

Degree Program and Examination Regulations for the Master's Degree Program 'Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East,' Department of History and Cultural Studies, Freie Universität Berlin

Preamble

Based on Freie Universität Berlin's supplemental rules and regulations [*Teilgrundordnung (Erprobungsmodell)*] from October 27, 1998, published in the Freie Universität Bulletin No. 24/1998 (*FU-Mitteilungen*), section 14, paragraph 1, sentence 1, number 2, the Faculty Council (*Fachbereichsrat*) of the Department of History and Cultural Studies at Freie Universität Berlin issued the following degree program and examination regulations for the master's program 'Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East' in the Department of History and Cultural Studies, Freie Universität Berlin on MONTH DD, 20YY.

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Section 1 Scope

(1) These degree program and examination regulations define the objectives, content, and structure of the Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East master's program in the Department of History and Cultural Studies at Freie Universität Berlin (master's program). These regulations work in conjunction with Freie Universität Berlin's framework regulations for degree programs and examinations as they outline the requirements and processes necessary to complete coursework and assessments towards completion of a master's degree program.

(2) This degree program is a consecutive master's degree as defined by section 23 para. 3 No. 1(a) of BerlHG from July 26, 2011 (GVBl. p.378), last amended on February 2, 2018 (GVBl. p.160). It is designed with a focus on research and is offered in English.

Section 2 Learning Objectives

(1) Graduates will have gained comprehensive and detailed knowledge of the processes that shape how cultures conceive of themselves, especially pertaining to different religions, languages, societies, and traditions of the Near and Middle East, including North Africa and the Horn of Africa. They will have acquired the methodological, interdisciplinary, and linguistic skills necessary to engage conscientiously with, analyze, and interpret various modes of expression from the regions' historical, cultural, religious, and linguistic spaces. The modes of expression vary in language (foreign or original) as well as context and medium (ritual expression, artistic expression). The broad range of courses offered provides graduates with subject-specific as well as multidisciplinary skills in both theory and methods that allow them to work with complex interdisciplinary issues and to use analytical thinking to relate the issues to current problems. The courses also give them opportunities to evaluate source material critically as well as to categorize, assess, and further develop schools of thought from transdisciplinary perspectives and within the context of current research debates. Depending on the graduates' chosen focus areas, they will also gain in-depth understanding of how knowledge and tradition relate to each other in the past and present of the Near and Middle East as well as the significance of the literature and language in/of the region. Graduates leave the program with their independent academic profile and expanded knowledge of related topics thanks to the subject-specific specialization in the degree program and their choice of interdisciplinary focal areas and complementary subjects.

(2) Graduates will have gained a command of research, presentation, and argumentation strategies that allow them to communicate and critically discuss subject-specific content as well as to develop empathy for the different cultures and cultural objects they encounter and the ability to analyze them appropriately. Graduates will have developed the ability to take on responsibilities within group projects, to present results orally and in writing, and to explain their position in a debate with solid arguments. The degree program – through its emphasis on the historical, social, cultural, and/or linguistic development in different regions in the Near and Middle East – also aims to strengthen graduates' intercultural competence as well as their ability to act creatively, independently, and responsibly. The program also fosters open-mindedness towards questions of gender and diversity.

(3) The successful completion of the master's program qualifies students to commence a doctoral studies

program, depending on the respective admission requirements, and prepares them for employment in the broad field of science and research: in higher education; in university and non-university research institutions; in documentation; in media outlets, journalism, archives, and museums; in international organizations, non-governmental organizations; in working with migrants; in tourism; in adult and continuing education; and in teaching intercultural issues in academic and non-academic settings. Besides, the skills and abilities acquired in the master's program open up career paths to professions characterized by tasks involving knowledge transfer, management, as well as representing the social, political, and cultural interests of others, especially for businesses or organizations operating internationally or in certain regions of the world. The international character of the master's program also increases graduates' chances on the global job market.

Section 3 Curriculum Contents

(1) The program imparts broad knowledge of the cultural history and history of knowledge of the Near East from late antiquity to the present. It also covers the historical preconditions since antiquity and introduces students to the multidisciplinary research practices of the subjects as they relate to the regional specificities of the Near and Middle East. Students learn to understand the complexity of the Near and Middle East from both contemporary and historical perspectives through scholarly reconstructions of cultural interdependencies in the region and processes with transregional implications, which they study using interpretive tools informed by theory and by applying special methods. Through the study of the Near and Middle East (including North Africa and the Horn of Africa), the degree program provides comprehensive understanding of cultural developments in the Near and Middle East and their interrelated and reciprocal influences in a pluricultural, multifaith, and polyglot region. It also imparts knowledge of theoretical and methodological debates surrounding the study and depiction of these developments. Given the international character of the subject, the degree program also introduces students to international scholarly practices and international academic standards. Focus areas of the program include the application of methods from cultural studies, humanities, linguistics, and literary studies, as well as the analysis of gender issues and identity construction. Students learn to gather information using relevant means given the particular subject, to analyze that information within a comparative context, and to present it to the public in suitable ways. They learn to work on their own with predominantly linguistic-textual documents and gain the skills necessary to deal with these materials critically and communicate their work effectively.

