

M.A. in Middle Eastern Cultures and Religions
(Available to Students Matriculating in Fall 2025 or Earlier)
Program Requirements

CORE REQUIREMENTS (33 Credits)

Society (9 Hours)

- MECR 560 Introduction to the Modern Middle East (FA) (3)
- MECR 563 Historical and Social Settings of Modern Israel (SP) (3)
- MECR 565 Palestinian Society and Politics (FA) (3)

Geography (Choose 4 Hours from the Following)

- GEO 511 Physical Settings of the Bible (FA/SP RES) (4)

OR

- BIBST 593 Historical & Geographical Settings of the Bible + Jordan Extension
(3+ Weeks in either Jan / May / June **in Israel and Jordan**) (4)

History (6 Hours)

- MECR 541 History of the Jews during the Medieval and Modern Periods (FA)..... (3)
- MECR 542 History of the Holy Land from the Rise of Islam to 1948 (FA)..... (3)

Religion (9 Hours)

- MECR 540 History of Church in the East (FA)..... (3)
- MECR 545 Jewish Thought and Practice (SP) (3)
- MECR 548 Islamic Thought and Practice (SP) (3)

Seminar (3 Hours)

- MECR 750 Department Seminar on Current Issues (SP) (3)

Internship (2 Hours)

- MECR 582 Internship (FA/SP)..... (2)
- *Requires completion of HCL 660-661 or HCL 662-663

CSIP Electives (Choose 6 Hours from Following; Up to 15 Hours if Non-Thesis Track)

- GR 704 Guided Research..... (3)
- HIST 533 Biblical Jerusalem and Its Exploration (3)
- HIST 531 History of the Second Temple Period (SP) (3)
- HIST 652 Text Studies in Midrash, Mishnah and Gemara:
 - The Shared Heritage of Rabbinic Judaism and Early Christianity (FA)..... (3)
- MECR 569 Palestinians and Jews in the Holy Land:
 - Historical and Social Perspectives (3)
- HCL 660 Colloquial Arabic I (FA)..... (3)
- HCL 661 Colloquial Arabic II (SP) (3)
- HCL 662 Modern Hebrew I (FA) (3)
- HCL 663 Modern Hebrew II (SP)..... (3)

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS (6 Credits)

Thesis Track (6 Hours)

TW 980 Guided Research on Thesis Topic	(2)
TW 981 Thesis Writing	(4)

Non-Thesis Track (Choose 6 More Hours from CSIP Electives)

Bible Content Examinations

BCE 801 Bible Content Exam—Old Testament.....	EXAM
BCE 802 Bible Content Exam—New Testament	EXAM

- Students are required to take the two Bible content exams (BCE) by the end of their second semester of study, or by the time they have reached 24 credits, whichever comes first. Students may take a BCE up to three times and are required to complete the initial attempt by the end of the second semester or 24 credit mark. The exam is 100 objective questions. A passing score is 75 or higher. The highest scores will be recorded on the official transcript as letter grades. The letter grades will not be factored into the cumulative program GPA. Students who do not complete a first attempt on the exams by the end of the second semester or 24 credit mark will be required to take BCE 800 (Introduction to the Bible) in August or January online. This course will not count toward the cumulative credit hours needed to satisfy the program requirements. The course will be charged to students at the online audit course credit rate. Completion of the course will include successful passing of BCE 801 and BCE 802. The course is open to any student for auditing purposes only.

BCE 800 “Intro to the Bible” (FA/SP_ONL ONLY)	(NA)
---	------

Integrative-Comprehensive Exams (0 Hours)

CE 960 History of the Middle East	EXAM
CE 965 Issues in the Modern Middle East.....	EXAM

Optional

CE 981 Modern Hebrew Proficiency	EXAM
CE 982 Colloquial Arabic Proficiency	EXAM

- The two comprehensive exams are taken separately and must be scheduled with the Registrar at least 30 days in advance of the desired date for taking the exam. Students should speak to the Program Advisor/Chair overseeing their degree program and obtain the current reading list and study guide. It is the responsibility of the student to complete the reading list and prepare for the exam. The comprehensive exams will be proctored by a JUC staff member or JUC appointed person. Upon successful completion of the two comprehensive exams and the curricular requirements, JUC will confer the graduate degree to the student.

Total Credit Hours for MECR Program (48)