Proposal for an Interdisciplinary Major in Middle East Studies

Proposed Start Date: September 2013
Sponsoring department: MLCL
Other departments and programs involved (cognate comment included): AN, HAA, HI, IR, RN, PO; Judaic Studies, Muslim Studies (SMSC)
[Details of department vote: Scheduled for September 2012]

Abstract
The Interdisciplinary Major in Middle East Studies will offer BU undergraduates a coherent grounding in the history, cultures, artistic production, and one or more of the languages of the Middle East region (which is defined for this purpose as comprising the Arabic-, Hebrew-, Persian-, and Turkish-speaking areas of the world). Requiring three years of language study as well as courses in both humanities and social sciences, this rigorous 11-course major will prepare students for graduate study and for careers in government, international non-governmental organizations, and the private sector by building marketable skills (cultural competence and real linguistic proficiency) as well as intellectual sophistication. It will also fill a hole in BU’s area studies programs (whose currently offered majors include European, East Asian, and Latin American studies but no Middle East Studies) and draw attention to BU’s unusually strong existing offerings in four Middle Eastern languages and many aspects of Middle Eastern culture. The major will require no additional university resources and is expected to attract students immediately.

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Rationale for the program

The Middle East Studies major will respond to the considerable student interest in the Middle East region, fit into an existing CAS curricular framework, and capitalize on (and further promote) existing BU courses and study abroad programs. It will prepare students for graduate study and for careers in government, international non-governmental organizations, and the private sector by building both intellectual sophistication and marketable skills (including cultural competence and solid linguistic proficiency).

As Middle Eastern people and events continue to make headlines, BU students' interest in the region remains high. About 250 of BU's roughly 900 International Relations majors each year declare a “Middle East and Africa” focus (however, most of them currently do not study a Middle Eastern language). Meanwhile, the Arabic program continues to draw about 100 first-year students each year; the fairly new Arabic minor has about 25 students, many of them clamoring for ways to deepen their knowledge of the region's culture as well as its politics. The Turkish, Hebrew, and Persian language programs continue to attract students as well. A steady trickle of “independent majors” designing their own programs of study on the region (currently advised by faculty in MLCL, history, and religion) testifies to the gap in existing offerings.

A ready framework exists for interdisciplinary area studies majors at BU. Students interested in East Asian, Latin American, European, or American studies have the opportunity to major in those fields. Students may also minor in African studies. They can acquire a solid grounding in the premodern and modern histories, languages, arts, and cultures – not only the politics – of their chosen region. Only Middle Eastern and South Asian studies do not offer formal programs of study.

Meanwhile, the resources for a Middle East Studies major are all present. BU already offers over 80 distinct undergraduate courses on Middle East Studies topics. We offer study abroad programs in four Middle Eastern countries: Turkey, Israel, Morocco, Lebanon. We teach four Middle Eastern languages – Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish – something relatively rare outside of big state universities and the Ivy League. Area specialists based in eight CAS departments are available to help with student advising. The major we are proposing will capitalize on the existing offerings without requiring any new University resources.

To avoid duplicating existing offerings, we are NOT proposing a minor in Middle East Studies at this time. BU already offers a wealth of small Middle-East related minors: Arabic, Hebrew, Muslim Societies, Muslim Cultures, Judaic Studies. None of those programs is contemplating an undergraduate major.
## Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function of the course</th>
<th>Possible selections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-credit requirement: Introduction to the major</td>
<td>CAS ME 101 Issues in Middle East Studies, a one-credit mini-seminar to be offered each spring. Class meets one hour weekly to integrate and discuss the approaches to ME Studies that students encounter in their other coursework. Director normally serves as instructor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1. Introduction to the region | • AH 220 Islamic Art and Architecture  
• XL 223 Introduction to Comparative Literature: Middle Eastern Literature  
• AN 317 Power and Society in the Middle East  
• AN 319 Anthropology of Muslim Cultures and Politics  
• HI 387 Introduction to the Middle East  
• HI 382/IR 328 Turko-Persia in the Twentieth Century  
• IR/GE 382 Understanding the Middle East |
| 2. Humanities course | Choose from AH 220, XL 223, plus a list of five art history courses, six Hebrew literature/culture courses, one Turkish literature course, six Arabic literature/culture courses, two Persian literature courses, a comparative literature course, and fifteen Religion courses |
| 3. Humanities course | |
| 4. Humanities course | |
| 5. Social science course | Choose from AN 317, AN 319, IR 382, HI 387, HI 382, plus a list of four anthropology courses, six archaeology courses, seventeen history courses, ten international relations courses, and a political science course |
| 6. Social science course | |
| 7. Social science course | |
| 8. ME Studies elective | Choose from any of the courses listed above, senior honors, or Middle Eastern language courses as specified directly below |
| 9. ME Studies elective | |
| 10. ME Studies elective | |
| 11. ME Studies elective | |
| Additional requirement: 3 years of language study | At least six semesters of ME language courses, unless the student enters with background in a ME language (Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish). All students must demonstrate fourth-semester proficiency (by completing L_ 212 or higher) in one ME language, as well as taking at least two ME language courses past 212 or in a different language. Students who are certified bilingual in one ME language must complete two semesters of courses in a different ME language or languages. Courses at the 212 level or higher in the student’s first ME language, and at the 112 level or higher in a second or subsequent ME language, may also be counted as electives for the major. |
| Additional requirement: advanced courses | At least three of the courses for the major must be at the 400 level or above. |
Proposed text for the Undergraduate Bulletin