(2) The master's program teaches students to develop their problem-solving strategies for academic work, which they can then use in multi- and interdisciplinary contexts,

especially within the area of intercultural research. Developing this skill area requires students to perform independent research based on feedback and advising from instructors/professors and according to project plans that they develop individually.

Section 4 General Academic Advising and Departmental Advising

(1) The Center for Academic Advising and Psychological Counseling at Freie Universität Berlin provides general academic advising for students.

(2) Instructors who teach courses offered in the master's degree program provide departmental advising during their office hours. A student aide is also available to give additional advising support. Students should make an advising appointment at least once per semester with a departmental adviser to discuss their coursework and grades so far and the next steps in their degree program.

Section 5 Examination Committee

The examination committee is appointed by the Faculty Council of the Department of History and Cultural Studies, Freie Universität Berlin. The committee is responsible for organizing examinations and the other tasks stipulated by the framework regulations for degree programs and examinations (RSPO).

Section 6 Standard Time to Degree

The standard time to degree is four semesters.

Section 7 Structure and Components; Distribution of Credit Points

(1) Students need to earn 120 credit points to complete the master's program. The various components of the master's program include:

1. A core area totaling 50 credit points
2. A specialization area totaling 30 credit points
3. A complementary area totaling 15 credit points
4. A master's thesis worth 25 credit points

(2) The core area consists of the following modules and requires 50 credits of coursework:

1. Compulsory modules totaling 35 credits points:
 - a) Studying the Middle East (15 credits)
 - b) Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Middle East (15 credits)

c) Communicating Research in Interdisciplinary Studies (5 credits)

2. Compulsory elective modules: Students select one of the following modules to complete for 15 credit points:

- a) Reading the Middle East (15 credits)
- b) Reading the Middle East through its Languages (15 credits)

(3) In the specialization area, students select two of the following modules to complete for a total of 30 credit points:

- a) Histories and Societies of the Middle East (15 credits)
- b) Traditions of Texts and Knowledge in the Middle East (15 credits)
- c) Languages of the Middle East (15 credits)
- d) Literatures of the Middle East in their Social Dimensions (15 credits)

(4) In the complementary area of study, students select one or more modules to complete for a total of 15 credit points. They can choose from:

- a) Research Perspectives (15 credits)
- b) Internship (15 credits)
- c) One or more modules from other master's programs or a progressive sequence of language classes totaling 15 credit points

(5) The module descriptions in appendix 1 provide information on the prerequisites, the contents and learning objectives, the modes of instruction, the workload, the different types of active participation, the various assessments that students must take during the program, participation requirements in the different modes of instruction, the standard duration, and how often courses are offered.

(6) Appendix 2 is a standard plan for completing the master's program.

Section 8 Modes of Instruction

(1) The courses offered through the program include the following modes of instruction:

1. Lectures (Vorlesungen, V), including lecture series, impart knowledge to students about an area of study, research issues in that area, and the current relevance of the field. The main mode of instruction is a presentation prepared by the instructor and discussion afterward.
2. Advanced seminars (Vertiefungsseminare, VS)

provide students with a chance to engage intensively with a defined area of study and to gain practice doing academic work of their own. The predominant method used in these courses is seminar discussions guided by readings of primary and secondary literature as well as presentations that the students prepare on their own and in which they present their findings from the assigned readings, orally and/or in writing. The amount of independent study is significantly higher than in a regular seminar.

3. Methodology courses (Methodenübungen, MÜ) instill practical knowledge and skills in students as well as techniques related to a specific subject area. Coursework consists predominantly of practice using methods and techniques to improve practical skills and language ability as well as in-depth conversations, group work, and the practical application of subject-specific skills. Practice sessions are frequently offered in conjunction with a lecture or internship. The instructor leads students in the various activities and evaluates them.
4. Elective courses (Wahlveranstaltungen, WV) provide students with training in specific areas. Students can choose freely here from various types of courses and content.
5. Internship (Praktikum, P) refers to the consolidation of a student's newly acquired knowledge through practical application or to the acquisition of new skills through practical work in an organization, institution or working group over a specific period of time.
6. Colloquia (Kolloquien, Ko) give students the chance to present and discuss the results of their independent study, mainly regarding work on their master's thesis as well as current topics in international research.

