); they identify patterns and common trends in

contemporary Middle Eastern politics and explore a number of thematic issues, including the question of the nature of the state, the role of nationalism and ethnicity, democratization, and political Islam.

SSC 5310 Thesis Seminar

Graduate students who have reached the thesis-writing stage enroll in this course during the final summer semester of their course of study.

SSC 5302 Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methods

The most interesting Social Science research conducted today is multidisciplinary in nature. This course teaches students how to use a variety of perspectives, sources of data, and data analysis methods to address a research question. Students learn how each of the Social Sciences contributes theoretically and methodologically to our understanding of social phenomenon. Students explore the options offered at each stage of research, from the framing of a research question, through data collection, to the presentation of findings, while practicing a range of data collection and data analysis methods.

SSC 5306 Issues in Contemporary North Africa

A special course on a topic or theme in contemporary North Africa.

SSC 5362 Global Islam in the Contemporary World

The course examines the global scope of the ‘umma. At a time when Muslims live everywhere around the world, creating the biggest ‘umma ever, the “Muslim World” is integrated as never before to global flows from every provenance. The course investigates the transnational scale of Muslim religious movements and identities, and the technological and institutional structures, which support them. Students study how Muslim communities beyond the “Muslim World” practice their faith in multi-faith, Christian, Buddhist, or secular societies. The course assesses the place of Islam in cosmopolitan Western countries.

SSC 5351 The City in the Islamic World

This course examines the formation, urban patterns and socio-economic structures of historical and contemporary North African cities using a multidisciplinary approach. The course will draw upon a body of scholarship from a number of fields including architectural history, anthropology, archaeology, history, urban sociology, Islamic jurisprudence, and literature. The course will 1) review the legal and theoretical foundations of urban Islam 2) examine the architectural and urban legacies of Roman and early Islamic civilizations in North Africa, and 3) provides an in-depth analysis of city and urban life in medieval and colonial North Africa through the study of urban form and socio-economic structures and institutions with a focus on Morocco.

SSC 5304 North African Migration and Immigrant Communities

This course covers the issues caused by the growing problems of rural migration within North African countries and the establishment of North African immigrant communities in Europe. The course begins by looking into the causes for rural migration, focusing on the post-independence period. The social impact of rural migration on the economic and political well-being of North African states is discussed. The subsequent migration of large numbers of North Africans to Europe and the establishment of immigrant communities with different cultural, religious, and linguistic identities from that of the host societies are examined.

TMZ 1301 Beginning Tamazight I

The course is intended for beginners and introduces students to the basic formal elements (phonology, morphology, and syntax) of Middle Atlas Tamazight, as well as the socio-cultural components needed to function in basic interactions with native speakers of the language. To reach this goal, the course emphasizes communication. Students will also be trained in the use of Tifinagh as the official script for writing Tamazight.

TMZ 1302 Beginning Tamazight II

The course is offered to students who have completed TMZ 1301 or who are able to demonstrate a competence in the language equal to that of students who have completed the previous course. The course reinforces formal aspects of Tamazight (phonology, morphology, and syntax) introduced in TMZ 1301, and

acquaints students with other features of Tamazight culture with specific reference to values and norms, history, and contemporary issues. Through these activities, the course contributes to the students' ability to communicate effectively in Tamazight.