Interdisciplinary Area Studies Major: Middle East Studies. 11 courses with a grade of “C” or higher, of which a minimum of 7 must be taken at Boston University. Majors are required to take one broad introduction to the region chosen from List A, at least three humanities courses chosen from List B, and at least three social sciences courses chosen from List C. The four remaining courses are electives; these may include any from the three lists not used to fulfill the above requirements; language courses from List D as specified below; any other courses on the Middle East region (including “topics” courses) offered throughout the University; and/or senior honors work. Also required is a one-credit mini-seminar, CAS ME 101 “Issues in Middle East Studies.” By petition with advisor’s consent, students may also count relevant courses from Consortium schools and non-BU study abroad programs. At least three of the 11 courses counted for the major must be at or above the 400 level. To facilitate direct cultural knowledge and in-depth research on the region, students must study one or more Middle Eastern languages. These courses comprise List D. At least six semesters of ME language courses are required, unless the student enters with background in a ME language (Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish). All majors must demonstrate fourth-semester proficiency (by completing L_212 or higher) in one ME language, as well as taking at least two ME language courses past 212 or in a different language. Students who are certified bilingual in one ME language must complete two semesters of courses in a different ME language or languages. Courses at the 212 level or higher in the student’s first ME language, and at the 112 level or higher in a second or subsequent ME language, may also be counted as electives for the major.

It is recommended that majors take advantage of one or more BU study abroad programs (Rabat program, Haifa program, Istanbul exchange, Beirut exchange) or another appropriate course of study in the region.

Honors in the Middle East Studies major may be earned by completing two semesters of independent senior honors work and presenting an original research paper (thesis) in written and oral form to a committee of faculty readers. The committee will consider both the thesis and the result of the oral examination to determine whether the student will receive honors in the major. A grade of B+ or better in each semester is also required to receive honors. While it will normally require two on-campus semesters of research and writing, in special cases a one-semester honors project can grow out of research begun during a semester of study abroad or service learning in the Middle East region. Students doing honors work will present their work at an annual symposium to which all Middle East faculty and fellow majors will be invited.

List A (Introduction to the Region):
- AH 220 Islamic Art and Architecture
- XL 223 Introduction to Comparative Literature: Middle Eastern Literature
- AN 317 Power and Society in the Middle East
- AN 319 Anthropology of Muslim Cultures and Politics
- HI 387 Introduction to the Middle East
- HI 382/IR 328 Turko-Persia in the Twentieth Century
- IR/GE 382 Understanding the Middle East

List B (Humanities):
- AH 220 Islamic Art and Architecture
- AH 313 Early-Modern Islamic Art and Architecture
- AH 314 After Genghis Khan: Art and Architecture in Central Asia and Iran
- AH 428 Seminar: Islamic Art
- AH 541 Ottoman Art and Architecture
• AH 540 Europe and Islam
• LH 250 Masterpieces of Modern Hebrew Literature
• LH 283 Israeli Culture Through Film (English Translation)
• LH330 Israeli Popular Music
• LH 350 Hebrew Narrative
• LH 351 Styles and Meaning of Hebrew Poetry
• LH 453 Israeli Culture Through Film (in Hebrew)
• LT 281 Istanbul at the Crossroads
• LY 281 Contemporary Arabic Literature
• LY 284 Arabs Write War
• LY 350 Introduction to Arabic Literature
• LY 441 1001 Nights in World Literary Imagination
• LY 470 Topics in Arabic Literature
• LY 471 Topics in Arab Culture and Arabic Language
• LZ 380 Persian Epic
• LZ 381 Rumi and Persian Sufi Poetry
• XL 223 Intro to Comparative Literature: Middle Eastern Literature
• XL342 Travel Writing and the Muslim
• RN 104 World Religions: Western (Judaism, Christianity, Islam)
• RN 201 Hebrew Bible
• RN 212 Christianity
• RN 214 Islam
• RN 216 Judaism
• RN 220 The Holy City: Jerusalem in Time, Space, & Imagination
• RN 301 Varieties of Early Christianity
• RN 316 Modern Islam
• RN 331 Zionism and the State of Israel
• RN 334 Dead Sea Scrolls
• RN 340 The Quran
• RN 341 Islamic Mysticism: Sufism
• RN 345 Islamic Law
• RN 434 Representations of Muhammad
• RN 435 Women, Gender, and Islam