(2) The modes of instruction as outlined in para. 1 can be implemented through blended learning formats. Blended learning combines on-site education with digital, internet-based media (e-learning). In this context, certain educational activities can be offered through Freie Universität Berlin's central e-learning applications. Students can work on these activities individually or in groups. They can complete them on their own or with the guidance of an instructor. Blended learning can be used both as part of the active learning phase (discussing educational materials, sharing solutions to assignments, supplementary communication between instructors and students) and for follow-up activities (evaluating students' progress, applying and transferring knowledge).

Section 9 Master's Thesis

(1) The goal of the master's thesis is to demonstrate that students can perform advanced academic work on their own in interdisciplinary studies of the Near and Middle East, including North Africa and the Horn of Africa, covering areas such as language, culture, and history. Furthermore, they should be able to present their work

appropriately in writing, situate it within an academic context, and to document it accordingly.

(2) Students will be admitted to work on a master's thesis by submitting a request provided that at the time of the request:

1. They were most recently enrolled in the relevant master's degree program at Freie Universität Berlin.

and

2. They have completed at least 30 credits in their core area module as well as at least 15 credits in an additional module in their specialization area within the master's program.

(3) The admission request for the master's thesis must be accompanied by proper documentation of the prerequisites listed in para. 2, as well as confirmation from an instructor who is authorized to administer exams that he or she is willing and able to act as a supervisor for the master's thesis. This confirmation must be no older than four weeks old at the time the request is submitted. The relevant examination committee is responsible for approving requests. If the request does not include confirmation from an instructor as described [[just above]], the examination committee will appoint a supervisor. Students can propose topics for their thesis; however, there is no guarantee that their proposed topics will be approved.

(4) The examination committee, in coordination with the thesis supervisor, provides the topic of the master's thesis. The topic and assignment must be designed in such a way as to ensure the work can be completed before the deadline. The assignment and compliance with the submission deadline must be documented and kept on file.

(5) The master's thesis should be between 15,000 and 18,000 words in length. Students have 20 weeks to work on their master's thesis. It should be in English. If a student is hindered from working on their master's thesis for more than three months due to mitigating circumstances, the examination committee will decide whether the student must start the master's thesis process again. If the Examination Committee demands that the master's thesis must be submitted again, the previous steps in the master's thesis process do not count as an official examination attempt.

(6) The work period for the master's thesis begins with the date that the topic is assigned by the examination committee. The topic can be declined once within two weeks of being assigned, in which case it will be deemed not issued. When the students submit their master's thesis, they must include a written statement confirming that they alone are responsible for the content of the thesis and that they only used the sources or references listed in the thesis. Students must submit three bound copies of their master's thesis as well as an electronic copy in Portable Document Format (PDF).

(7) The examination committee will appoint two examiners, who must be qualified to perform assessments at the university, to evaluate the master's thesis. Their written evaluations must be submitted within

eight weeks' time. One of the examiners should be the student's supervisor for the master's thesis. At least one of the evaluations should be from an instructor from the Department of History and Cultural Studies who is qualified to perform assessments and whose primary employer is Freie Universität Berlin.

(8) A grade of 'sufficient' (4.0) or higher is a passing grade for a master's thesis.

(9) A student's work on a master's thesis elsewhere can be recognized/transferred to Freie Universität. The recognition request should be submitted to the examination committee. For the master's thesis to be recognized, the examination conditions and the assignment of the submitted work must not differ substantially in terms of quality, level, learning outcomes, scope and profile when compared to the examination conditions and the assignment of a master's thesis completed in this master's program, which are essential to the professional qualification conferred by this master's program.

Section 10 Retaking Exams and Assessments

(1) If a student does not pass their master's thesis, they can attempt the assessment a second time. For all other exams and assessments in the program, they can retake them three times.

(2) Exams and assessments that receive a grade of 'sufficient' (4.0) or better cannot be retaken.

Section 11 Study Abroad

(1) Students are encouraged to study abroad. During their studies abroad, students should complete coursework that is transferable to the module(s) that they would otherwise be working on if they were at Freie Universität Berlin.

(2) To study abroad, a learning agreement is required, which must be signed and approved by the student, the chair of the examination committee for the degree program, and the responsible office at the host institution abroad. The agreement contains provisions on the duration of the study abroad, on the coursework to be completed during the study abroad, which must be equivalent to that offered in the master's program here, and the number of credit points to be awarded for the coursework. Coursework completed following this agreement will be recognized.

(3) The third semester in the program lends itself well to study abroad, and students are encouraged to study abroad then.

Section 13 Degree Completion

(1) To graduate, students must complete the coursework and assessments outlined in sections 7 and 9.

(2) A student is not eligible for graduation if they have definitively failed some coursework or assessment or are involved in a pending examination procedure at a university in the same course of study or in a module which is identical or comparable to one of the modules to be completed in the master's program here and which is to be considered when determining their grade.

(3) The application for the award of a degree must be accompanied by documentation showing the student has completed the requirements mentioned in para. 1 as well as a guarantee that the applicant is not subject to any of the eligibility restrictions mentioned in para. 2. The relevant examination committee is responsible for approving the application.

