August 21, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: James F. Harris  
   Dean, College of Arts & Humanities
   Edward Montgomery  
   Dean, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences

FROM: Phyllis Peres  
   Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Add a Minor in Middle East Studies (PCC Log No. 05084)

At its meeting on May 19, 2006, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula, and Courses approved your proposal to add a Minor in Middle East Studies, pending revisions. The prescribed revisions were received and a copy of the final approved proposal is enclosed.

The changes are effective in Fall 2006. All advisors should be notified and the College should ensure that the approved guidelines are followed.

/CWR

Enclosure

cc: Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid  
   Mary Giles, University Senate  
   Barbara Hope, Data Administration  
   Katherine McAdams, Undergraduate Studies  
   Anne Turkos, Archives  
   Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar  
   Glenn Kirksey, Office of the Registrar  
   Elizabeth Loizeaux, College of Arts & Humanities  
   Hayim Lapin, Jewish Studies
MINOR IN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES—Jointly proposed to BSOS and ARHU

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

MINOR IN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES drawing on faculty and expertise in Government and Politics, History, Jewish Studies, Languages (Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian), and Philosophy. The Minor provides students with a framework to understand the development of the contemporary Middle East against the background of a long and vibrant history, and the diversity of the region's religions, ethnic groups, and cultures.

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

There are substantial and growing resources for undergraduate study of the Middle East on campus. Nevertheless, expertise is dispersed and no formal program exists to help undergraduates negotiate this complex and important field. The Minor, with its multidisciplinary faculty committee, helps to provide coordination for undergraduate offerings and a coherent program of study for students interested in the field. Program draws on existing faculty and resources; Jewish Studies will initially "house" the program and provide any initial staffing needs, but these are expected to be minimal.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES

1. Department Committee Chair

2. Department Chair

3. College/School PCC Chair

4. Dean

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)

6. Chair, Senate PCC

7. Chair of Senate

8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

DIRECTIONS:
- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED: 4/10/06  PCC LOG NO. 05084

COLLEGE/SCHOOL: ARHU & BSOS

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM: Jewish Studies Program (Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies)

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each): ADD X DELETE CHANGE

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approval Signatures</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Department Committee Chair</td>
<td>4/10/06</td>
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<td>2. Department Chair</td>
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<td>3. College/School PCC Chair</td>
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<td>4. Dean</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required) 

6. Chair, Senate PCC 

7. Chair of Senate 

8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost 8/28/06
Minor in Middle-Eastern Studies
REVISED TEXT, 7/10/06

I. Overview and Rationale

The Middle East dominates the news today and much of what we hear underscores just how poorly Americans understand the politics, culture, and history of the region. Because so much of what is at stake dwells on the present, interest in the Middle East, among our students and the general public, tends to focus on the contemporary setting. Yet this interest should not obscure the long history of the Middle East, reshaped with the Arab conquests of the seventh century CE, and with a legacy that continues into the present.

The proposed Minor in Middle-Eastern Studies introduces students to this vast field, balancing very real interests in the contemporary with the demand that a sophisticated understanding of the Middle East requires significant exposure to the long history of Islam, the political history of the Mediterranean and western Asia, the ethnic and religious makeup of the pre-modern Middle East, and the rich culture that these engendered.

The University of Maryland has long had dispersed, but recognizable, strengths in Middle-East Studies, covering medieval and early-modern history, philosophy, thought, literature, and culture as well as the politics and history of the modern and contemporary Middle East. Moreover, the last several years have seen growth in this field. Formal Arabic-language courses have been offered since 1997, and the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures in the College of Arts and Humanities in 2004 appointed new faculty in Arabic Language and in Persian Language and Culture. Arts and Humanities searched for two additional scholars of the Middle East in 2005–2006, with the expectation of additional hires in the future. The Department of Government and Politics recently added an assistant professor with expertise in the contemporary Middle East. And the Jewish Studies program has just announced a visiting professorship in Israel Studies and has been actively seeking support for a tenured line in this area.

