

# ARAB CROSSROADS STUDIES (BA)

CIP: 05.0108

## Program Description

Arab Crossroads Studies takes advantage of Abu Dhabi's geographical location in the Arabian Peninsula, at the crossroads of the three continents of the Eastern hemisphere: Africa, Asia, and Europe. It uses this location to think through the broader interactions of the Arab world with the surrounding regions, and as an invitation to investigate the historical and contemporary religious, cultural, and ethnic diversity of the Arabic-speaking world. In doing so, it provides a portal for the global NYU community to study and engage with the social, cultural and intellectual diversity of the Arab world and its neighbors.

The historical, sociopolitical, and cultural interactions among these regions have opened engaging domains of study in both the humanities and social sciences. One example of these interactions can be seen in the Gulf, where the flow of people, ideas, and commodities has resulted in cosmopolitan and culturally hybrid setting for many centuries. The historical archives testify to this richness, which can also be gleaned from the artistic, architectural and musical developments, the variety of spoken languages, and the diversity of people who now live in the Gulf region. Similar sites of intense interaction can be found in the Levant, Central Asia, West and East Africa, as well as South Asia, and ACS courses consider regions such as these particularly productive for studying the Arab world's diversity. Yet ACS courses move beyond geographic descriptions to consider thematic approaches to the Arab world's diversity that consider more specific religious, historical, political, anthropological, literary and artistic topics.

## Study Away

The study away pathway can be found on the NYUAD Student Portal at [students.nyuad.nyu.edu/pathways](http://students.nyuad.nyu.edu/pathways) (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/abu-dhabi/programs/arab-crossroads-studies-ba/>). Students with questions should contact the Office of Global Education. Only one elective can be taken during J-term and it is strongly recommended that not more than two non-language courses be taken while studying away.

## Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see [How to Apply](http://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html) (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

## Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
<b>General Education Requirements</b>		
Physical Education (2 courses)		
Quantitative Reasoning (1 course)		
Experimental Inquiry (1 course)		
Islamic Studies (1 course)		
First-Year Writing Seminar	4	
Colloquia	4	

Field Colloquia (2 J-Term courses)	6
<b>Core Competencies</b>	
Arts, Design, and Technology	4
Cultural Exploration Analysis	4
Data and Discovery	4
Structures of Thought and Society	4
<b>Major Required Courses</b>	
ACS-UH 1010X Anthropology and the Arab World	4
or SRPP- UH 2416X Gulf Urban Societies	
ACS-UH 1011X Introduction to Modern Arabic Literature	4
or LITCW- UH 2312X Masterpieces of Pre-Modern Arabic Literature in Translation	
ACS-UH 1012X Emergence of the Modern Middle East	4
or ACS- UH 1410X Making of the Muslim Middle East	
ACS-UH 3010 Problems and Methods in Arab Crossroads Studies	4
or POLSC- UH 3212 Qualitative Methods in Middle East Politics	
<b>Major Electives</b>	
Complete 4 electives (see list below)	16
<b>Arabic Language Proficiency</b>	
Complete the level of Arabic Language proficiency equivalent to Intermediate Arabic 2 (non-credit requirement)	
<b>Capstone</b>	
ACS-UH 4000 Arab Crossroads Studies Senior Capstone Seminar	4
ACS-UH 4001 Arab Crossroads Studies Senior Capstone Project	4
<b>Other Electives</b>	
Complete enough courses to reach the minimum overall required credits	128 58
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Arab Crossroads Electives</b>	
<b>Code</b> <b>Title</b> <b>Credits</b>	
ACS-UH 1214X Quran as Literature	4
ACS-UH 1410X Making of the Muslim Middle East	4
ACS-UH 1412X Race and Ethnicity in the Histories of the Middle East and Africa	4
ACS-UH 1610X Feminism and Islamism in the Middle East and North Africa	4
ACS-UH 1612X Energy and Society in the Gulf	4
ACS-UH 2212X Introduction to Islamic Texts	4
ACS-UH 2213X Modern Arabic Short Stories	4
ACS-UH 2410X Paradise Lost: Muslims, Christians and Jews in Al-Andalus	4
ACS-UH 2417 Ottoman Crossroads	4
ACS-UH 2419X Sufism	4
ACS-UH 2613X Youth in the Middle East	4
ACS-UH 2614X Colonization of Palestine	4
ACS-UH 2615X Arab Genders and Sexualities	4
ACS-UH 4000 Arab Crossroads Studies Senior Capstone Seminar	4
ACS-UH 4001 Arab Crossroads Studies Senior Capstone Project	4
ARTH-UH 1121X Gulf and Indian Ocean World Art and Architecture	4

