

BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

GW's Middle East Studies program helps students understand the forces that shape this dynamic region by exploring the religion, politics, economics, culture, history, and geography of this region. Through this program, students are encouraged to study in the Middle East through one of the Elliott Schools' formal partnerships with a regional university and gain proficiency in a modern regional language. Students also benefit from a faculty of leading scholars and senior international affairs practitioners, access to Washington, DC's unmatched career opportunities, diverse study-abroad options, and more than 250 on-campus events each year. Program graduates go on to serve as senior policymakers, diplomats, international business executives, or global nonprofit leaders.

Visit the program website (<https://elliott.gwu.edu/middle-east-studies-major/>) for additional information.

ADMISSIONS

For information about the admission process, including deadlines, visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (<https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/>). Applications can be submitted via the Common Application (<https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp/>).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
The George Washington University
800 21st St NW Suite 100
Washington, DC 20052

For questions visit undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us (<http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us/>).

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Elliott School bachelor's degrees engage students with global issues through multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches. Students begin their studies in the first year with foundational courses in political science, economics, history, and anthropology or geography. They supplement these courses with others in the traditional liberal arts categories of writing, oral communication, natural or physical science, mathematics or statistics, and the humanities/creative arts, plus two writing in the disciplines courses. Language study also is emphasized early to enable students to satisfy the third-year language proficiency requirement of the bachelor's degree in a timely manner.

Elliott School bachelor's degrees require a minimum of 120 credits. The following three sets of requirements must be fulfilled:

1. University General Education Requirements
2. Elliott School Introductory Requirements
3. Major Requirements

1. University General Education Requirements

Coursework (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#generaleducationtext>) for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:

- One course in critical thinking in the humanities.
- Two courses in critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, or scientific reasoning in the social sciences.
- One course that has an approved oral communication component.
- One course in quantitative reasoning (must be in mathematics or statistics).
 - Students in the BS in international affairs program are required to take a calculus-based course to fulfill the University General Education requirement in quantitative reasoning. Options include MATH 1220 and MATH 1221; MATH 1231; MATH 1232; or MATH 1252. Students must complete all required prerequisites for their intended analytic core courses. Students are encouraged to consult their advisor with any questions.
- One course in scientific reasoning, with lab (must be in natural and/or physical laboratory sciences).
- UW 1020 (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/search/?P=UW%201020>) University Writing (4 credits).
- After successful completion of UW 1020, 6 credits distributed over at least two writing in the discipline (WID) courses taken in separate semesters. WID courses are designated by a "W" appended to the course number.

2. Elliott School Introductory Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Introductory requirements (22 credits)		
Required		
IAFF 1001 is not required for internal or external transfer students.		
IAFF 1001	First-Year Experience (fall of first year)	
IAFF 1005	Introduction to International Affairs (required in the first year)	
ECON 1011	Principles of Economics I	
ECON 1012	Principles of Economics II	
HIST 1011	World History from 1500 to Present	
PSC 1001	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
One of the following introductory anthropology or geography courses:		

ANTH 1002	Sociocultural Anthropology
ANTH 1004	Language in Culture and Society
GEOG 1001	Introduction to Human Geography
GEOG 1003	Society and Environment *

*GEOG 1003 does not meet the prerequisite requirement for all upper-level geography courses.

One additional course from the University General Education "Critical Thinking in the Humanities" course list or from the GPAC "Creative or Critical Thinking in the Arts" course list.

3. Major Requirements

In addition to the University General Education Requirements and Elliott School Introductory Requirements, Elliott School students must complete the Major Requirements for their individual major:

- BA in International Affairs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-international-affairs/#majorrequirementstext>)
- BS in International Affairs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/bs-international-affairs/#majorrequirementstext>)
- BA in Asian Studies (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-asian-studies/#majorrequirementstext>)
- BA in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-latin-american-hemispheric-studies/#majorrequirementstext>)
- BA in Middle East Studies (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-middle-east-studies/#majorrequirementstext>)

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

If you are an Elliott School student who started at GW before Fall 2024, you are following a different version of the curriculum. Please find your degree requirements in the archived Bulletin (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/archives/>) for your matriculation year.

Students pursuing the BA in Middle East Studies as a second major must complete all of the major requirements listed below, including any prerequisites for these courses. These requirements are taken in addition to the requirements for the student's primary major, which typically includes completion of the University General Education requirement and other requirements specific to the primary major. Students are encouraged to talk with their home school's academic advisor for more information about their primary major requirements.

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Elliott School of International Affairs, Undergraduate Degree Requirements (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/#regulationstext>).

A minimum grade of C- must be earned in all major requirement courses, to include the last course used to prove third-year proficiency in a modern regional language .