The Minor draws on those existing and developing strengths, and provides structure and coordination of offerings for students interested in pursuing Middle East Studies as a field of study. This initiative is part of a broader effort to create a cross-departmental, cross-college, interdisciplinary programs at several levels. We hope to follow the undergraduate Minor proposal with a proposal for an undergraduate Major, and are exploring the formation of an interdisciplinary MA program in Middle East Studies.

The following description of the curriculum depends is based on courses already approved and part of the undergraduate catalog. Additional Persian and Arabic courses are in development. Nor do we wish to overlook the importance of courses taught by visiting faculty or by regular faculty on “soft” numbers. It is in this format that regular faculty members in GVPT have been able to offer courses on the Quran (Spring 2004), Maimonides’ Guide to the Perplexed (last taught 1994), International Relations in the Middle East (Spring 2000), and visiting faculty have taught Conflict Resolution: The Israeli Palestinian Experiment. JWST was able to offer a course on Arabs in
Contemporary Israel in Fall 2004, taught by a visiting faculty member. HIST has repeatedly offered History of the Contemporary Middle East to 160 students as a 219, and has offered an undergraduate seminar (309) on The US and the Middle East (Spring 2001). While we believe that the development of the Minor, and hopefully additional programs, will be an incentive to departments to hard-number some courses currently taught on soft numbers. Nevertheless we believe that the dynamism of the field must be met by a requirements that leave open the possibility of one-time and soft-numbered courses, and that flexibility will in no way interfere with the academic integrity or rigor of the Minor.

Although the fastest-growing area in Middle-East offerings on campus is language, this proposal limits the amount of language instruction that can be applied. Our concern is that at the level of the Minor allowing more language instruction will allow students to attain the Minor without sufficient exposure to history, politics, literature, or culture. (In addition, each of the language programs has discussed independent undergraduate programs.) By contrast, at the BA or MA level attaining language proficiency in at least one language will be a requirement.

II. Curriculum

A. Transcript title:

Minor in Middle East Studies

B. Catalog Description

The Minor in Middle East Studies consists of a total 15 credits and 5 courses. Coursework must be distributed to meet the overlapping requirements below. (For example, PHIL 416: Medieval Philosophy can be used to meet both the pre-modern requirement and the upper-division requirement.)

- Area distribution (2 courses, 6 credits, minimum). Students must complete at least one course each in two geographical, linguistic, cultural, or religious areas. These may include the following: (a) the Arab world; (b) Iran and the Iranian world; (c) Jewish and Israel; (d) Turkish and Ottoman; and (e) Diaspora Studies. Other areas of concentration may be considered upon request.

- Premodern requirement. At least two courses (6 credits) must focus on the pre-modern (pre-20th century) Middle East. Students may fulfill this requirement through their area distribution or elective courses.

- Upper division requirement. At least three courses (9 credits) must be at the 300 or 400 level.

The balance of credits are electives and may be selected from the list of approved Middle East Studies courses. Students may strengthen their knowledge base in their selected areas, take courses in additional areas, supplement their courses with relevant language
instruction (up to three credits at the instructional level), enroll in primary-text readings courses, or take inter-disciplinary or internationally focused thematic courses.

Additional restrictions:
Languages: Students may apply up to one course of language instruction (Arabic, Hebrew, or Persian; others by petition) toward the Minor. Such a course may only count toward 3 credits of the Minor. Advanced language courses that are content-focused (e.g., literature, philosophy, law) may be counted toward the Minor.

No more than six credits (2 courses) may count toward the student’s major.

Special topics courses, independent study, and special courses offered in Winter or Summer term may be counted toward the minor with the approval of the Advisor.

No more than six credits (two courses) may be taken at an institution other than the University of Maryland, College Park. However, at least six upper division credits applied to the minor must be taken at this university.

No course with an earned grade below 2.0 (“C”) may count towards a minor.