ARTH-UH 1122X	Global Art and Science: Geometries, Ecologies, Technologies	4	SRPP-UH 2612X	State Formation: The Case of the United Arab Emirates	4
ARTH-UH 2118X	Contemporary Art and Politics in the Arab World	4	SRPP-UH 2614X	Women and Work in the Gulf	4
ARTH-UH 2131	Silk Roads, Sea Routes and Shared Heritage	4	SRPP-UH 2801X	Community- Engaged Scholarship: Addressing Social Hierarchies in the UAE	4
AW-UH 1113X	Alexander and the East: Central Asia and the Mediterranean from the Achaemenid Period	4			
AW-UH 1114	Doing Archeology: Case Studies from Western Asia	4			
AW-UH 1115X	Political Past, Political Presents: Archaeology and the Politics of Memory in the 'Near East'	4			
AW-UH 1118	Archaeology, Arabia and the Bible	4			
AW-UH 1119X	Sacred Cities: Jerusalem and Mecca	4			
AW-UH 1120X	Archaeology of the Gulf	4			
CCEA-UH 1077X	Islamism, Islamophobia, and Muslim Popular Culture	4			
CCEA-UH 1078X	Representing the Middle East: Issues in the Politics of Culture	4			
CCEA-UH 1080X	Food, Culture, and Politics	4			
CCEA-UH 1114X	Sexualities of the Middle East: A Cultural History	4			
CSTS-UH 1052X	History and the Environment: The Middle East	4			
CSTS-UH 1059X	Urban Violence: The Middle East	4			
ECON-UH 2451X	Economic History of the Middle East	4			
ECON-UH 3511X	Islamic Economics and Finance	4			
FILMM-UH 1013X	Understanding MENASA Film and New Media	4			
HERST-UH 1100	World Heritage Sites & Universal Collections	4			
HERST-UH 1101X	Heritage Management in the Arabian World	4			
HERST-UH 1501	Experimenting with the Past: Cultural Heritage Connections in the Gulf and Western Indian Ocean	4			
HIST-UH 1126X	Digital History	4			
HIST-UH 3513X	Religion and Material Culture in the Indian Ocean World	4			
LAW-UH 2122X	Introduction to Islamic Law	4			
LAW-UH 2126X	International Commercial Arbitration: From Ancient Arabia to Contemporary Singapore	4			
LITCW-UH 1506	Today We Wrote Nothing	4			
LITCW-UH 2312X	Masterpieces of Pre-Modern Arabic Literature in Translation	4			
LITCW-UH 2340	Inventions of Love: East and West	4			
LITCW-UH 2341	Asian and Arab Diaspora in the Arts	4			
LITCW-UH 3350X	Literatures of the Middle East and the Maghreb (North Africa)	4			
MUSIC-UH 1611X	Arab Music Cultures	4			
MUSIC-UH 1617X	Popular Music in the Arab World	4			
MUSIC-UH 1618X	Music and Identity in Trade	4			
PHIL-UH 2211X	Classical Arabic Philosophy	4			
POLSC-UH 1114	War on Terrorism	4			
POLSC-UH 2421X	Political Economy of the Middle East	4			
POLSC-UH 2422X	North African Politics	4			
POLSC-UH 3212	Qualitative Methods in Middle East Politics	4			
SRPP-UH 1413X	Social Change and Development in the Arab World	4			
SRPP-UH 1810X	Islam and Society	4			
SRPP-UH 2211	Ethnographic Field Research	4			
SRPP-UH 2412X	Islamist Social Movements in the Middle East	4			
SRPP-UH 2416X	Gulf Urban Societies	4			

