

Certificate Program Application Form

Name of Proposed Certificate Program: __Middle East Studies__

Sponsoring Department or Unit Name: __Department of Religious Studies__

First Term the Certificate Would be Offered: __fall 2010__

Primary Contact Name: __Carl W. Ernst (or current Director)__

Address, CB #: Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East & Muslim Civilizations, #7582

Phone Number: __(919) 843-0129 Email: __cernst@email.unc.edu__

1. Describe the certificate program and provide a statement of educational objectives.

This program is designed to offer graduate students a regional focus on the Middle East. It recognizes graduate student research and coursework relating to the Middle East, with the intention of building up greater Middle East expertise in the humanities, social sciences, and professional schools. This proposal responds to dramatically increased interest in Middle East studies across the university.

Out of 35 UNC graduate students who self-identified as focused on the Middle East in 2008-9, there were clusters of students in the College's departments of Anthropology (4), Comparative Literature (3), Geography (2), History (2), Religious Studies (9), and Sociology (4), plus individual students in Communications and English. In the professional schools, there were graduate students in Public Health (3) and Journalism (2), as well as Education, Information and Library Science, and Law (1 each). Yet the demand for expertise in the Middle East is increasing across the University. Just to give two examples, the Gillings School of Global Public Health is in the second year of a major contract to design environmental and water policy for the United Arab Emirates, and the School of Information and Library Sciences is entering into projects in several Middle Eastern countries. Offering graduate students the opportunity for recognition in Middle Eastern studies would create a helpful new professional credential.

2. Include a statement about the need for such a certificate program, and specifically why there is a need to offer this certificate at UNC-Chapel Hill. Is the certificate offered at other universities or community colleges?

No such graduate degree exists in any college or university in North Carolina. Yet the Middle East is of tremendous significance today, affecting the US (and North Carolina) directly in terms of energy, economics, and warfare, as well as through the cultural encounter with Islam and Muslim immigration, plus relations with Israel. High student demand for these subjects is indicated by rising enrollments in language classes relating to the Middle East (Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish, Persian, Urdu) as well as large lecture courses on Middle Eastern history and culture. New faculty appointments in areas relating to the Middle East now provide remarkable resources for graduate work.

3. Why is the certificate program necessary beyond offering the program as a minor, supporting area, specialization/concentration, or track?

No such graduate minor or specialization exists at UNC, with the exception of the Islamic studies PhD concentration in Religious Studies and the new Franco-Arab studies M.A. specialization in Romance Languages. The interdisciplinary approach to the Middle East region offered by this certificate would be a new and different opportunity to focus the work of graduate students from multiple programs across the university. The experience of other graduate certificates focused on area studies (Latin America, International Development) indicates that these certificate programs can be effective even for two-year master's degree students in professional programs, while more intensive minors are too burdensome in their requirements to be attractive.

4. Provide a statement on the relationship of the certificate program to degree programs within the unit. To what extent will requirements for the certificate program overlap with requirements for master's or doctoral degrees?

Since the Middle East graduate certificate will be interdisciplinary, it has a limited but important intersection with the courses offered in the Department of Religious Studies. Graduate students will be able to take courses from a number of different departments at both Duke and UNC (including Anthropology, Art History, Economics, Geography, History, Sociology, etc.) in order to fulfill the certificate requirements. Nevertheless, Religious Studies will be the appropriate academic home, since several faculty members in the department have strong interests in Middle East studies. Religious Studies also houses the undergraduate minor in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies, which became available to students in fall 2009. With roughly a third of the courses on the combined Duke-UNC list of Middle East classes originating in Religious Studies, this discipline will form an important cultural and historical resource for the new graduate certificate.

5. Describe the demographics of the target student population for the certificate program. Is it intended for: only UNC degree students? Only for non-degree students? Both degree and non-degree students? College-age? Adult?

This certificate program is aimed degree-seeking graduate students at UNC and Duke in Arts and Sciences as well as professional schools.

6. Will the certificate program be offered jointly with another university? If yes, describe the relationship with the joint unit.

This certificate will be offered jointly with Duke University, where it will be administered by our collaborative partner, the Duke University Middle East Studies Center. This certificate will thus be a joint offering of the Consortium in Middle East Studies at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Each university will technically administer and advise its own certificate on its own campus, under the direction of one of the two Co-Directors of the Consortium (see paragraph 11, below). A parallel joint certificate proposal is being simultaneously submitted to the Graduate School at Duke. In practice the certificate program will be unified by the jointly taught core course and the biweekly spring workshop.