(4) Upon successful completion of the assessment, the student will receive a Master of Arts (M.A.) university degree. Students receive a degree certificate and a diploma (appendices 3 and 4), as well as a diploma supplement (English and German versions). Besides, a degree certificate supplement with details of the individual modules and their components (transcript) is prepared. They will also receive English versions of their degree certificate and diploma.

Section 14 Entry into Force

These regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in *FU-Mitteilungen* (the official bulletin of Freie Universität Berlin).

Appendix 1: Module Descriptions

Explanatory notes:

These module descriptions address the following aspects for each module in the master's program unless otherwise noted that another set of regulations applies:

- The name of the module
- The person responsible for the module (module coordinator)
- The prerequisites needed to take a particular module
- The module's content and learning objectives
- Modes of instruction used in the module
- The amount of work required by students to complete a module successfully
- Types of active participation
- Types of assessments
- Whether or not regular attendance is required
- Credits awarded for the module
- Standard duration of the module
- Frequency
- Applicability

The information provided on student workload takes the following factors into account:

Active participation during class sessions

Time needed to complete small assignments during class sessions

Students' preparations before class and follow-up work

Work on study units in online learning sections

Preparation time required specifically for assessments

The time needed for the assessment itself

The amount of time indicated for independent study (including preparing for class, follow-up work, preparing for an exam) are only approximations meant to help students organize their time when planning their

workload for modules. The information on the workload corresponds to the number of credit points assigned to the respective module, which serves as a unit of measurement for the amount of work required to complete the module successfully. One credit point equals 30 hours.

If regular attendance is required for the specific type of instruction, then regular attendance, along with active participation in the instruction and successful completion of assessments, is necessary to receive credit points for the specific module. Regular attendance means that a student has attended at least 75% of the instruction in the module. If regular attendance is not required in a module, students are still strongly encouraged to attend classes regularly. Instructors teaching courses in which regular attendance is merely encouraged cannot decide that attendance should be required.

To complete each module, the student must complete the module assessment for that module if the module has one. To finish a module, only one assessment (module assessment) must be completed. The module assessment is based on the module's learning objectives and serves to test whether the objectives have been achieved. The scope of the assessment covers the components necessary to this end. For modules that include alternative assessment forms, the assessment for the respective semester must be determined by the responsible instructor on the first day of class at the latest.

Active and (if applicable) regular participation in the instruction and successful completion of assessments are necessary to receive credit points for the specific module. If a module does not involve a module assessment, then active and regular participation in the instruction is necessary to receive credit points for the specific module. For modules that include alternative forms of active participation, the participation, which must correspond to the workload allotted for active participation in the respective semester, must be determined by the responsible instructor during the first class period at the latest.

1. Core area

a) Compulsory modules

Module: Studying the Middle East			
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/history and culture of the Middle East; Jewish studies			
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator			
Prerequisites: none			
Learning objectives: Students are aware of the complexity of the Near and Middle East as a field of research, region, and area of cultural production regarding its diversity in terms of languages, religions, and cultures. They gain insights into the fields of study and expertise represented by the disciplines involved in the master's program Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East with attention to the complex nature of history, societies, cultures of text and cultures of knowledge, languages, and literature. They are familiar with the diversity and interrelatedness of scholarly approaches within Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East, which in turn allows them to assess the corresponding secondary literature critically. They are conscious of intercultural and epistemological challenges involved in dealing with the history, society, culture, literature, and language of the Near and Middle East. This awareness lets them answer complex questions and present the results of their research and analyses coherently and comprehensibly either in writing or orally.			
Content: The module offers in-depth, interdisciplinary insights into the Near and Middle East as a field of research, as a region and as a space of cultural production. A variety of phenomena including language, cultural history, religion, and traditions of knowledge are up for discussion, especially regarding paradigms with historical implications, such as identity, gender, cultures of memory, nationalism, modernization, exile; this includes research trends as well as the possibility to focus on historical periods or geographical regions. Students get practice conducting academic work as they encounter varying issues, research debates, and research literature, as well as by using tools specific to the study of the Near and Middle East. Using methods from the humanities and cultural studies, they work on an interdisciplinary topic with a focus on one or more selected regions in the Near and Middle East. This work includes several written assignments designed to help them compose an academic paper.			
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)
Lecture	2	Participation in class discussions	Class attendance (lecture) 30 Preparation, before and after (lecture) 90
Methodology course	2	Exercises using the tools and methods of the field, class discussions, group projects, oral and written assignments, individual or as a group, 'intensive writing'	Class attendance (methodology course) 30 Preparation, before and after (methodology course) 180 Assessment preparation and assessment 120
Module assessment		Written assignment (approx. 5000 words); the module assessment is graded on a pass/fail basis only.	
Language:		English (or if applicable, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Syriac-Aramaic, Turkish)	
Regular attendance required		Yes	
Total workload		450 hours	15 credit points
Duration		One semester	
Frequency		Every winter semester	
Applicability		Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East master's degree program	

