

An interdepartmental program

Courses of Study:
Minor

Internet Studies

Objectives

The Internet provides powerful tools to change how we work, how we play, how we learn, how we live. Its significance may well rival that of the printing press and of writing itself, with a timetable that is enormously accelerated. By supporting rapid and cheap communications it has fostered a truly global economic system and transformed societies throughout the world. The program in Internet Studies affords opportunities for students and faculty members to study the evolution of this revolutionary technology and its pervasive political, economic, cultural, and artistic ramifications in a multidisciplinary framework. It highlights the socioeconomic forces that shape the Internet and the global response to it and helps students to frame the information revolution in critical perspective. The program's interdisciplinary approach adds an important liberal arts perspective for students whose focus is primarily technical and supplies the essential technical component for students whose primary interests lie in the realm of social, humanistic, and artistic concerns.

How to Become a Minor

The program is open to all Brandeis undergraduates. To enroll in the program, consult with a member of the Internet Studies Program committee and fill out declaration forms from the Office of Academic Affairs. Students who complete the requirements of the program receive Internet studies certificates and notations on their transcripts.

Committee

Timothy Hickey, Chair
(Computer Science)

Pamela Allara
(Fine Arts)

Anne Carter
(Economics)

Richard Gaskins
(American Studies)

Benjamin Gomes-Casseres
(Brandeis International Business School)

Caren Irr
(English and American Literature)

David Jacobson
(Anthropology)

Requirements for the Program

Students must complete six courses. Students may "double count" only two courses toward their major and this program.

A. Two core courses: COSI 2a (Introduction to Computers) and COSI 33b (Internet and Society). Computer science majors may substitute COSI 21a for COSI 2a.

B. Three elective courses from the program listing. The list of approved elective courses will change from year to year as the departments, the Internet, and society changes.

C. One senior research course: an independent study, internship, or senior honors thesis in the student's major (with an emphasis on some aspect of Internet studies as approved by a member of the program's faculty), or a senior seminar in Internet studies if offered.

Courses of Instruction

(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

INET 92a Internship in Internet Studies
Usually offered every year.
Staff

INET 92b Internship in Internet Studies
Usually offered every year.
Staff

INET 98a Independent Study
Usually offered every year.
Staff

INET 98b Independent Study
Usually offered every year.
Staff

Core Courses

COSI 2a
Introduction to Computers

COSI 33b
Internet and Society

Electives

AMST 131b
News on Screen

AMST 134b
The New Media in America

ANTH 138a
Social Relations in Cyberspace

ANTH 174b
Virtual Communities

BUS 40a
Business and the Internet

COSI 11a
Programming in Java and C

COSI 125a
Human-Computer Interaction

ECON 141b
Technology and the Global Economy

ENG 101b
Cyber-Theory

FA 20b
Introduction to Visual Culture

LGLS 129b
Law, Technology, and Innovation

LGLS 150a
Law and Society in Cyberspace

An interdepartmental program

Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

Courses of Study:
Minor
Major (B.A.)

Objectives

The Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (IMES) major is an interdisciplinary curriculum sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies in conjunction with the faculty from several other departments. It is designed to provide a strong foundation in Middle Eastern studies with a specialized knowledge of Islam. The major requires students to take elective courses from the departments represented by the faculty committee. Key contributing departments, in addition to Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, include politics, history, economics, sociology, African and Afro-American studies, and anthropology. With a solid training in language, political theory and praxis, history, economics, sociology, and anthropology, the major is especially appropriate for students wishing to pursue graduate work, particularly in the field of Middle Eastern studies, or for those who wish to pursue careers dealing directly or indirectly with the Middle East.

How to Become a Major or Minor

Students who wish to major in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies must take the core course in Islamic civilization (IMES 104a) and at least two full years of a Middle Eastern language. The two years of language may be comprised of either two years of Arabic or, alternatively, one year of Arabic and one year of another Middle Eastern language such as Persian, Turkish, or Hebrew. Students who are fluent in Arabic, Persian, or Turkish may be exempted from the language requirements for a major in IMES upon approval by the chair of IMES. In addition, with the goal of achieving a balanced understanding of the overall field of study, the student must take two courses in the classical period and two courses in the modern as well as three courses to be chosen from the wide intellectual variety of elective courses. One of the three elective courses may be Arabic 40, which also counts as part of the two years of language requirements. Study in the Middle East for a term or a year is encouraged. As a culmination of the student's education, he or she is encouraged to write a senior thesis with emphasis on some aspects of Islamic and Middle Eastern studies.

Committee

Avigdor Levy, Chair
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Tzvi Abusch
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Seyom Brown
(Politics)

Olga Davidson
(Women's Studies)

Gordon Fellman
(Sociology)

Kanan Makiya
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Leonard Muellner
(Classical Studies)

Yitzhak Nakash
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Wellington Nyangoni
(African and Afro-American Studies)

Franck Salameh
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Ilan Troen
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Requirements for the Major

A. Either four semesters of Arabic (usually ARBC 10a, 20b, 30a, and 40b) or two semesters of Arabic and two semesters of another Middle Eastern language such as Persian, Turkish, or Hebrew. Students who are fluent in Arabic, Persian, or Turkish may be exempted from the language requirements upon approval by the chair of IMES.