List C (Social Sciences):
• AN 307 Turkey & Middle East in Comparative Perspective
• AN 317 Power and Society in the Middle East
• AN 319 Anthropology of Muslim Cultures and Politics
• AN 320 Women in the Muslim World
• AN 525 Ritual and Political Identity
• AN 547 Muslim Societies and Islamic Civilizations
• AR 209 The Near Eastern Bronze Age
• AR 221 Archaeology of the Islamic World
• AR 341 Archaeology of Mesopotamia
• AR 342 Archaeology of the Holy Land
• AR 343 Anatolian Archaeology
• AR 532 Studies in Near and Middle Eastern Archaeology
• HI 354 (RN 346) History and Religion: North African Issues (Rabat program)
• HI 378 - Armenia from Antiquity to the Middle Ages
• HI 379 - Modern Armenian History and Literature
• HI 381 (IR 397) History of Modern Iran
• HI 382 (IR 328) Turko-Persia in the Twentieth Century
• HI 385 (IR 329) History of Premodern Iran
• HI 387 Introduction to the Middle East
• HI 389 Americans and the Middle East
• HI 392 The History of Israel: an Introduction
• HI 393 Topics in the History of Israel
• HI 484 Revolutionary Change in North Africa and the Middle East
• HI 485 Selected Problems in the Modern Middle East
• HI 486 Islamic History
• HI 591 (IR 591) The Making of the Modern Middle East
• HI 592 The Birth of a State: Israel 1945-55
• HI 593 Youth on the Agenda: Roles and Images of Young People in the Jewish Nation
• HI 594 The Armenian Genocide
• HI 595 Morocco: History on the Cusp of Three Continents
• HI 596 (AH 539, AN 548, and RN 563) Muslim Societies: An Interdisciplinary History
• IR 325 The Great Powers and the Eastern Mediterranean
• IR 382 (GE 382) Understanding the Middle East
• IR 503 (PO 570) The United States in the Middle East
• IR 504 The Persian Gulf/Arabian Peninsula
• IR 507 The Muslim and Western Worlds-Prospects for a Clash of Civilizations
• IR 508 Islamic Political Movements and US Policy
• IR 509 (PO 573) Islam in Middle East Politics
• IR 511 The Middle East Today
• IR 514 Major Themes in the Middle East Peace Process
• IR 558/PO 588 - Turkey and the European Union
• IR 587 Political Economy of the Middle East
• PO 560 Politics and Society in North Africa and the Middle East
• UHC HI 101 War for the Greater Middle East

List D (Middle Eastern Language Courses):

Arabic:
• LY 111-112, 211-212, 303-304, and 403-404 First- through eighth-semester Arabic
• LY 572 Arabic Translation and Interpreting

Hebrew:
• LH 111-112 and 211-212 First- through fourth-semester Hebrew
• LH 311 Advanced Modern Hebrew: Voices in Israeli Society
• LH 312 Advanced Modern Hebrew: Biblical Voices in Modern Israel

Persian:
• LZ 111-112 and 211-212 First- through fourth-semester Persian

Turkish:
• LT 111-112, 211-212, and 303 First- through fifth-semester Turkish
Sample pathways through the major

To show what a course of study will look like under these requirements, some sample programs are provided below. These programs could all be completed with courses already taught at BU plus the new one-credit course ME101; no use is made of additional options such as Directed Study. The first two years of each plan of study follow a reasonable prediction of what could be offered in upcoming years. The eleven courses counted for the major are **boldfaced**. Any of these pathways could accommodate honors work.

Note: Courses numbered LH (Hebrew), LT (Turkish), LY (Arabic), LZ (Persian) 111-112, 211-212, 303-304, 311-312, and 403-404 are language courses.