[If a student wishes to take any course not listed here, prior approval of the program director is required.](#)

Code	Title	Credits
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Foundation (3 credits)

IAFF 2095	The Middle East in International Affairs
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It is strongly recommended that students take IAFF 2095 before more advanced coursework in the major.

Language (credits vary)

Students must demonstrate third-year proficiency in a modern language (Arabic, Hebrew or Persian) by examination or coursework. If taking coursework, students can satisfy the language requirement by taking a course that is equivalent to third-year proficiency, or by taking a course beyond the third year which has a listed prerequisite of the second semester of the third year. Please note that the language placement exam determines the level at which students begin their language study. Additional information regarding the Elliott School foreign language examinations is available from the academic advisor.

Arabic

Option one:

ARAB 1001	Beginning Arabic I
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ARAB 1002	Beginning Arabic II
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ARAB 2001	Intermediate Arabic I
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ARAB 2002	Intermediate Arabic II
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ARAB 3001	Advanced Arabic
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and one of the following courses:

ARAB 3301	Modern Arabic Literature
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ARAB 3302	Media Arabic
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ARAB 3311	Business Arabic
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Or

Option two:

ARAB 1201	Intensive Elementary Arabic I
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ARAB 1202	Intensive Elementary Arabic II
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ARAB 2201	Intensive Intermediate Arabic
ARAB 3201	Intensive Advanced Arabic: Mass Media
Hebrew	
HEBR 1001	Beginning Hebrew I
HEBR 1002	Beginning Hebrew II
HEBR 2001	Intermediate Hebrew I
HEBR 2002	Intermediate Hebrew II
HEBR 3001	Hebrew Conversation and Writing
and one of the following courses:	
HEBR 3301	Modern Hebrew Fiction
or HEBR 3301W	Modern Hebrew Fiction
HEBR 3302	The Israeli Media
Persian	
PERS 1001	Beginning Persian I
PERS 1002	Beginning Persian II
PERS 2001	Intermediate Persian I
PERS 2002	Intermediate Persian II
PERS 3001	Advanced Persian
PERS 3002	Media Persian
or PERS 3002W	Media Persian

Regional Foundations (3 credits)

One course from the following in any region except the Middle East. IAFF, ANTH, ECON, GEOG, HIST, and PSC courses pertaining to a region of the world with a focus on the contemporary, post-World War II era. Includes courses focused on single and multiple countries in a region.

Code	Title	Credits
Africa		
ANTH 3708	Anthropology of Africa	
GEOG 3164	The Geography of Africa	
HIST 3530	Women in Africa	
IAFF 2093	Africa: Problems and Prospects	
IAFF 2190W	Special Topics (North Africa and the World) *	

IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (Africa Declassified)
IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (Africa and Globalization: Culture and Context)
IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (African Literature and Politics)
IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (Africa in the Global Economy)
IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (Ethnic and Religious Conflict in Africa)
IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (International Affairs in Africa)
IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (Women and Leadership in Africa)
PSC 2381	Comparative Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa
PSC 2482	African International Politics
*IAFF 2190W (North Africa and the World) is not approved as a regional foundations course for students in the Middle East Studies program due to the degree of overlap between issues in North Africa and the Middle East.	
Asia	
(Students in the BA in Asian studies program must fulfill the regional foundations requirement using a course focused in a world region other than Asia.)	
ANTH 3704	Cultures of Southeast Asia
ECON 2169	Introduction to the Economy of China
GEOG 3165	Geography of South Asia
HIST 3615	History of Chinese Communism
HIST 3621	History of Modern Japan
HIST 3631	History of Modern Korea
HIST 3640	History of Southeast Asia
IAFF 2091	East Asia-Past and Present
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Asian Order and Community Building)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Central Asia Security)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Comparative Politics in Southeast Asia)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Economic Development of East Asia)

IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Economic Lessons from East Asia)	PSC 2331	Comparative Politics of Central and Eastern Europe
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Indo-Pacific Security Challenges)	PSC 2332	European Integration
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (South Asian Politics Via Literature and Film)	PSC 2366	Russian Politics
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Women in Asia)	PSC 2994	Special Topics in International Relations (International Politics of Central and Eastern Europe)
IAFF 3752W	Equitable Development in Southeast Asia	PSC 3192W	Proseminar: Political Science (British Politics)
IAFF 3753	International Relations of South Asia	Latin America	
IAFF 3756	Christianity and Islam in East Asia	(Students in the BA in Latin American and hemispheric studies program must fulfill the regional foundations requirement using a course focused in a world region other than Latin America.)	
PSC 2368	Politics in the Two Koreas	ANTH 3702	Anthropology of Latin America
PSC 2371	Politics and Foreign Policy of China	ANTH 3791	Topics in Regional Anthropology (Anthropology of the Caribbean)
PSC 2374	Politics and Foreign Policy of Japan	GEOG 3161	Geography of Latin America
PSC 2373	Comparative Politics of Southeast Asia	HIST 3701	Topics in Latin American History (Democracy in Latin America)
Europe and Eurasia		HIST 3701	Topics in Latin American History (Violence, Drugs, and Democracy in Latin America)
GEOG 3197	Special Topics in Regional Geography (Geography of Russia and Its Neighbors)	HIST 3710	History of Latin America I
HIST 1121	The War of Ideas in European and International History, 1750-Present	HIST 3711	History of Latin America II
HIST 2125	Twentieth-Century Europe	IAFF 2090	Latin America: Problems and Promise
HIST 3101	Topics: Europe (All sections of HIST 3101 are approved for this requirement.)	IAFF 3177	Political Economy of Latin America
HIST 3168	Divided and United Germany Since 1945	IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Cuba in the Global Arena)
IAFF 2092	Russia and Eastern Europe: An Introduction	IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Democracy in Latin America)
IAFF 2094	Europe in Transition	IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Democracy Under Siege in Latin America)
IAFF 3185	Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies (Nationalism in Eurasia)	IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Economic and Social Development of Latin America)
IAFF 3185	Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies (The West and Russia)	IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Feminist Movements in Latin America)
IAFF 3185	Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies (Ukraine and Georgia between Russia and the West)		
IAFF 3185	Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies (Ukrainian Security)		
IAFF 3190	Special Topics in International Affairs (European Economies and Crisis of Integration)		
PSC 2330	Comparative Politics of Western Europe		

IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Geography of Latin America)
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Latin America Geopolitics and Geoeconomy)
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Latin American Migration)
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Racial and Ethnic Politics of Latin America)
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Security in the Americas)
IAFF 3191W	Populism and Regime Change in Latin America
IAFF 3855	Argentina in Global Context
PSC 2383	Comparative Politics of Latin America
PSC 2993	Special Topics in Comparative Politics (Democratic Experiments in Latin America)
SPAN 3200	Bilingualism in the Spanish-Speaking World
Middle East	
(Students in the BA in Middle East studies program must fulfill the regional foundations requirement using a course focused in a world region other than the Middle East.)	
ANTH 3707	Anthropology of the Middle East
GEOG 3154	Geography of the Middle East and North Africa
HIST 3801	Topics in Middle Eastern History (The Middle East Since WWII)
HIST 3810	History of the Middle East to 1800
HIST 3825	Land and Power in Israel/Palestine
IAFF 2095	The Middle East in International Affairs
IAFF 2190W	Special Topics (Arab Politics)
IAFF 2190W	Special Topics (North Africa and the World)
IAFF 2190W	Special Topics (Politics and Culture in the Middle East)
IAFF 2190W	Special Topics (Turkey and Its Neighbors)

IAFF 3188	Special Topics in Middle East Studies (Iran in the Middle East)
IAFF 3188	Special Topics in Middle East Studies (National Security Lab Middle East)
IAFF 3188	Special Topics in Middle East Studies (The Middle East Since WWII)
IAFF 3352	Israeli and Palestinian Peacebuilding
PSC 2377	Comparative Politics of the Middle East
PSC 2476	The Arab-Israeli Conflict
or PSC 2476W	The Arab-Israeli Conflict
PSC 2478	International Relations of the Middle East
PSC 2993	Special Topics in Comparative Politics (Political Violence in the Middle East)

Research methods (3 credits)

One course pertaining to qualitative or quantitative social science research methods, computer programming, or other analytical competencies, from the following:

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH 3531	Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology	
APSC 3115	Engineering Analysis III	
CSCI 1012	Introduction to Programming with Python	
DATS 1001	Data Science for All	
DNCS 1001	Business Analytics I: Statistics for Descriptive and Predictive Analytics *	
DNCS 2001	Business Analytics II: Predictive and Prescriptive Analytics **	
ECON 2123	Introduction to Econometrics	
or STAT 2123	Introduction to Econometrics	
GEOG 2104	Introduction to Cartography and GIS	
IAFF 2101	Qualitative Methods in International Affairs	
IAFF 2102	Quantitative Methods in International Affairs	
IAFF 2190	Special Topics (Political Risk Analysis)	
IAFF 2190	Special Topics (Program Design in International Affairs)	
IAFF 3180W	Special Topics in Security Policy (Security Policy and Qualitative Analysis)	