The long record of collaboration between Duke and UNC faculty in this field provides a strong basis for a shared vision of the integrity of this program. This collaboration includes joint teaching, joint publications, and joint grant applications by Duke and UNC faculty members over a decade and a half, including the establishment in 2003 of a publication series on "Islamic Civilization

and Muslim Networks" at UNC Press, co-edited by faculty from Duke and UNC. This graduate certificate proposal in fact forms part of the intellectual backbone of the Title VI National Resource Center in Middle Eastern Studies application to the US Department of Education, which we plan to submit jointly with Duke in the spring of 2010.

7. Will the certificate program be offered on campus, as a distance education program, or a combination? Describe any distance education components in detail.

This certificate program will only be offered through courses available on campus at Duke and UNC.

8. Describe the admissions criteria and process.

Students applying to the certificate program will need to do the following:

- Design and execute a plan for meeting the course requirement in consultation with a relevant member of the Faculty Steering Committee. The course plan must demonstrate thematic integrity and intellectual coherence. Students can consult the online list of suggested courses to help design their plan.
- Complete the application form and submit it to the prior to the end of the first year of study.
- Submit a major research paper upon its completion, which may be upon completing the workshop or later in the academic program (see paragraph 10).
- Submit a letter of endorsement from their principal advisor.

The application will be reviewed by the Co-Directors. Those applicants whose proposed course of study reveals that they will gain a depth of knowledge about the Middle East through their graduate studies will be admitted to the program.

9. Provide a three-year projection of the certificate program's financial plan. Include the impact on campus resources, such as classrooms and instructional personnel, and plans for tuition and fees.

We do not anticipate any new direct financial costs attached to this certificate program. Since it takes advantage of existing curricular resources and involves a minimum of administrative oversight and advising, this should not impact tuition and fees at all. It is anticipated that the administrative load for this program will be light and will consist primarily of meetings with prospective students and biannual meetings to review applications. As we anticipate only five to ten applicants to the program during a given year, the additional work this will present will be minimal.

10. Provide specific course and other requirements for the certificate program.

Students need to accomplish the following tasks in order to receive the certificate:

- Complete four graduate courses on a topic related to the Middle East; students must show that work for comparative and theoretical courses will contain at least 40% Middle East content. At least two of these courses must be external to the student's home department or school, and one should be a core course (which will be taught jointly by Duke and UNC faculty members). One course may be an advanced course in a Middle Eastern language. Students must receive at least a 'P' or equivalent grade in these four classes. The selection of courses to fulfill this requirement must adhere to the course transfer credit policy for certificate programs that limits the number of academic credits transferred to 40% of the total credits required for this

certificate; this means that only one course may be double counted towards a degree requirement.

- Participate in a bi-weekly workshop organized each spring by the Consortium in Middle East Studies. This workshop is guided by the interests of enrolled students who suggest readings for discussion and present their own work. There is no grade or credit associated with this workshop. To enroll, submit an application form to the Consortium in Middle East Studies prior to the beginning of the spring workshop.
- Submit to the Consortium in Middle East Studies a thesis, dissertation, or major seminar paper on a topic related to Middle East studies. It may be selected for posting online. Students who are in programs that do not require a master's thesis must submit an equivalent independent research project that is appropriate to their discipline. Doctoral students, for example, might complete this requirement with a dissertation, chapters of a dissertation, a 4th semester paper, or a suitable publishable paper. It is expected that students will meet this requirement through the completion of one of the requirements for the student's primary degree (such as a master's thesis). This requirement must be completed while the student is enrolled as a graduate student. All projects designed to satisfy this requirement must be approved by the program's Co-Directors.
- Demonstrate relevant language skills, international experience, or training. Language competence in a Middle Eastern language (Arabic, modern Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, or Urdu) may be demonstrated by taking an advanced language class or by using primary language texts in the major research project. International experience and training should include extended research, fieldwork, or study in a Middle Eastern country.

11. List all faculty members who will be responsible for planning the certificate program and for teaching the courses. Will these courses be offered on-line, in the classroom, or both?

The Faculty Steering Committee responsible for planning the certificate will be comprised of the Executive Committee of the Consortium in Middle East Studies at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a total of three from each campus:

- Carl Ernst, Co-Director; Director, Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations (ex officio)
- miriam cooke, Co-Director; Director, Duke University Middle East Studies Center (ex officio)
- Omid Safi, Professor of Religious Studies, UNC
- Charles Kurzman, Professor of Sociology, UNC
- Erdağ Göknaç, Assistant Professor of Turkish, Duke University
- Eric Meyers, Professor of Religion, Duke University

The two center directors will function as principal advisors for the certificate.