**Sample program 1: no ME background; interested in Arab culture; also minoring in Arabic (cross-counting LY 441 and LY 350 for the major and minor)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
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<tr>
<td>LY 111</td>
<td>LY 112</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR 382 Understanding the ME</td>
<td>XL 223: Intro to Comp Lit: ME ME 101 Issues in ME Studies (1 cr.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
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<tr>
<td>LY 211</td>
<td>LY 212</td>
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<tr>
<td>AN 317 Power and Society in the ME</td>
<td>LY 471 Topics in Arab Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>RN 214 Islam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
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<tr>
<td>LY303</td>
<td>Semester abroad on Rabat program</td>
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<tr>
<td>RN 340 The Qur’an</td>
<td>LY 304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO 560 Politics and Society in North Africa and the ME</td>
<td>LY 403</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HI 354/RN 346 History and Religion: North African Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LY 441 1001 Nights in the World Literary Imagination</td>
<td>LY 404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LY 572 Arabic Translation</td>
<td>LY 350 Intro to Arabic Literature</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AH 540 Europe and Islam</td>
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</tbody>
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**Sample program 2: enter w/Hebrew proficiency, interested in Middle East conflict**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LH 311 Advanced Modern Hebrew: Voices in Israeli Society</td>
<td>LH 330 Israeli Popular Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soph</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LY 111</td>
<td>LY 112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RN 220 The Holy City: Jerusalem</td>
<td>HI 387 Intro to the Middle East ME 101 Issues in ME Studies (1 cr.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LY 211</td>
<td>LY 212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RN 331 Zionism and the State of Israel HI 592 Birth of a State: Israel 1945-55</td>
<td>LY 284 Arabs Write War</td>
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<td></td>
<td>IR 514 Major Themes in the Middle East Peace Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester abroad in Haifa:</td>
<td>IR 503 The US in the Middle East</td>
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<tr>
<td>LY 303</td>
<td>LY 304</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other electives (e.g., for minor in Hebrew)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Also available:** HI 393 Topics in the History of Israel; IR 587 Political Economy of the Middle East; AN 320 Women in the Muslim World; LY 471 Topics in Arab Culture; etc.
Sample program 3: no ME background; interested in Islamic art; applying for PhD programs; will graduate proficient in Turkish and Persian, with introductory Arabic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fr LT 111</td>
<td>LT 112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soph LT 211</td>
<td>LT 212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AH 220 Islamic Art and Architecture</td>
<td>AH 541 Ottoman Art and Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun LZ 111</td>
<td>LZ 112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LZ 380 Persian Epic</td>
<td>AR 221 Archaeology of the Islamic World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR 329 History of Iran before 1900</td>
<td>AH 540 Europe and Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen Semester abroad: Boğaziçi University Exchange, Istanbul. Electives for major not needed, but could take them now instead of next semester</td>
<td>LY 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AR 343 Anatolian Archaeology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AH 428 Seminar: Islamic Art</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sample program 4: No ME background; interested in modern Turkey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fr LT 111</td>
<td>LT 112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR 382 Understanding the ME</td>
<td>RN 214 Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soph LT 211</td>
<td>LT 212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RN 341 Islamic Mysticism: Sufism</td>
<td>LT 281 Istanbul at the Crossroads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun LT 303</td>
<td>LY 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI 594 The Armenian Genocide</td>
<td>AH 541 Ottoman Art and Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AN 317 Power and Society in the ME</td>
<td>IR 558 Turkey and the EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen Semester at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul Optional elective for the major</td>
<td>AN 307 Turkey and the ME in Comparative Perspective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample program 5: Interested in Semitic languages, learning both Arabic and Hebrew; could instead count STH courses as electives; also minoring in linguistics (no cross-counted courses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fr LY111</td>
<td>LY112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AN 317 Power and Society in the ME</td>
<td>LY471 Topics in Arabic Lang and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soph LY211</td>
<td>LY212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI 387 Introduction to the Middle East</td>
<td>LX 340 Language Myths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LX 250 Foundations of Language</td>
<td>XL 223 Intro to Comp Lit: ME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun LY303</td>
<td>LY350 Intro to Arabic Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LH 111</td>
<td>LH 112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LX 522 Syntax</td>
<td>LX 502 Semantics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AN 524 Language and Culture Contacts in Contemporary Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sen LY572 Arabic Translation</td>
<td>AR 341 Archaeology of Mesopotamia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LH 117 Biblical Hebrew 1</td>
<td>LH 118 Biblical Hebrew 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AN 521 Sociolinguistics</td>
<td>AR 543 Intro to Akkadian Cuneiform I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How the Middle East Studies major relates to existing BU programs

The Middle East Studies major will capitalize on existing offerings without requiring any new University resources. BU already offers over 80 distinct undergraduate courses on Middle East Studies topics. We teach four Middle Eastern languages – Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. We offer study abroad programs in four Middle Eastern countries – Turkey, Israel, Morocco, Lebanon. Enrollments in all of these can be expected to increase slightly once the major becomes well known.

There is currently no major covering the same ground at BU. (Students who major in International Relations with a focus on “Middle East and Africa,” the closest option currently available, do not necessarily study a relevant language, and they are allowed to count only four “regional track” courses and almost no humanities courses.) However, BU does have a variety of related minors; their students can be expected to benefit from the intellectual synergies a Middle East Studies major would provide. These include Arabic, Hebrew, Muslim Societies, Muslim Cultures, and Judaic Studies. (None of these programs is contemplating an undergraduate major. To avoid duplicating existing offerings, we are NOT proposing a minor in Middle East Studies at this time.) The new major can be expected to foster closer collaboration among faculty and students in the various minors, creating a much-needed framework for intellectual exchange on campus about this complex and sometimes contentious region.

While no “complementary minor” is required, it is expected that many of the Middle East Studies majors will choose to pursue minors in Arabic or Hebrew or in such disciplines as international relations, linguistics, economics, journalism, and anthropology.

Predicted enrollment and minimum enrollment required for viability

The major can be expected to attract students immediately: perhaps 5 students in the first year, and eventually around 25 students. Since there is no full course offering being developed for the major (e.g., a sophomore seminar or senior capstone seminar), the minimum enrollment for viability is 1. The one-credit mini-seminar will meet once a week for an hour; one of the Program Faculty (see below) will be the instructor of record.

Participating faculty

Kecia Ali (RN)
Betty Anderson (HI)
Miriam Angrist (MLCL - Hebrew)
Kheirredine Bekkai (MLCL - Arabic)
Houchang Chehabi (IR/PO)
Emine Fetvacı (HAA)
David Frankfurter (RN)
Shahla Haeri (AN)
Giselle Khoury (MLCL - Arabic)
Margaret Litvin (MLCL)
Roberta Micallef (MLCL/WS)
Luluh Mustafa (MLCL - Arabic)
Augustus Richard Norton (IR/AN)
Wilfrid Rollman (IR)
Sunil Sharma (MLCL)
Sassan Tabatabai (MLCL - Persian)
Administrative and advising plan
For administrative and staff-support purposes, the major would be housed in MLCL, which (uniquely at BU) includes specialists in all four Middle Eastern language areas. However, area specialists in eight CAS departments – Anthropology, Archaeology, History, History of Art & Architecture, International Relations, Modern Languages and Comparative Literature, Political Science, and Religion – are available to help with curriculum oversight and student advising in Middle East Studies. Department and program chairs who expressed support for the major at the proposal stage include AN, HAA, HI, IR, RN, MLCL, PO, Judaic Studies, and WS.