Module: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Middle East			
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/history and culture of the Middle East; Jewish studies			
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator			
Prerequisites: none			
Learning objectives: Students gain advanced skills need to conduct independent research in Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East from a global perspective. They can position themselves and situate complex issues from the fields of cultures, literatures, languages, history, and societies of the Near and Middle East in current debates, especially regarding the comparative analysis of processes and problems that cut across different regions. They are skilled to apply interdisciplinary methods to answer complex questions of Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East in writing and orally. They have broad, detailed, and up-to-date knowledge as well as a critical understanding of one or more subject areas in the transregional field of Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East.			
Content: The module provides students with sound specialist knowledge of central topics in Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East from a global perspective. The module focuses on the comparative analysis of historical, social, and cultural formations regarding issues that have global relevance, such as gender, human rights, imperialism, nationalism, identity, language, and literature. Students are instructed to compare the effects of such processes in a differentiated manner regarding the Near and Middle East. They practice analyzing problems on their own from a cross-disciplinary and transregional perspective and apply interdisciplinary theories and methods.			
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)
Advanced seminar	2	Participation in class discussions, analyses of source materials and research literature, written and oral assignments, individual or as a group	Class attendance (advanced seminar) 30 Preparation, before and after (advanced seminar) 150
Methodology course	2	Exercises using the tools and methods of the field, class discussions, group projects, oral and written assignments, individual or as a group	Class attendance (methodology course) 30 Preparation, before and after (methodology course) 120 Assessment preparation and assessment 120
Module assessment		Term paper (approx. 5000 words)	
Language:		English (or if applicable, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Syriac-Aramaic, Turkish)	
Regular attendance required		Yes	
Total workload		450 hours	15 credit points
Duration		One or two semesters	
Frequency		Every semester	
Applicability		Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East master's degree program	

Module: Communicating Research in Interdisciplinary Studies									
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/history and culture of the Middle East; Jewish studies									
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator									
Prerequisites: none									
Learning objectives: Students can plan and carry out research endeavors independently and present them comprehensibly. They are enabled to reflect on their research question and substantiate their approach, selection of methods and, if applicable, their choice of sources in the setting of scholarly discussions. They learn how to present the benefits of their theoretical and methodological approaches convincingly by contrasting them with other relevant approaches and explaining the advantages in relation to their thesis project.									
Content: Both before and during the master's thesis, students participate in a colloquium, where they discuss their concepts and open questions with fellow students and instructors. They present their topics, theoretical and methodological approaches to their thesis and initial results,									
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)						
Colloquium	2	Reading assignments, participation in class discussions, presentation of a topic, of a problem and argument, project plan	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Class attendance (colloquium)</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preparation, before and after (colloquium)</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assessment preparation and assessment</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </table>	Class attendance (colloquium)	30	Preparation, before and after (colloquium)	60	Assessment preparation and assessment	60
Class attendance (colloquium)	30								
Preparation, before and after (colloquium)	60								
Assessment preparation and assessment	60								
Module assessment		Poster presentation (approx. 10 minutes); the module assessment is graded on a pass/fail basis only.							
Language		English (or if applicable, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Syriac-Aramaic, Turkish)							
Regular attendance required		Yes							
Total workload		150 hours	5 ECTS						
Duration		One or two semesters							
Frequency		Every semester							
Applicability		Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East master's degree program							

b) Compulsory elective modules

Module: Reading the Middle East			
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/history and culture of the Middle East; Jewish studies			
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator			
Prerequisites: none			
Learning objectives: Students understand the significance of global key concepts and central terms and how they relate to thinking about the Near and Middle East and ascriptions of identity. They are familiar with the scholarly significance of texts and debates that shape the discourse of Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East and learn how to classify them in historical terms as well as from today's perspective, considering their origins and the changing contexts in which they are used. They have in-depth knowledge of texts that constitute the Near and Middle East from a transregional perspective. They are thereby enabled to classify transdisciplinary methodological and theoretical approaches, especially in comparative cultural studies, and to apply them to their research against the background of current research debates and present the results appropriately, both in writing and orally.			
Content: The module discusses key texts, central concepts and fields of researching the Near and Middle East (e.g. Orientalism, world/global literatures, Islam in Europe, postcolonialism, nationalism) in their historical development and from a transregional and cross-disciplinary perspective. Besides, the module explores the historical and transdisciplinary dynamics of terms and concepts, how they circulate, and how their meaning transforms in changing contexts.			
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)
Elective course	2	In-class reading assignments, analyses of source materials and research literature in English, participation in class discussions, written and oral assignments, individual or as a group	Class attendance (elective course) 30
			Preparation, before and after (elective course) 135
Elective course	2		Class attendance (elective course) 30
			Preparation, before and after (elective course) 135
			Assessment preparation and assessment 120
Module assessment		Presentation with follow-up discussion (approx. 20 minutes)	
Language:		English (or if applicable, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Syriac-Aramaic, Turkish)	
Regular attendance required		Yes	
Total workload		450 hours	15 credit points
Duration		One or two semesters	
Frequency		Every semester	
Applicability		Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East master's degree program	