B. Courses
Languages
Four-year curricula for language instruction in Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian are in place, with further courses under review.

History, Literature, Culture of the Middle East

1. Pre-20th Century
ARCH 436 History of Islamic Architecture
   Prerequisite: ARCH221 or permission of department
GVPT 447 Medieval Arabic and Islamic Political Philosophy
HIST 120 Islamic Civilization
HIST 282/JWST 234 History of the Jewish People I
HIST 283/JWST 235 History of the Jewish People II
HIST 491 History of the Ottoman Empire
HIST 492 Women and Society in the Middle East
   Recommended: Prior coursework in Middle East studies or gender studies
JWST 466 Readings in Medieval Hebrew (where relevant)
   Prerequisite: HEBR212 or permission of department.
PHIL 417/ JWST 472 Golden Age of Jewish Philosophy
   Prerequisite: Three credits in philosophy or permission of department.
PHIL 416 Medieval Philosophy
   Prerequisite: Six credits in philosophy.
SPAN225 Cultures of the Contact Zone: Seville, Al-Andalus and the Atlantic World
SPAN 407 Jews, Moslems, and Christians in Medieval Spain
   Prerequisites: SPAN321, SPAN322, SPAN323, or SPAN324
PERS 351 Introduction to Persian Literature (3)
Currently under review:
PERS 454 The Epic Tradition in Iran (3)
PERS 455 The Persian Ghazal (3)
PERS 456 Sufism: Thought and Expression (3)

2. 20th-21st Century
ARAB 221 The Arab World Today through Readings in Translation
ARAB 282 The Arab-Israeli Conflict through Readings in Translation
GVPT 455 Contemporary Middle Eastern Politics
    Prerequisite: GVPT280 or GVPT282.
GVPT 485 Government and Politics of the Middle East
    Prerequisite: GVPT280 or GVPT282.
HIST 314 Crisis and Change in the Middle East and Africa
    Prerequisite: one course in History
HIST 376/JWST 342 History of Zionism and the State of Israel
HIST 392 History of the Contemporary Middle East
HIST 497 Islam in Africa
PERS 353 Iranian Life in Literature and Film
PERS 452 Modern Persian Literature: A Survey
    Prerequisite: Permission of department
WRLD 135 To Stem the Flow: The Nile, Technology, Politics and the Environment

Currently under review:
PERS 451 Introduction to Persian Literature (3)
PERS 453 Classical Persian Literature: A Survey (3)

3. Other
GVPT 448 Non-Western Political Thought (where topic is relevant)
    Prerequisite: GVPT 100; permission of department required for repeat.
HEBR 498 Special Topics in Hebrew (where relevant)

Courses by Region and Culture

1. The Arab World
ARAB 221 The Arab World Today through Readings in Translation
ARAB 282 The Arab-Israeli Conflict through Readings in Translation
GVPT 447 Medieval Arabic and Islamic Political Philosophy
GVPT 455 Contemporary Middle Eastern Politics
GVPT 485 Government and Politics of the Middle East
HIST 120 Islamic Civilization
HIST 314 Crisis and Change in the Middle East and Africa
    Prerequisite: One course in History.
HIST 392 History of the Contemporary Middle East
HIST 492 Women and Society in the Middle East
    Recommended: Prior study in Middle East Studies or gender studies.
2. Iran and the Iranian World
PERS 351 Introduction to Persian Literature (3)
PERS 353 Iranian Life in Literature and Film
PERS 452 Modern Persian Literature: A Survey
   Prerequisite: Permission of department
PERS 454 The Epic Tradition in Iran (3)
PERS 455 The Persian Ghazal (3)
PERS 456 Sufism: Thought and Expression (3)

3. Jewish and Israel
HIST 282/JWST 234 History of the Jewish People I
HIST 283/JWST 235 History of the Jewish People II
HIST 376/JWST 342 History of Zionism and the State of Israel
JWST 466 Readings in Medieval Hebrew (where relevant)
   Prerequisite: HEBR212 or permission of department