B. Core course: IMES 104a (Islam: Civilization and Institutions).

C. Two courses pertaining to the classical period (e.g., ARBC 103a, 103b [formerly NEJS 103a, 103b], NEJS 144a, 186a [formerly NEJS 129a], 186b [formerly 129a], 188a [formerly NEJS 147a]).

D. Two courses pertaining to the modern period (e.g., 145a [formerly 157a], 185b [formerly 145b], 187a [formerly 148a], NEJS 187b [formerly 143b], 188b [formerly 146b], 189a [formerly 147b], 189b [formerly 161b], 197b, SOC 157a, WMNS 195b [formerly NEJS 195b]).

E. Three additional courses from the list of electives below.

Requirements for the Minor

A. Two semesters of a Middle Eastern language.

B. Core course: IMES 104a (Islam: Civilization and Institutions).

C. At least one course pertaining to the classical period from the following electives: ARBC 103a and b (formerly NEJS 103a and b), NEJS 144a, 188a (formerly 147a), 186a (formerly 110a), 186b (formerly 129a).

D. At least one course pertaining to the modern period from the following electives: NEJS 145a (formerly 157a), 185b (formerly 145b), 187a (formerly 148a), 187b (formerly 143b), 188b (formerly 146b), 189a (formerly 147b), 189b (formerly 161b), 197b, SOC 157a, WMSN 195b (formerly NEJS 195b).

E. Two additional courses from the list of electives below.

Courses of Instruction

(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

IMES 98a Independent Study
Usually offered every year.
Staff

IMES 98b Independent Study
Usually offered every year.
Staff

IMES 99d Senior Research
Usually offered every year.
Staff

(100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

IMES 104a Islam: Civilization and Institutions
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Provides a disciplined study of Islamic civilization from its origins to the current state of affairs. Approaches the study from a humanities perspective. Topics covered will include the Qur'an, tradition, law, theology, politics, Islam and other religions, modern developments, women in Islam, and Islam and Middle-Eastern politics. Usually offered every second year.
Staff

Electives

AAAS 60a
Economics of Third World Hunger

AAAS 80a
Economy and Society in Africa

AAAS 123a
Third World Ideologies

AAAS 126b
Political Economy of the Third World

AAAS 163b
Africa in World Politics

AAAS 175a
Comparative Politics of North Africa

ANTH 80a
Anthropology of Religion

ANTH 118b
Peoples and Societies of the Middle East

ANTH 133a
Tradition and the Contemporary Experience in Sub-Saharan Africa

ARBC 103a
Advanced Literary Arabic

ARBC 103b
Advanced Literary Arabic

ECON 175a
Introduction to the Economics of Development

HIST 110a
The Civilization of the Early Middle Ages

HIST 110b
The Civilization of the High and Late Middle Ages

HIST 134b
Nineteenth-Century Europe: Nationalism, Imperialism, Socialism (1850-1919)

HIST 137a
Evolution of the International System, 1815 to the Present

HIST 142b
Europe since 1945

HIST 148b
Central Asia in Modern Times

HIST 186a
Europe in World War II

NEJS 104a
Comparative Grammar of Semitic Languages

NEJS 113b
Law in the Bible and the Ancient Near East

NEJS 114b
Biblical Ritual, Cult, and Magic

NEJS 130a
The New Testament: A Historical Introduction

NEJS 135a
The Modern Jewish Experience

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- NEJS 144a**
Jews in the World of Islam
- NEJS 174a**
Promise and Fulfillment: Israeli Life in Hebrew Literature
- NEJS 185a**
Topics in Israeli Social History
- NEJS 185b**
The Making of the Modern Middle East
- NEJS 186b**
Biblical Narratives in the Qur'an
- NEJS 188a**
The Rise and Decline of the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1800
- NEJS 188b**
The Destruction of the Ottoman Empire, 1800-1923
- NEJS 189a**
The Arab-Israeli Conflict
- NEJS 191a**
Introduction to Islamic Theology
- NEJS 192a**
War and Peace in Israeli Thought and Praxis
- NEJS 193a**
Societies in Conflict: Exploring the Middle East Through Authentic Materials
- NEJS 194a**
Civil Society in the Middle East
- NEJS 195a**
Military and Politics in the Middle East
- NEJS 196a**
Marriage, Divorce, and Sexual Ethics in Islamic Law
- NEJS 197b**
Political Cultures of the Middle East
- NEJS 285a**
Social History of the Middle East
- NEJS 291a**
History and Memory in the Middle East
- NEJS 293a**
The Question of Palestine
- POL 128a**
The Politics of Revolution: State Violence and Popular Insurgency in the Third World
- SOC 119a**
War and Possibilities of Peace
- SOC 157a**
Sociology of the Israeli-Palestinian Confrontation
- SOC 161a**
Society, State, and Power: The Problem of Democracy
- SOC 171a**
Women Leaders and Transformation in Developing Countries
- SOC 175b**
Civic Environmentalism
- WMNS 195b**
The Woman's Voice in the Muslim World