Module: Reading the Middle East through its Languages			
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/history and culture of the Middle East; Jewish studies			
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator			
Prerequisites: none			
Learning objectives: Students have a thorough understanding of basic questions about the relationship between text and knowledge; they can analyze the significance of original language texts within the context of the Near and Middle East as a pluricultural, multifaith, and multilingual region. They are confident to reflect on theories and models critically and build a conceptual toolkit to decipher the rhetoric of different texts and genres. Students have the skills they need to reach conclusions about the heuristics of different texts and genres on their own and by using controlled methods; they can present their findings orally and in writing appropriately.			
Content: The module develops interdisciplinary terms and concepts from the fields of cultural studies and humanities by means of various forms of original language sources (oral and written) from Arabic, Persian, Syriac-Aramaic, Jewish, Islamic, or Christian culture and literature. Building on this, students examine and discuss methods of text and source analysis used to organize, contextualize, and interpret primary sources; they then apply those methods to selected examples (works by different authors and from different literary genres, periods, movements, etc.).			
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)
Elective course	2	In-class reading assignments, analyses of primary sources in the original language and sometimes in translation, participation in class discussions, written and oral assignments, individual or as a group	Class attendance (elective course) 30
			Preparation, before and after (elective course) 135
Elective course	2		Class attendance (elective course) 30
			Preparation, before and after (elective course) 135
			Assessment preparation and assessment 120
Module assessment		Presentation with follow-up discussion (approx. 20 minutes)	
Language		English (or if applicable, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Syriac-Aramaic, Turkish)	
Regular attendance required		Yes	
Total workload		450 hours	15 credit points
Duration		One or two semesters	
Frequency		Every semester	
Applicability		Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East master's degree program	

2. Consolidation area

Module: Histories and Societies of the Middle East			
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/history and culture of the Middle East; Jewish studies			
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator			
Prerequisites: none			
Learning objectives: Students have in-depth knowledge and understanding of the historical and social formations of the Near and Middle East from late antiquity to the present as well as the historical conditions since antiquity. They are familiar with important current theoretical and methodological debates in social history research that are relevant to the study of the Near and Middle East. Students can recognize, classify, and articulate the circumstances and problems surrounding social-historical descriptions of the Near and Middle East; they also know how to consult, evaluate, and interpret source material independently and to apply the tools of history and social sciences when dealing with questions they have developed themselves. They are aware of the central categories of analysis used to examine historical and social processes and know how to discuss and present the results of their scholarly analyses orally and in writing.			
Content: In this module, students engage intensively with complex topics such as periodization, dimensions of space (power centers vs. peripheral regions, transregional connections), governance, statehood and social groups as well as identity, mobility, communication, and ethnic and religious minorities. The module teaches them to reflect on topics from the fields of Arab-Islamic, Arab-Christian and Syrian-Christian, Byzantine, Persian, Jewish or Turkish history as well as from historical source studies considering theories and methods specific to historical and social science and by critically evaluating scholarly debates in these fields.			
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)
Elective course	2	Participation in class discussions, analyses of source materials (sometimes in translation) and research literature, written and oral assignments, individual or as a group	Class attendance (elective course) 30
Elective course	2		Preparation, before and after (elective course) 135
			Class attendance (elective course) 30
			Preparation, before and after (elective course) 135
			Assessment preparation and assessment 120
Module assessment		Written assignment (approx. 5000 words)	
Language:		English (or if applicable, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Syriac-Aramaic, Turkish)	
Regular attendance required		Yes	
Total workload		450 hours	15 credit points
Duration		One or two semesters	
Frequency		Every semester	
Applicability		Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East master's degree program	