## Arabic Language Proficiency Courses

*Alternatively, students may take a proficiency exam to satisfy this non-credit requirement.*

Code	Title	Credits
ACS-UH 2213X	Modern Arabic Short Stories	4
ARABL-UH 2120	Intermediate Arabic 2	4
ARABL-UH 2211	Colloquial Arabic: Levantine Dialect 1	4
ARABL-UH 2212	Colloquial Arabic: Egyptian Dialect	4
ARABL-UH 2213	Colloquial Arabic: Emirati Dialect and Culture	4
ARABL-UH 3110	Advanced Arabic 1	4
ARABL-UH 3120	Advanced Arabic 2	4
ARABL-UH 3211	Colloquial Arabic: Levantine Dialect 2	4

## Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
<b>1st Semester/Term</b>		
First-Year Writing Seminar		
ACS-UH 1010X or SRPP-UH 2416X Anthropology and the Arab World or Gulf Urban Societies		
Core Competency		
General Elective		
<b>Physical Education</b>		
<b>2nd Semester/Term</b>		
Field Colloquia (J-Term)		
<b>3rd Semester/Term</b>		
ACS-UH 1011X or LITCW-UH 2312X Introduction to Modern Arabic Literature or Masterpieces of Pre-Modern Arabic Literature in Translation		
Core Competency		
Core Competency		
Major Elective		
<b>4th Semester/Term</b>		
ACS-UH 1012X or ACS-UH 1410X Emergence of the Modern Middle East or Making of the Muslim Middle East		
Major Elective		
Core Competency		
General Elective		
<b>5th Semester/Term</b>		
Field Colloquia (J-Term)		
<b>6th Semester/Term</b>		
ACS-UH 3010 or POLSC-UH 3212 Problems and Methods in Arab Crossroads Studies or Qualitative Methods in Middle East Politics		
Major Elective		
Colloquia		
General Elective		
<b>7th Semester/Term</b>		
Major Elective		

General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
	Credits	16
<b>8th Semester/Term</b>		
ARABL-UH 2120	Intermediate Arabic 2	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Education		4
Physical Education		
	Credits	16
<b>9th Semester/Term</b>		
ACS-UH 4000	Arab Crossroads Studies Senior Capstone Seminar	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		2
	Credits	14
<b>10th Semester/Term</b>		
ACS-UH 4001	Arab Crossroads Studies Senior Capstone Project	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
	Credits	12
	Total Credits	128

## Policies

### NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

### NYU Abu Dhabi Policies

A full list of relevant policies can be found on NYU Abu Dhabi's undergraduate academic policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/abu-dhabi/academic-policies/>).

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the major in Arab Crossroads Studies at NYU Abu Dhabi, students are expected to be able to:

1. Identify the cultural, social, economic, political, philosophical, and religious forces that have shaped and continue to shape the intersection of the Arab and Islamic worlds;
2. Demonstrate a familiarity with historical and contemporary cultural and philosophical approaches to the study of the Arab world and neighboring regions while being attentive to the multiple transnational connections, circuits, and crossroads that have shaped them;
3. Understand the ways in which the field of Arab Crossroads Studies draws upon and contributes to other scholarly disciplines;
4. Develop arguments in which they reassess and, where necessary, revise conventional scholarly and popular understandings of the region, while continually questioning and justifying their own methodological assumptions and practices;
5. Conduct advanced research, including fieldwork, master the use of primary and secondary sources, library resources, and relevant new technologies as appropriate;
6. Create strong scholarly arguments drawing on appropriate sources, literature, and evidence;
7. Display competence in Modern Standard Arabic in reading, writing, and oral comprehension;
8. Demonstrate expertise in a particular approach to Arab Crossroads Studies resulting in the production of a senior capstone project;
9. Compete effectively for places at elite doctoral programs in the United States and around the world in Middle Eastern Studies, Islamic Studies, Anthropology, History, Arabic Literature, and Comparative Literature, and with additional coursework in the social sciences, in Sociology or Political Science;
10. Bring a solid background in knowledge of the Arab world and Arabic to job opportunities in policy-making, journalism, diplomacy, consulting, and finance.