To coordinate the major, we propose to form an advisory committee known as the Middle East Studies Program Faculty. The Program Faculty (a subset of the participating faculty listed above) will have a rotating membership, with members serving 2-year terms and meeting once per semester. A Director will be appointed by the Dean of CAS from among the Program Faculty. The Program Faculty will be charged with reviewing the curriculum, assigning students to advisors, and coordinating honors projects. If desired, the Program Faculty may also collaborate with other units to circulate course scheduling plans (to help faculty avoid time conflicts with relevant courses in other departments). In general the committee expects to work closely with SMSC, Judaic Studies, and the relevant CAS departments.

Brief summary of resources needed to launch the program
Because all the course offerings and faculty positions are in place, no new resources are required to launch the program. It is anticipated that some new hires recently proposed (e.g., a position in Israeli history) would strengthen the major, but they are not necessary to launch it. As the major grows, the advisory committee may consider proposing a new interdisciplinary course specially targeting Middle East Studies majors. Also as the major grows, a part-time administrative position would be helpful, but this is not necessary at the outset. MLCL administrative staff are ready to absorb the initial workload of coordinating the major, communicating with students and faculty, maintaining the web site, etc.
Comparable programs at other institutions

Analysis: The proposed BU major would entail more language work than Middle East Studies majors at most peer-plus schools. Its language component is about equivalent to those schools' Arabic majors, but more flexible since it could also include Hebrew, Persian, and/or Turkish.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Program Title</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Language Requirement</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Senior Essay/Thesis</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tufts</td>
<td>Middle Eastern Studies</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>first 2 semesters of a Middle Eastern language, unless placed out</td>
<td>10 courses: 2 language; 6 social science and humanities (of which at least 1 pre-modern ME Studies; at least 1 modern ME Studies; at least 2 courses focusing on two different ME cultures; at least 3 courses from each of the following two categories: Art &amp; Art History, Religion, Literature, Judaic Studies, Music, Anthropology, History, Political Science); 1 course that relates the Middle East to other regions of the world; 1 advanced research course</td>
<td>“Advanced research course” can be an honors thesis, a seminar, or advanced directed study.</td>
<td>Disciplinary distribution (humanities/social sciences) resembles what we are proposing. Language requirement is minimal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufts</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Fourth-semester Arabic</td>
<td>4 language courses above Arabic 4</td>
<td>10 courses: 4 advanced language courses, 5 literature/culture courses, and 1 related course in another department</td>
<td>Optional senior thesis</td>
<td>Effectively requires four years of language</td>
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<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>Program Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvard</td>
<td>Near Eastern Languages &amp; Civilizations: None, 4 courses of Near Eastern language, 13 half-courses including 4 in a relevant language, Near Eastern Civilizations 97, 98, and 99, one other seminar, and 5 electives. Thesis required for Honors Program only; all others, senior oral exam required. Small major, only 13 concentrators enrolled in Dec 2010.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yale</td>
<td>Near Eastern Languages &amp; Cultures (Focus on Arabic &amp; Islamic Studies): 1 Term Arabic language (Arabic &amp; Islamic Studies focus only), 2 years of Arabic language, 12 courses, including courses in Arabic literature and civilization, Islamic religion, Near Eastern history, Persian, &amp; senior essay. Senior Essay required, in conjunction with a senior seminar. Option to focus on Arabic &amp; Islamic studies, can also focus on other areas.</td>
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<td>Columbia</td>
<td>Middle Eastern, Asian, and African Languages &amp; Cultures: Intro to the Middle East, S. Asia, or Africa, 2 years of Arabic or another Middle Eastern, South Asian, or African language, 5 Courses, including Major Texts of the Middle East &amp; S. Asia or the Middle East &amp; Africa, and Theories of Culture. Optional senior thesis. Very broad, focus on Arabic or even Middle Eastern cultures not required.</td>
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<td>Princeton</td>
<td>Near Eastern Studies: Any 1 course in the department, 4 terms Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish, 8 courses, including courses in Near Eastern history, religion, and literature. Senior thesis required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>UPenn</td>
<td>Modern Middle East Studies: None, 2 years Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish, 12 courses, including 3 social science/humanities, 4 language, 3 regional studies, and 2 research-paper-based seminars. None required, just the 2 research-paper seminars.</td>
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<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>Program/Department</td>
<td>Language(s) and Credits</td>
<td>Course Requirements</td>
<td>Concentration Options</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>UPenn</td>
<td>Near Eastern Languages &amp; Civilizations</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Arabic &amp; Islamic: 3 years Arabic, Persian, or Turkish. Arabic &amp; Hebrew: 2 years Arabic, 1 year Hebrew or vice-versa.</td>
<td>14 courses: 6 language courses, 6 electives, Intro to the Middle East, &amp; Ancient Middle Eastern History &amp; Civ.</td>
<td>2/4 concentration options include Arabic: Arabic &amp; Islamic Studies and Arabic &amp; Hebrew Studies. Separate from the Modern Middle East major.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dartmouth</td>