Module: Traditions of Texts and Knowledge in the Middle East			
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/history and culture of the Middle East; Jewish studies			
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator			
Prerequisites: none			
Learning objectives: Students have a thorough understanding of the emergence and systematization of various traditions of knowledge and texts in the Near and Middle East, including their presentation and mediality, as well as the people involved in those traditions and the authority associated with them regarding religious, social and epistemological structures, especially from the beginnings of Islam to the present. They are aware of the historical and contemporary processes of collective formation and positioning of identity in cultures of knowledge and texts in the Near and Middle East; they have a conceptual toolkit of established theories and methods from the history of knowledge, cultural studies, and philology, which allows them to reflect on sources from different knowledge and text cultures and to present the results of their analyses orally and in writing appropriately.			
Content: The module deals with the history and current significance of textual cultures and knowledge cultures from the Near and Middle East, especially from the beginnings of Islam to the present day. This includes, on the one hand, the reception and further development of antiquity's legacy in natural sciences and humanities (in philosophy, logic, mysticism, etc.) as well as scientific literature in the broadest sense through the centuries and, on the other hand, normative traditions, such as the exegesis of sacred texts as well as the study of traditions, norms, dogmatics, hagiography, religious ethics, or rituals. One focus is on the cultural and intellectual history of the Arabic-speaking world, Jewish history of knowledge and the relationship between Judaism and Islam as well as facets of the Christian Orient and Iranian religions in the past and present.			
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)
Elective course	2	Participation in class discussions, analyses of source materials (sometimes in translation) and research literature, written and oral assignments, individual or as a group	Class attendance (elective course) 30
			Preparation, before and after (elective course) 135
Elective course	2		Class attendance (elective course) 30
			Preparation, before and after (elective course) 135
			Assessment preparation and assessment 120
Module assessment		Written assignment (approx. 5000 words)	
Language:		English (or if applicable, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Syriac-Aramaic, Turkish)	
Regular attendance required		Yes	
Total workload		450 hours	15 credit points
Duration		One or two semesters	
Frequency		Every semester	
Applicability		Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East master's degree program	

Module: Languages of the Middle East			
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/history and culture of the Middle East; Jewish studies			
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator			
Prerequisites: none			
Learning objectives: Students can reflect critically on linguistic developments in the Near and Middle East drawing from the most important primary and secondary sources. They know the principles of classifying languages of the region (e.g. historically, comparatively, typologically, regionally) and are confident in applying various methods from empirical linguistics to the languages of the region (e.g. language documentation, field research, dialectology, variational linguistics, sociolinguistics). They know how to make use of models and examples demonstrating the complex interrelationship between language and society in different historical contexts; they can examine oral and written sources independently regarding linguistic issues and to present their observations in oral and written form in a structured and logical way.			
Content: The courses provide an overview of the region's language groups, their historical sources, and their current classification (e.g. Semitic, Iranian, Turkish); furthermore, the module surveys linguistic ecology regarding topics such as nation states, minorities, gender, regional languages, diglossia, writing systems, and linguistic ideologies.			
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)
Elective course	2	Participation in class discussions, analyses of source materials (sometimes in translation) and research literature, written and oral assignments, individual or as a group	Class attendance (elective course) 30
			Preparation, before and after (elective course) 135
Elective course	2		Class attendance (elective course) 30
			Preparation, before and after (elective course) 135
			Assessment preparation and assessment 120
Module assessment		Written assignment (approx. 5000 words)	
Language:		English (or if applicable, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Syriac-Aramaic, Turkish)	
Regular attendance required		Yes	
Total workload		450 hours	15 credit points
Duration		One or two semesters	
Frequency		Every semester	
Applicability		Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East master's degree program	

Module: Literatures of the Middle East in their Social Dimensions			
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/history and culture of the Middle East; Jewish studies			
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator			
Prerequisites: none			
Learning objectives: Students develop their analytical skills in the scholarly handling of written and oral sources from the Near and Middle East; they have an awareness of the origins and reception of literary production in the past and present. They can approach research questions in a methodologically and terminologically reflective manner based on various genres of texts and literary phenomena; they know how to evaluate secondary literature as well as the most important primary sources critically, and to describe, analyze and classify them historically and aesthetically. They can recognize connections and intertextual references and understand and historically contextualize mutual influences, continuities, and ruptures. They strengthen their ability to reflect and reason complex, multilingual, transregional matters. They are skilled to reflect their approaches to research questions and to present their analyses orally and in writing appropriately.			
Content: The module deals with selected epochs, authors, genres, language levels of the Near and Middle East or of a specific literary genre, using the most important sources and critically illuminating specialist literature. The courses provide an overview of partial epochs or literary genres, including debates concerning specific literary, social and gender-historical research problems. Students discuss significant texts in the regional languages regarding authorship, production processes, and media representations, as well as to influences and patterns of perception that have an impact on the literary reception from the regions of the Near and Middle East; thereby, they experiment with theoretical approaches to interpretation of sources from Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, Syriac-Aramaic, or Turkish literature.			
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)
Elective course	2	Participation in class discussions, analyses of source materials (sometimes in translation) and research literature, written and oral assignments, individual or as a group	Class attendance (elective course) 30
			Preparation, before and after (elective course) 135
Elective course	2		Class attendance (elective course) 30
			Preparation, before and after (elective course) 135
			Assessment preparation and assessment 120
Module assessment		Written assignment (approx. 5000 words)	
Language:		English (or if applicable, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Syriac-Aramaic, Turkish)	
Regular attendance required		Yes	
Total workload		450 hours	15 credit points
Duration		One or two semesters	
Frequency		Every semester	
Applicability		Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East master's degree program	