IAFF 3190	Special Topics in International Affairs (International Conflict and Politics Research Seminar)
IAFF 3502	Strategic Management and Qualitative Methods in International Affairs
IAFF 4191W	Research Seminar (International Conflict and Politics Research Seminar)
IAFF 4191W	Research Seminar (Security Policy and Qualitative Analysis)
ISTM 3119	Introduction to Programming
PSC 2101	Scope and Methods of Political Science
PSYC 2101	Research Methods in Psychology
PUBH 2142	Introduction to Biostatistics for Public Health
PUBH 3131	Epidemiology
PUBH 3199	Topics in Public Health (Research Methods Foundations)
PUBH 4201	Practical Computing
SMPA 2151	Research Methods
SOC 2101	Social Research Methods
SOC 2102	Techniques of Data Analysis
STAT 1051	Introduction to Business and Economic Statistics *
STAT 1053	Introduction to Statistics in Social Science *
STAT 1111	Business and Economic Statistics I *
STAT 1127	Statistics for the Biological Sciences *
STAT 1129	Introduction to Computing
STAT 2112	Business and Economic Statistics II **
STAT 2118	Regression Analysis
STAT 2123	Introduction to Econometrics
or ECON 2123	Introduction to Econometrics
STAT 2183W	Intermediate Statistical Laboratory: Statistical Computing Packages
STAT 4157	Introduction to Mathematical Statistics I
*Credit for only one of the following courses can be counted toward an Elliott School undergraduate degree: DNSC 1001, STAT 1051, STAT 1053, STAT 1111, or STAT 1127.	

**Credit for only one of the following courses can be counted toward an Elliott School undergraduate degree: DNSC 2001 or STAT 2112.

Code	Title	Credits
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Multi-disciplinary Core (24 credits)

The following lists are not exhaustive and new courses may be added at any time. Contact the Director of the Middle East Studies program for approval to count a course not listed toward one of these requirements.

History (6 credits)

Two courses from the following:

HIST 2803	The Ancient Near East and Egypt to 322 B.C.
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HIST 2804	History of Ancient Israel
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HIST 2805W	Majors' Introductory Seminar: Middle East (Plague in Islamic History)
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HIST 3801	Topics in Middle Eastern History
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HIST 3810	History of the Middle East to 1800
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HIST 3811	The Emergence of the Modern Middle East
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HIST 3820	History of Israel
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or HIST 3820W	The History of Israel
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HIST 3825	Land and Power in Israel/Palestine
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HIST 3830	History of Iraq
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HIST 3850	Modern Iran
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Economics (3 credits)

One course from the following:

ECON 2136	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
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ECON 2151	Economic Development
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or ECON 2151W	Economic Development
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ECON 2180	Survey of International Economics
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ECON 2181	International Trade Theory and Policy
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ECON 2182	International Macroeconomic Theory and Policy
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Middle East Arts and Literature (3 credits)

One course from the following:

ARAB 3301	Modern Arabic Literature
ARAB 3501	Arabic and Arab Identity
ARAB 3502	Arab Film and Culture in English
ARAB 4001	Genres in Modern Arabic Literature
ARAB 4002	Arabic Narratives Through the Ages
CAH 3113	Islamic Art and Architecture
HEBR 3101	Modern Hebrew Literary Classics in Translation
HEBR 3102	Israeli Society and Culture: Literary Perspectives
HEBR 3103	Israeli Cinema (in English)
HEBR 3104W	Gender and Sexuality in Israel
HEBR 3301	Modern Hebrew Fiction
or HEBR 3301W	Modern Hebrew Fiction
HEBR 4001	Advanced Hebrew Literature I
or HEBR 4001W	Advanced Hebrew Literature I
HEBR 4002	Advanced Hebrew Literature II
REL 3432	Persian Sufi Literature East and West

Political Science (6 credits)

Two courses from the following:

PSC 2377	Comparative Politics of the Middle East
PSC 2379	Politics and Foreign Policy of Israel
PSC 2476	The Arab-Israeli Conflict
or PSC 2476W	The Arab-Israeli Conflict
PSC 2478	International Relations of the Middle East

Religion (6 credits)

Two courses from the following:

REL 2401	Islam
REL 3405	Shi'ite Islam
REL 3414	Islamic Philosophy and Theology
REL 3425	Islamic Political Thought
REL 3431	Sufism/Islamic Mysticism
REL 3432	Persian Sufi Literature East and West

REL 3475	Islamic Religion and Art
REL 3481	Women in Islam
REL 3482	Gender and Piety in Islam
REL 3990	Selected Topics in Religion (topic: Law and Diplomacy in the Ancient Near East and the Mediterranean. Same as REL 3990W: Law and Diplomacy in the Ancient Near East and the Mediterranean)

Related Coursework (6 credits)

Two courses related to the Middle East from any discipline, including International Affairs (IAFF), selected with the approval of the Middle East Studies program director.

Study Abroad

Students are encouraged to study in the Middle East through one of GW's formal partnerships with a regional university or an approved self-designed study abroad program.