Additional courses will be taught by Sahar Amer (Asia Studies, UNC), Nadia Yaqub (Asian Studies, UNC), Glaire Anderson (Art History, UNC), Banu Gokarikel (Geography, UNC), Jodi Magness (Religious Studies, UNC), Sarah Shields (History, UNC), Ahmed El Shamsy (History, UNC), Yaron Shemer (Asian Studies, UNC), Engseng Ho (Anthropology/History, Duke), Negar Mottahedeh (Film/Literature, Duke), Ebrahim Moosa (Religion, Duke), Bruce Lawrence (Religion, Duke), Shai Ginsburg (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Duke), Mona Hassan (Religion, Duke), Mohsen Kadivar (Religion, Duke), Timur Kuran (Economics, Duke), Ellen McLarney (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Duke).

12. Provide a three-year, semester-by-semester projection of enrollments and course offerings.

See the attached list of current course offerings focused on Middle East studies, with projected offerings over the next three years. In terms of enrollments, we conservatively anticipate that from ten to fifteen students will be enrolled in the certificate program at any given time, with probably 3-4 students declaring the certificate each year. These projections are based on the enrollment figures for the certificate in Latin American studies, a program that is similar to the proposed certificate.

13. Describe the evaluation plan for the certificate program.

Students who have completed the program will fill out an exit survey and be interviewed by one of the Co-Directors of the program. This interview will provide us with an understanding of the extent to which the student has mastered some of the key issues in Middle Eastern studies. This will allow us to evaluate the extent to which the academic outcome goals of the program are being met. We will also track the future activities of students to determine the impact of this program on their professional development. The Co-Directors for the program will meet once a year to discuss the results of the exit surveys and interviews to determine if the program will need to be changed to better meet the needs of the students.

14. A letter of support from the Director/Chair of the unit sponsoring the certificate program must be included. In the case of certificates that involve multiple units or joint programs with other institutions, all participants should provide an authorizing signature on the main letter or individual support letters.

See the attached letters from the Chair of Department of Religious Studies and the Director of the Duke University Middle East Studies Center.

Completed applications should be addressed to the Dean of the Graduate School. Submit to:

Stephanie Schmitt, Associate Dean of Academics in The Graduate School, sschmitt@email.unc.edu
or CB # 4010

Course List for the Graduate Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies

(Courses marked with * are expected to be offered at least once in the next three years)

Core Course

*RELI 788, Critical Genealogies of Middle Eastern Studies

Graduate Courses in Middle East Studies at UNC

*ARAB 433, Medieval Arabic Literature in Translation
 ARAB 434, Modern Arabic Literature in Translation
 *ARAB 452, Imagining Palestine
 *ARAB 453, Film, Nation, and Identity in the Arab World
 *ART 450, City as Monument: cities and society in the medieval Islamic lands
 ART 458, Islamic Palaces, Gardens and Court Culture
 ART 561, Art and Society in Medieval Islamic Spain and North Africa
 *ART 950, Exploring outside the walls: medieval societies and suburban landscapes
 *ART 956, Seminar in Medieval Islamic Art & Architecture
 *ASIA 451, Orientalist Fantasies and Discourses on the Other
 ASIA 452, Muslim Women in France and the U.S.
 *ASIA 455, Arabs in America
 *ASIA 490, Language, Exile, and Homeland in Zionist Thought and Practice
 *GEOG 447, Gender, Space, and Place in the Middle East
 *GEOG 448, Transnational Geographies of Muslim Societies
 HIST 490, History of Islamic Law
 *HIST 536, Revolution in the Modern Middle East
 *HIST 537, Women in the Middle East
 HIST 538, The Middle East and the West
 *RELI 480, Modern Muslim Literatures
 *RELI 481, Religion, Fundamentalism, and Nationalism
 *RELI 581, Sufism
 *RELI 582, Islam and Islamic Art in South Asia
 *RELI 583, Religion and Culture in Iran, 1500-Present
 *RELI 584, Qur'an as Literature
 RELI 681, Readings in Islamicate Literatures
 RELI 780, Methods in Islamic Studies
 *RELI 881, Islamic Thought
 RELI 890, Comparative Historiography of Israelite & Muslim Conquests of Palestine
 *SOCI 419, Sociology of the Islamic World

Graduate Courses in Middle East Studies at Duke University

*AMES 227, Politics of Turkish Film & Literature
 *AMES 232, Representing the Middle East
 *AMES 245, Arab Society & Culture in Film
 *AMES 254, Muslim Networks in the Middle East
 *AMES 256, Representations of the Holocaust in the Middle East