<td>Arabic Language (in Department of Arabic and Middle Eastern Languages and Literatures, AMELL)</td>
<td>Arabic 23 (Sixth trimester)</td>
<td>4 upper level language courses</td>
<td>Required for Honors Program only</td>
<td>Also offered: a major in two Middle Eastern languages, and a “modified” major combining six AMELL courses with five in another department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornell</td>
<td>Near Eastern Studies</td>
<td>2 Near East Studies courses, including 1 language</td>
<td>2 years of one Near Eastern language (modern or ancient)</td>
<td>None required, but one 3000 level class must be research-paper based</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandeis</td>
<td>Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>4 semesters of language (Arabic and Hebrew are offered; others possible through NE Consortium)</td>
<td>12 courses: 4 semesters of language, 1 core course (Islam: Civilization and Institutions); 2 classical period; 2 modern period; 3 electives</td>
<td>Optional one-year senior honors thesis Interdisciplinary major led by Dept. of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Middle East Studies</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>4 courses in Arabic, Aramaic, Egyptian, Farsi, Turkish, Hindi/Urdu, or Hebrew. If a student tests out of the language requirement, he must still take 4 language courses either of a higher level or a different language</td>
<td>11 courses: 4 language, 1 religion, 1 history, 3 from focus area, 2 electives.</td>
<td>Capstone Project required: a thesis or research project with a presentation component</td>
<td>Focuses offered in Religions &amp; Cultures; Modern Politics &amp; Societies; and Economies &amp; Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middlebury</td>
<td>Arabic Language</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>4 years of Arabic language study or its equivalent (9 courses)</td>
<td>13 courses: language requirements, 4 courses in Arabic literature or 3 courses in linguistics (Arabic linguistics) and 1 Arabic lit class, at least 1 semester abroad required.</td>
<td>Optional thesis or research project. In English, but with 2000 word Arabic summary and heavy use of Arabic sources</td>
<td>Students can focus on either literature or linguistics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>U Chicago</td>
<td>Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>6 courses [trimester system] in a Near Eastern Language</td>
<td>13 courses: language requirements, a civilization sequence, 3-4 electives, thesis seminar</td>
<td>B.A. thesis required</td>
<td>If a student tests out of the language requirement, he must still take 6 language courses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>Language(s)</td>
<td>Language(s)</td>
<td>Years of Intensive Arabic Language (as opposed to the non-intensive courses offered)</td>
<td>Courses: 2nd and 3rd year Arabic, 2 colloquial Arabic classes, 2 culture classes, 2 literature classes, 2 electives</td>
<td>Optional, invitation-only senior thesis</td>
<td>Ph.D. program is in &quot;Middle East Studies,&quot; but BA is only in Arabic or general comparative cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>Arabic &amp; Islamic Studies</td>
<td>Arabic 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>3 years of Intensive Arabic language (as opposed to the non-intensive courses offered)</td>
<td>12 courses: 2nd and 3rd year Arabic, 2 colloquial Arabic classes, 2 culture classes, 2 literature classes, 2 electives</td>
<td>Optional, invitation-only senior thesis</td>
<td>Ph.D. program is in &quot;Middle East Studies,&quot; but BA is only in Arabic or general comparative cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>U Michigan</td>
<td>Arabic, Armenian, Persian, Turkish, and Islamic Studies</td>
<td>AAPTIS 100: Peoples of the Middle East</td>
<td>4 terms of one of the pertinent languages</td>
<td>10 courses: AAPTIS 100, 4 language courses, 5 electives in the languages, literatures, cultures, etc. of selected language</td>
<td>Thesis required for Honors Program only; all others are encouraged but not required to take a Capstone seminar &amp; complete the Capstone project</td>
<td>3 tracks available for the Arabic portion of this degree: Arabic for Academic Purposes, Classical Arabic, or Arabic for Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>U Michigan</td>
<td>Near Eastern Civilization</td>
<td>AAPTIS 100: Peoples of the Middle East</td>
<td>4 terms of a pertinent language; however, Language courses may be substituted with equal number of courses in literature, history, or culture &amp; religion of the region.</td>
<td>11 courses: AAPTIS 100, 6 courses in one of AAPTIS department, ACABS department, or HJCS department, 2 courses in one of the above depts, 2 cognate courses</td>
<td>Capstone Seminar recommended. Honors Program only available by petition for this major.</td>
<td>AAPTIS= Arabic, Armenian, Persian, Turkisn &amp; Islamic Studies, ACABS= Ancient Civilizations &amp; Biblical Studies, HJCS= Hebrew &amp; Jewish Cultural Studies</td>
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</table>
Accreditation implications (if any)
None are anticipated.

How the ME Studies Major implements the strategic planning priorities of BU and CAS
This major will help students build marketable skills (cultural competence and real linguistic proficiency) as well as intellectual sophistication. Its existence will put BU on the map as a serious place to study the Middle East, drawing attention to our existing strengths in faculty, language instruction, cultural programming, and library resources pertaining to the region. It will strengthen BU’s reputation as a university with a global focus.

Administratively, the major implements the strategic plan of CAS, which calls for more collaboration between departments and across disciplines. By promoting coordination between faculty from different departments, it will further the shared goals of building enrollments across the Middle East curriculum and making best possible use of instructional resources to offer undergraduates exceptional academic opportunities, effective advising, and expert mentoring.