4. Turkish and Ottoman
HIST 491 History of the Ottoman Empire

5. Diaspora Studies.
HIST 282/JWST 234 History of the Jewish People I
HIST 283/JWST 235 History of the Jewish People II
HIST 314 Crisis and Change in the Middle East and Africa
   Prerequisite: One course in History
HIST 392 History of the Contemporary Middle East
SPAN225 Cultures of the Contact Zone: Seville, Al-Andalus and the Atlantic World

III. Faculty and Organization

1. Faculty
The Minor in Middle-East Studies is guided by an inter-departmental faculty committee
from BSOS and ARHU. Current membership of the faculty committee consists of the
following:

   Butterworth, Charles (Government and Politics, BSOS)
   Cooperman, Bernard (History, ARHU)
   Elgibali, Alaa (School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, ARHU)
   Karimi-Hakkak, Ahmad (School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, ARHU)
   Manekin, Charles (Philosophy, ARHU)
   Schwedler, Jillian (Government and Politics, BSOS)
   Telhami, Shibley (Government and Politics, BSOS)
   Zakim, Eric (School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, ARHU)
   Zilfi, Madeline (History, ARHU)

The advisor for the Minor will be Charles Butterworth (GVPT, BSOS), but the Minor
will reside in JWST (ARHU). For Learning Outcomes needs Jewish Studies will serve as
the archive for the Program, and will provide other administrative support if needed. This
is an interim solution, we expect that a developing Middle East Studies program will provide an appropriate long term home for the Minor.

2. Advising
The advisor meets with Minor students each semester to approve the courses the student plans to take toward the minor. In cases where there is some thematic overlap between the student’s major and the Minor in Middle East Studies, the advisor will work with the student’s advisor to make sure that courses are not double-counted inappropriately.

Each semester, the advisor, in consultation with the Middle-East Studies faculty will produce a list of courses currently offered, with particular attention to special topics and other exceptional courses. Other courses may be applied to the Minor with the approval of the Advisor.
Minor in Middle East Studies

Advising Sheet

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<th>Course</th>
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2. Other courses (if not fitting into the two areas above, e.g. language)

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Grade</th>
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1. No more than three credits language instruction?
2. No more than six credits taken outside of Maryland?
3. Grade of C or above on all courses?
4. No more than six credits counted toward the major?
5. At least nine upper-division (300 or above) credits?

Student has completed all the requirements for a Minor in Middle East Studies

Advisor’s Name: __________________________
Signature: __________________________
Date: __________________________
Dear Professor Lapin,

I am writing to express the support of the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (SLLC) for your proposal to create an interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in Middle-East Studies. To say such a program is timely would be an under-statement, given the immense importance of the region in today's world. Student demand for Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian courses is rising rapidly at College Park and around the country, and the federal government is eager to employ graduates with knowledge of one or more of them. A Middle-East studies minor could only add to their marketability, and will find many takers. UMCP already has reputable scholars in the history, politics, languages, literatures, and cultures of the region spread across a range of departments. This program will help students to form a coherent program from among the courses offered.

The proposal draws on the faculty and undergraduate course offerings of SLLC, of which I am the Director. This letter affirms that the following faculty members in the School will continue to teach in the area of Middle-East Studies, and that the formation of this program does not unduly conflict with the teaching and administrative duties of my unit:

Professor Ahmad Karimi (Persian)
Associate Professor Alaa Elgibali (Arabic)
Assistant Professor Eric Zakim

A new tenure-track Assistant Professor hire in Arabic literature and culture is expected in SLLC by Fall, 2006, and that individual, too, will undoubtedly be able to contribute to the new program. A range of more advanced courses in Arabic and Persian are also in preparation to cater to the needs of incoming advanced learners of both languages, following recent awards to the School of federally funded National Flagship programs in each language.
In addition, to the regular, "hard-numbered," approved courses in the Undergraduate Catalog, the three programs mentioned will continue to offer courses on repeatable "special topics" numbers.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Long, Ph.D.
Professor of SLA, and Director
SLLC
Dear Professor Lapin:

