

# 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 section of a thesis or dissertation, or a 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 Gökner, 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), Afroz Taj (Asian Studies, UNC), Nadia Yaqub (Asian Studies, UNC), Glaire Anderson (Art History, UNC), Banu Gokariksel (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.

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***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](mailto: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/SOCI 788, Critical Genealogies of Middle Eastern Studies (to be formally added when Carolina Connect becomes operational; until then, a generic topics course number will be used, such as RELI 890 or SOCI 950)

### Graduate Courses in Middle East Studies at UNC

\*ARAB 407: Readings in Arabic I (taught in Arabic)  
 \*ARAB 408: Readings in Arabic II (taught in Arabic)  
 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  
 \*HNUR 407, Readings in Hindi-Urdu Poetry  
 \*HNUR 408, Readings in Hindi-Urdu Prose  
 \*HNUR 410, Seminar on the Urdu-Hindi Ghazal  
 \*HNUR 592, Religious Conflict and Narrative in India and Pakistan  
 \*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 Iran<sup>1</sup>

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



UNC  
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THE UNIVERSITY  
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at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN STUDIES

March 22, 2010

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T 919.962.4294  
[www.unc.edu/depts/asia](http://www.unc.edu/depts/asia)

Stephanie Schmitt  
Associate Dean for Academics  
Graduate School  
200 Bynum Hall, CB# 4010  
Carolina Campus

Dear Stephanie:


On behalf of the Department of Asian Studies, I would like to voice our wholehearted support for the proposed Graduate Certificate in Middle East Studies. We believe the Certificate offers a challenging course of study for students interested in enhancing their graduate careers with training in some of theoretical issues, texts, and languages relevant to learning about the Middle East.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, our Committee of Department Administration (CDA), which includes all our tenured faculty and four tenured faculty members from other departments, discussed the proposal at length. The vote to approve support for the proposal was unanimous.

I have discussed two concerns raised at this meeting with Dr. Carl Ernst. The first is that the Department of Asian Studies must continue to schedule classes according to Department priorities rather than to meet the needs of the Certificate. The second concern is that the faculty in Asian Studies cannot promise to take on advising Certificate students. Dr. Ernst assured me that the rich array of courses available to Certificate students means that no particular burden will fall on Asian Studies to provide specific classes, and that there is no expectation that Asian Studies faculty advise Certificate students.

The proposed Graduate Certificate in Middle East Studies will complement our developing programs in Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi Urdu, Turkish, and Persian.

Sincerely,

  
Jan Bardsley  
Associate Professor and Chair





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*at* CHAPEL HILL

John Pickles  
Earl N Phillips Distinguished Professor of  
International Studies  
Chair, Department of Geography  
206 Saunders Hall  
CAMPUS BOX 3220  
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Carl W. Ernst, Director  
William R. Kenan, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies

CAROLINA CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND MUSLIM CIVILIZATIONS

Dear Carl,

I'm writing to approve your request for the Department of Geography to support the proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Middle East Studies. Geography is happy to have the 2 courses taught by Prof. Banu Gokariksel count towards the certificate. Geography intends to continue to offer these courses with roughly the same frequency depending on faculty resources and needs.

Regards,

John Pickles  
Chair  
Earl N Phillips Distinguished Professor of International Studies

cc. Banu Gokariksel



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at CHAPEL HILL

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March 16, 2010

W. FITZHUGH BRUNDAGE  
*William B. Umstead Professor*

Prof. Carl W. Ernst, Director  
Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
3025 FedEx Global Education Center  
301 Pittsboro St, CB #7582  
Chapel Hill NC 27599-7582

Dear Prof. Ernst:

On behalf of the History Department I enthusiastically approve and support of the attached proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Middle East Studies, to be jointly offered by UNC and Duke University. Our faculty, in particular Prof. Ahmed El Shamsy and Prof. Sarah Shields, welcome any steps that deepen and broaden the opportunities for study of the Middle East and Muslim civilization. Our faculty are committed to offering courses relevant to the certificate.

Sincerely,

W. Fitzhugh Brundage  
William B. Umstead Professor of History  
Interim Chair



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*at* CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

March 23, 2010

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Carl W. Ernst, Director  
William R. Kenan, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies  
CAROLINA CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF  
THE MIDDLE EAST AND MUSLIM CIVILIZATIONS  
FedEx GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER  
CAMPUS BOX 758  
UNC

Dear Carl:

I approve and support your proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Middle East Studies, to be jointly offered by UNC and Duke University. I approve the listing of SOCI 419, Sociology of the Islamic World as counting towards the certificate, out of a total of 33 UNC courses and 29 Duke courses eligible to be counted for the certificate; this course is taught by Prof. Charles Kurzman, and he has given his approval for it to be listed for the certificate.

Best regards,

HOWARD E. ALDRICH  
Chair, Department of Sociology

**Subject:** Re: Certificate in Middle East Studies  
**From:** "Glaire D. Anderson" <glair@email.unc.edu>  
**Date:** Tue, 23 Mar 2010 13:07:17 -0400  
**To:** Erika Lindemann <ulinde@email.unc.edu>

Dear Dean Lindemann,  
I have read the proposal, and fully support it.

Thanks, and best wishes,  
Glaire

On Tue, Mar 23, 2010 at 12:13 PM, Erika Lindemann <ulinde@email.unc.edu> wrote:

Dear Glaire,  
Sorry to intrude on your day, but I hope you will be able to send me a quick answer. The Administrative Boards of the General College and College of Arts and Sciences will consider this afternoon a proposal for a graduate certificate in Middle East studies (attached). Your name is mentioned in this proposal on p. 4 as teaching art history courses enrolling graduate students who might elect to pursue this certificate. I want to make sure that you are aware of the proposal and that it has your support. Would you be kind enough to let me know by email today if you have any objections to this proposal?

Many thanks,  
Erika

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Erika Lindemann  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Curricula  
3014 Steele Building, CB# 3504  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3504  
Office: 919-843-7772  
Fax: 919-843-6557

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Dr. Glaire D. Anderson  
Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies

Assistant Professor, Islamic art history  
(on leave until Fall 2010)  
Department of Art, CB 3405  
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