3. Complementary area

Module: Research perspectives									
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/history and culture of the Middle East; Jewish studies									
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator									
Prerequisites: none									
Learning objectives: Students practice forms of debate in Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East by examining current research projects. The aim of the module is to prepare students to compose a draft of an independent research project, which could serve as the basis for a master's thesis and/or dissertation for those potentially interested in an academic career. Upon completion of the module, students will have gained an overview of current research trends in the Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East as well as in-depth knowledge and a critical understanding of a representative subject area and field of research; they will be able to participate in academic discussions with colleagues. They are familiar with different phases and aspects of research in Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East, and know how to identify methodological problems as well as the broader scholarly and social relevance of Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East.									
Content: In this module, students attend a course offering insights into current research perspectives, for example research colloquia at one of the cooperating institutes. Students discuss methodological, content-related and practical aspects of their research projects with researchers using presentations, selected current secondary literature, or previously circulated drafts of texts.									
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)						
Elective course	2	Participation in class discussions, written and oral assignments, individual or as a group	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Class attendance (elective course)</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preparation, before and after (elective course)</td> <td>270</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assessment preparation and assessment</td> <td>150</td> </tr> </table>	Class attendance (elective course)	30	Preparation, before and after (elective course)	270	Assessment preparation and assessment	150
Class attendance (elective course)	30								
Preparation, before and after (elective course)	270								
Assessment preparation and assessment	150								
Module assessment		Academic conversation (approx. 20 minutes); the module assessment is graded on a pass/fail basis only.							
Language:		English (or if applicable, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Syriac-Aramaic, Turkish)							
Regular attendance required		Yes							
Total workload		450 hours	15 credit points						
Duration		One or two semesters							
Frequency		Every semester							
Applicability		Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East master's degree program							

Module: Internship			
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/history and culture of the Middle East; Jewish studies			
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator			
Prerequisites: none			
Learning objectives: By completing an internship, participants in the module acquire experience in the professional application of knowledge from Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East in relevant institutions, organizations and companies, e.g. in university and non-university research institutions, in documentation institutions, journalism, archives and museums, in international organizations, non-governmental organizations, in working with migrants, in tourism; in adult and continuing education, furthermore, in the mediation of intercultural problems in academic and non-academic teaching and education settings, in knowledge transfer, management, and social, political and cultural lobbying, especially in companies and organizations operating internationally or in special world regions.			
Content: This module introduces students to the demands and nature of applying knowledge from Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East to professional work through an internship of at least nine weeks at an institution of their choosing. It is also possible to do complete shorter internships with a total workload of at least 360 hours. Before the internship, an agreement must be drafted and signed between the student, the degree program coordinator, and the internship host, in which the rights and obligations of the parties involved during the internship are defined. An internship report serves as feedback to the degree program coordinator; the report consists of an objective description of the work done and a reflection on the transfer of the student's knowledge acquired through research to practical contexts.			
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)
Internship	9 weeks	Internship report	Attendance (internship) 360 Preparation, before and after (internship) 30 Assessment preparation and assessment 60
Module assessment	Internship report (approx. 5 pages); the module assessment is graded on a pass/fail basis only.		
Language:	English (or if applicable, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Syriac-Aramaic, Turkish)		
Regular attendance required	Yes		
Total workload	450 hours		15 credit points
Duration	One or two semesters		
Frequency	Every semester		
Applicability	Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East master's degree program		

Appendix 2: Example curriculum plan

Number of semesters in program	Core area 50 credit points		Consolidation area 30 credit points	Complementary area 15 credit points
1st semester 30 credit points	Module Studying the Middle East (15 credit points)	Module Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Middle East (15 credit points)	<i>one of the following modules</i>	
2nd semester 30 credit points			Reading the Middle East (15 credit points) -or- Reading the Middle East through its Languages (15 credit points)	
3. semester 30 credit points			<i>two of the following modules</i> Histories and Societies of the Middle East (15 credit points) -or- Traditions of Texts and Knowledge in the Middle East (15 credit points) -or- Literatures of the Middle East in their Social Dimensions (15 credit points) -or- Languages of the Middle East (15 credit points)	<i>one of the following modules</i> Internship (15 credit points) -or- Research perspectives (15 credit points) -or- Elective modules totaling 15 credit points
4th semester 30 credit points	Module Communicating Research in Interdisciplinary Studies (5 credit points)	master's thesis 25 credit points		
120 credit points				

For Appendixes 3 (Transcript, template), 4 (Degree Certificate, template, German), and 5 (Degree Certificate, template, English), kindly see the Official Announcements 8/2020 of February 2, 2020 (in German).