I am writing in support of your proposal to create an interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in Middle East Studies. The Middle East commends itself to us as an area of study on many counts: for its long and rich historical role, its contributions as a distinct and distinguished civilization, and its obvious significance in contemporary affairs. Because student interest is strong, and undergraduate teaching in this area is widely dispersed throughout several campus departments, the proposed program will enable students to pursue a coherent course of study in this important area of interest.

The proposal draws on the faculty and undergraduate course offerings of the History Department, which I chair. This letter affirms that the following faculty members in my Department will continue to teach in the area of Middle East Studies and that the formation of this program does not unduly conflict with the teaching and administrative duties of my unit.

Madeline Zilfi
Hayim Lapin
Bernard Cooperman

The History Department also expects to hire another historian of the Middle East in the next year. With regard to the Department's course offerings, in addition to the regular, "hard-numbered," approved courses in the Undergraduate Catalog, the History Department will continue to offer courses on repeatable "special topics" numbers.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Gerstle
Professor and Chair
Dear Hayim:

I am writing to let you know that the Department of Government and Politics (GVPT) supports the concept of a Minor in Middle East Studies. We believe that this Minor will be of great interest and service to our majors and a valuable addition to the undergraduate curriculum.

We have every expectation that courses in Middle East Studies will continue to be taught on a regular basis in my department. As a Limited Enrollment Program, we do allow non-majors to take one course per semester and believe that minors in Middle East Studies will be able to enroll in GVPT courses to support their minor. However, given the number of majors that we currently have and the potential of this Minor to attract many students, I must state at the outset that we cannot guarantee minors in Middle East Studies seats in our courses.

In addition, we foresee possible overlap between courses applied toward the GVPT major and the proposed Minor. Particularly for students opting to take the Minor to provide a sequence of supporting courses for GVPT, advisors in the Minor and those in the GVPT will need to carefully communicate with one another to avoid double-counting of courses beyond the 6 credit hours allowed by the University. In addition, GVPT majors will not typically be able to count GVPT courses toward their major that are also necessary for their minor in Middle East.

Despite these concerns we are pleased to endorse this Minor initiative, and look forward to working together with the faculty and advisors in the Minor to facilitate the progress of students enrolled in both programs.

Sincerely,

Mark Lichbach
Chair
**MINOR IN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES**

(Program of Study / Major / Degree Level, etc.)

Program Contact:  Hayim Lapin  
Phone:  54296  
E-mail:  hlapin@umd.edu

Date submitted to Academic Unit Head:  

Program Goals:

The Minor in Middle East Studies provides instruction in the history, literature, and culture of the Middle East. Students acquire familiarity with the pre-modern Middle East, study at least

Relevance of goals to the mission statements and/or strategic plans of the University, College, or Program as applicable:

1. To enhance the excellence of the college, department, and units in research and scholarship
2. To elevate the quality of graduate and undergraduate education and of the student experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Measures and Criteria</th>
<th>Assessment Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(list the three-to-five most important)</td>
<td>(describe one or more measures for each outcome and criteria for success)</td>
<td>(initial year, and subsequent cycle)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Premodern Middle East history, literature, culture.</td>
<td>Each semester, the Advisor of the Minor will circulate a list of Minors enrolled in courses that meet the premodern requirement of the Minor. These courses are preselected to provide the necessary background for Minors. Faculty in these courses will assess whether the student exceeds, meets, or fails to meet the goal of basic comprehension. The assessment will utilize the grade on the final project (exam, paper, etc.) for the course, but will be separate</td>
<td>Every five years, beginning 2007</td>
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- History
- Literature
- Religion
committee.
Copies of said papers will be archived in the Jewish Studies Center until a permanent home for Middle East Studies is determined.