Letters of cognate comment
Description of proposed one-credit mini-course ME 101 Issues in ME Studies.

15-char title: Iss ME Studies

Longer description:

This discussion-based mini-seminar is required for (and limited to) ME Studies majors. Normally it will be taken in the first spring semester following registration for the Major. Meets one hour weekly. Students will discuss one short reading per week, chosen from the foundational texts of Middle East Studies, with the aim of understanding the competing definitions of and approaches to this much-contested field. Students will also give presentations on the philosophies and approaches underlying their other coursework for the major. The ME Studies major director will normally serve as the instructor.

40-Word description: Required for and limited to ME Studies majors. Mini-seminar to analyze and integrate students’ coursework for the major. Student presentations on relevant outside coursework, reading of foundational short works to introduce competing approaches to Middle East Studies.
September 25, 2012

To: Chair, Academic Policy Committee

From: William Waters, Chair, MLCL

Re: Response to Cognate Comments received on proposal for Middle East Studies major

We are grateful for the input and support of all the departments that provided cognate comment for this proposal, and for the work of many colleagues in those departments whose thoughtful input shaped every stage of the original proposal.

The issue of administrative location will be taken up by the CAS Dean’s office. What follows aims to explain how the proposal has been revised to address the issues of academic content and structure raised in the cognate comments.

- The major as designed strives to encourage language study at all levels and to strike a balance between academic rigor and logistical flexibility. To this end, as HAA suggested, upper-level language courses do count as electives for the major.
- We have added an additional anthropology course to List A to ensure that at least one of the two will be offered every year.
- We have, for now, opted to maintain consistency with the CAS Divisional Studies classification of courses as Humanities or Social Sciences. Therefore RN331 “Zionism and the State of Israel” still appears under the Humanities rubric. We would be open to listing it under a history number HI XXX instead if that is an option.
- We have updated the course numbers in the proposal to reflect the large-scale renumbering of history courses.
- We wholeheartedly agree with the comments from EWC Judaic Studies and Political Science about the importance of some recently proposed hires, e.g., a position in Israeli history or a Middle East-focused political scientist. As stated in the proposal, such hires would strengthen the major, although they are not necessary to launch it.
Cognate Comment Request

TO: Name: Michael Zank
Department: Religion; EWC Judaic Studies

FROM: Name: William Waters
Department: CAS MLCL
Telephone: 3-6214 E-mail waters@bu.edu

Title: Proposal for interdisciplinary BA in Middle East Studies

Our Department would like to request cognate comments on this proposal. A draft of the proposal is attached for your review. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindly return the signed original, or an email or email attachment conveying your cognate comment, by August 28, 2012, so that we may include your comments when submitting the proposal for APC review. Please do not send any cognate letters directly to the dean’s office. Thank you.

COMMENTS: I am delighted to support the initiative to create new Middle East Studies major concentration in CAS. As member of the Jewish studies faculty I am particularly thrilled to note that, in contrast to universities where Israel studies and Middle East studies are at odds with one another (replicating and inevitable reinforcing conflict in the Middle East), the projected program at BU provides a model of inquiry rather than advocacy that includes Hebrew and the study of Israel in the broader regional political and cultural-linguistic context. I believe that the intellectual openness and linguistic orientation will be attractive to students from different backgrounds and provide a forward-looking model of study and instruction.

By integrating Hebrew language the MES program will potentially enhance our instruction in that area, give it a further attractive context, and draw new students into our Hebrew classes.

In 2011-12, the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies began to advertise, support, and recruit students for the BU Abroad program in Haifa. If we have a MES program, I believe that the EWCJS will be happy to enhance it by supporting MES majors studying in Israel. In addition, we are eager to maintain and further develop Israel studies on campus and I am personally on record in seeking support for Palestine studies at BU as well. In 2012-13, we are financially and institutionally supporting two adjuncts in Israel studies and we hope to raise funds for an endowed position in Israel studies. It is clear that a MES major would be enhanced by such a faculty position, just as faculty in Israel studies would find BU more attractive if a major in MES were in place. The option for a student to take
multiple classes in Israel studies, study in Haifa and count Hebrew toward a major in MES seems to me an extremely useful model.

As RN faculty, I am delighted to see that this program draws on our offerings in Islamic and Jewish studies, as well as multi-religious courses, such as RN104 and RN220. Having MES trained students in these and other pertinent classes would enhance our RN classrooms. (With David Frankfurter we also have a specialist in Coptic Christianity, an important minority in Egypt.)

Course listing:
Please consider moving RN331 Zionism and the State of Israel to the social studies rubric. It is really a history course, cross-listed with RN only for historical not systematic reasons.

Re: HI 383/HI393: I am not sure if these course numbers and titles are up to date. Acc. to my information, Topics in the History of Israel is currently offered as HI 393.

