

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.

Arab Crossroads Studies majors are required to take a minimum of 14 courses: four required courses (*Emergence of the Modern Middle East; Anthropology and the Arab World; Introduction to Modern Arabic Literature and Problems and Methods in Arab Crossroads Studies*); a minimum of four elective courses; and a two-semester capstone project. Additionally, Arab Crossroads Studies majors are required to take a minimum of four semesters of college Arabic or their equivalent, or demonstrate proficiency at this level.

Language: To fulfill the requirements of the Arab Crossroads Studies major, students must demonstrate intermediate ability in Arabic. This means either:

1. studying Arabic through at least the intermediate level (four semesters) at NYU Abu Dhabi or within the broader NYU global network,
2. demonstrating the completion of comparable course work elsewhere, or
3. demonstrating a corresponding level of proficiency through examination at NYU Abu Dhabi.

Electives: Students take a minimum of four elective courses, selected from any or all of the following areas: history and religion; society and politics; and arts and literature. The electives provide both breadth and depth to the study of the region; familiarize students with a variety of disciplinary concerns; and enable students to develop a specialization in one of three distributional areas in preparation for the capstone project. At least one of the electives must be grounded in the period before 1800.

History and Religion includes a broad and solid grounding in the pre-modern and modern social, cultural, religious and economic landscapes of the region. These courses focus on primary source documents to introduce students to the rich and varied history of the region as well as to the doctrinal and social aspects of the religious traditions that have shaped it.

Society and Politics includes a detailed and nuanced examination of the contemporary landscape of the region. These courses draw on anthropology, ethnography, political science, and sociology to elucidate the complex cultural, social, and political developments taking place today.

Arts and Literature includes a careful study of the literary, artistic and philosophical landscapes of the region. These courses explore the literatures, arts, and physical environments of the region within their broader historical and social contexts.

The study away pathway for the Arab Crossroads Studies major can be found on the NYUAD Student Portal at students.nyuad.nyu.edu/pathways (<http://students.nyuad.nyu.edu/pathways/>). 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](https://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
General Education Requirements		
Colloquia		8
First-Year Seminar		4
Arts, Design, and Technology		4
Cultural Exploration Analysis		4
Data and Discovery		4
Structures of Thought and Society		4
January Term Courses (3 Courses)		12
Major Requirements		
ACS-UH 1010X	Anthropology and the Arab World	4
ACS-UH 1011X	Introduction to Modern Arabic Literature	4
ACS-UH 1012X	Emergence of the Modern Middle East	4
ACS-UH 3010	Problems and Methods in Arab Crossroads Studies	4
Electives		
Select four electives, at least one grounded in a pre-1800 period		16
Arabic Language		
Select four Arabic language courses through intermediate level		16
Capstone		
ACS-UH 4000	Arab Crossroads Studies Senior Capstone Seminar	4
ACS-UH 4001	Arab Crossroads Studies Senior Capstone Project	4

Other Elective Credits	44
Total Credits	140

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
ARABL-UH 1110	Elementary Arabic 1	4
First-Year Writing Seminar		4
Colloquium		4
Pre-1800 Elective		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
January Term General Elective		4
Credits		4
3rd Semester/Term		
ARABL-UH 1120	Elementary Arabic 2	4
Core Course		4
General Elective		4
ACS-UH 1010X	Anthropology and the Arab World	4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
ARABL-UH 2110	Intermediate Arabic 1	4
Core		4
ACS-UH 1012X	Emergence of the Modern Middle East	4
ACS-UH 1011X	Introduction to Modern Arabic Literature	4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
General Elective		4
Credits		4
6th Semester/Term		
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
General Elective		4
Credits		4
9th Semester/Term		
ARABL-UH 2120	Intermediate Arabic 2	4
Colloquium		4
Arab Crossroads Studies Electives		4
ACS-UH 3010X		4
Credits		16
10th Semester/Term		
ACS-UH 4000	Arab Crossroads Studies Senior Capstone Seminar	4
Core		4
General Elective		4
Arab Crossroads Studies Electives		4
Credits		16
11th Semester/Term		
ACS-UH 4001	Arab Crossroads Studies Senior Capstone Project	4
Core		4
General Elective		4

Arab Crossroads Studies Electives	4
Credits	16
Total Credits	140

Learning Outcomes

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

- 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;
- 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;
- Understand the ways in which the field of Arab Crossroads Studies draws upon and contributes to other scholarly disciplines;
- 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;
- Conduct advanced research, including fieldwork, master the use of primary and secondary sources, library resources, and relevant new technologies as appropriate;
- Create strong scholarly arguments drawing on appropriate sources, literature, and evidence;
- Display competence in Modern Standard Arabic in reading, writing, and oral comprehension;
- Demonstrate expertise in a particular approach to Arab Crossroads Studies resulting in the production of a senior capstone project;
- 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;
- Bring a solid background in knowledge of the Arab world and Arabic to job opportunities in policy-making, journalism, diplomacy, consulting, and finance.

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/>).