AMES 258, The Middle East in Popular Culture
 *AMES 261, Modern Arabic Literature and Culture
 *AMES 262, Contemporary Israeli Cinema
 *AMES 266, Egypt, Mother of the World
 AMES 273, Gender Jihad, Muslim Women Writers
 *AMES 283, Representations of the Palestine-Israel Conflict
 *AMES 286, Arab Women Writers
 ANT 200, Asian and Middle East Cultural Studies
 ANT 285, Space, Place and Power
 *ART 394, Jerusalem
 *ECON 233, Modernization of the Middle East
 *HIS 296, US Policy in the Middle East
 *HIS 315, Mobility in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean
 LIT 211, Theory and Practice of Literary Translation
 LIT 212, Film Feminisms
 *LIT 292, Contemporary Iranian Cinema
 *PS 207, Religion and Comparative Politics
 *REL 254, Justice, Law and Commerce in Islam
 *REL 283, Islam and Modernism
 REL 284, History of Islam
 *REL XXX, Theology and Philosophy in Post-revolutionary Iran
 *REL XXX, Muslim Societies in Global Perspectives
 *REL XXX, Qur'anic Studies
 *REL XXX, Methodology of Law and Politics in Post-revolutionary Iran¹

¹ These newly approved but un-numbered courses are taught by a recently hired Duke faculty member.

Duke University

DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA
27708

miriam cooke
Professor of Arab Cultures
DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
227 TRENT HALL
BOX 90414

TELEPHONE (919) 668-2603
FAX (919) 681-7871
www.miriamcooke.com

January 15, 2010

Stephanie Schmitt, Associate Dean for Academics
Graduate School
The University of North Carolina
200 Bynum Hall, Campus Box 4010
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-4010

Dear Dean Stephanie Schmitt,

I write in enthusiastic support of the Middle East graduate certificate proposal that Professor Carl Ernst is submitting to you. I am in the process of finalizing a comparable proposal to Duke's Graduate Program.

As Director of the Duke University Middle East Studies Center (DUMESC), I will work very closely with Professor Ernst and the Faculty Steering Committee to coordinate courses and activities and to co-direct the administration of the certificate under the auspices of the Consortium in Middle East Studies at Duke University and UNC-CH.

I believe that the many years of collaboration between our two institutions and especially among faculty specializing in the Middle East as well as the Consortium's current proposal for a Title VI grant make such a joint venture not only feasible but highly attractive to students across both universities.

Yours truly,



miriam cooke
DUMESC Director
Professor of Arabic and Arab Cultural Studies



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
125 SAUNDERS HALL
CAMPUS BOX 3225
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3225

T 919.962.5666
F 919.962.1567

15 January 2010

Stephanie Schmitt, Associate Dean for Academics
Graduate School
The University of North Carolina
200 Bynum Hall, CB #4010

Dear Stephanie:

I am writing in my capacity as chair of the Department of Religious Studies to express my enthusiastic support for the Graduate Certificate in Middle East Studies that has been proposed and would be housed in our department.

In a full faculty meeting this week our department voted unanimously to sponsor this program. Beginning in the fall of 2010, we are prepared to support, under the directorship of Prof. Carl Ernst, the work of this program to recognize graduate student research and coursework relating to the Middle East, with the intention of building up greater Middle East expertise in the humanities, social sciences, and professional schools. As the first such degree program in North Carolina, this certificate will fill a critical function in addressing the growing need for expertise on the Middle East. Since fully one-third of the courses listed are Religious Studies courses and because work on the Middle East intersects with scholarship in Islamic Studies in critical ways, housing this program in our department will be an efficient and logical use of university resources.

Further, we do not anticipate that the certificate program will place any additional administrative burden on our department. Since it takes advantage of existing curricular resources and involves a minimum of administrative oversight and advising, the administrative load for this program will be light and will consist primarily of meetings with prospective students and biannual meetings to review applications. My understanding is that this work will be assumed by the director and the faculty involved in the program.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Best wishes,

Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp
Associate Professor and Chair



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THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

February 19, 2010

OFFICE OF THE DEAN
205 SOUTH BUILDING
CAMPUS BOX 3100
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3100

T 919.962.1165
F 919.962.2408
college.unc.edu

Dr. Erika Lindemann
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Curricula
3014 Steele Building, CB# 3504
CAMPUS

Dear Erika,

I am happy to provide my endorsement of the proposed graduate certificate in Middle Eastern Studies. Professor Ernst makes a persuasive case for the intellectual value of the proposed certificate as well as its coherence with the University's emphasis on building teaching and research expertise in the greater Middle East. Professor Maffly-Kipp's willingness to incorporate the certificate into the Department of Religious Studies' curriculum ensures that this undertaking in Middle Eastern Studies will have a good administrative home. The UNC faculty who recommend the certificate have excellent records and merit our confidence and support. As a joint enterprise with Duke, the certificate can only be enriched, thereby offering an even wider range of academic opportunity and synergy for all students and faculty who participate in the program.

Since my Senior Associate Dean colleague, Jonathan Hartlyn, oversees international centers and programs in the College, I suggest that you solicit his input as well, though I'd be surprised if he were to have objections to this certificate.

Sincerely,

William L. Andrews
Senior Associate Dean for the Fine Arts and Humanities