Signature: Michael Zank (signed electronically)  Date: Aug 4, 2012
Title: Prof. of Religion, JS Teaching faculty, Acting Director, EWCJS (2011-12)
August 31, 2012

TO:        Susan Jackson and CAS Curriculum Committees
CC:        William Waters, Emine Fetvac, Jodi Cranston, Cheryl Crombie, Mary Beaudry
FROM:      Fred Kleiner
SUBJ:      Cognate Approval for Interdisciplinary Major in Middle East Studies

I write to provide unqualified cognate approval for the proposed interdisciplinary major in Middle East Studies and am pleased to see that my colleague Emine Fetvac and HAA in general will have an important role to play in this new program. Speaking personally as someone who also is a professor of archaeology, I am pleased also to see the role of AR courses in the new program. My “other department” has an unusually strong presence in the area, with several colleagues actively engaged in fieldwork in Turkey and the “ancient Near East.”

The following observation is exactly that, an observation, and the cognate approval mentioned above is indeed “unqualified.” The requirement that all majors must take three or more courses at the 400 level or above while also completing three years of language study and required distribution courses in both the humanities and social sciences divisions is admirable and speaks to the rigor of the program. But it may be difficult to realize unless the advanced foreign language courses can count toward that requirement. If the intent is for students to take advanced humanities and social sciences seminars at the 400- or 500-level to fulfill the requirements, they may find that they don’t have the necessary prerequisites to enroll in those courses.

I congratulate all those who conceived and formulated this valuable and exceedingly timely new program.

Yours sincerely,

Fred S. Kleiner
Professor and Chair
Cognate Comment Request

TO: Name: 

Department: 

FROM: Name: William Waters 

Department: CAS MLCL 

Telephone: 3-6214 E-mail waters@bu.edu 

Title: Proposal for interdisciplinary BA in Middle East Studies

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COMMENTS: We believe this is an exciting opportunity for undergraduates. We very much regret that so little Political Science is required for a BA studying a region in which fields of political science such as International Relations (not the same as the Department at BU) and Comparative Politics have so much to say. Unfortunately, with the retirement of Professor Gendzier, we do not have a Middle East expert after next year and so while our discipline has much to offer the study of the region, we do not have many courses focused on it exclusively. Were we to be able to hire someone with expertise in this area we would hope that the very modest requirement for a single political science course would be expanded.

Please explain fully any objections.
Signature: Graham K. Wilson  
Date: 8/31/2012
Title: Professor and Chair
Cognate Comment Request

TO: Name: William Grimes
    Department: International Relations

FROM: Name: William Waters
      Department: CAS MLCL
      Telephone: 3-6214  E-mail: waters@bu.edu

Title: Proposal for interdisciplinary BA in Middle East Studies

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Kindly return the signed original, or an email or email attachment conveying your cognate comment, by August 28, 2012, so that we may include your comments when submitting the proposal for APC review. Please do not send any cognate letters directly to the dean’s office. Thank you.

COMMENTS: This appears to be an excellent proposal that will be very useful for students with a deep interest in the Middle East. My one suggestion is that staff-level administration of the major be located along with that of other area studies majors. Currently, that is done by Victoria Puyat in the Department of International Relations.

Please explain fully any objections.

Signature: William Waters  Date: August 16, 2012

Title: Chair, International Relations
Cognate Comment Request

TO: Name: Steven T. Katz
    Department: Religion/Judaic Studies

FROM: Name: William Waters
    Department: CAS MILC
    Telephone: 3-6214  E-mail: waters@bu.edu

Title: Proposal for interdisciplinary BA in Middle East Studies

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COMMENTS:

The proposal is, on the whole, well done and convincing. My only concern is the lack of a regular faculty member (or members) who teach courses related to Israel. This must become a top recruiting priority for the program – as it is for the Jewish Studies program.

Please explain fully any objections.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: July 31, 2012

Title: Director, Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies
Cognate Comment Request

TO: Name: Bruce Schulman
Department: CAS History

FROM: Name: William Waters
Department: CAS MLCL
Telephone: 3-6214 E-mail waters@bu.edu

Title: Proposal for interdisciplinary BA in Middle East Studies

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COMMENTS: Approved with updated course numbers.

Please explain fully any objections.

Signature: [Signature] Date: 8-1-2012
Title: [Title]
Date: 30 July 2012

Cognate Comment Request

TO: Name: Robert P. Weller
    Department: Anthropology

FROM: Name: William Waters
    Department: CAS MLCL
    Telephone: 3-6214
    E-mail: waters@bu.edu

Title: Proposal for interdisciplinary BA in Middle East Studies

Our Department would like to request cognate comments on this proposal. A draft of the proposal is attached for your review. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindly return the signed original, or an email or email attachment conveying your cognate comment, by August 28, 2012, so that we may include your comments when submitting the proposal for APC review. Please do not send any cognate letters directly to the dean's office. Thank you.

COMMENTS: This looks like an excellent addition to the area studies possibilities at BU and will be welcomed by our faculty members.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Please explain fully any objections.

Signature: Date: 7/30/2012

Title: Professor and Chair, Anthropology
Boston University College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
725 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 106, Boston, MA 02215
T. 617-353-2401

Date: September 25, 2012

Cognate Comment Request

TO: Name: Mary C. Beaudry, Chair
Department: Archaeology

FROM: Name: William Waters
Department: CAS MLCL
Telephone: 3-6214 E-mail waters@bu.edu

Title: Proposal for interdisciplinary BA in Middle East Studies

Our Department would like to request cognate comments on this proposal. A draft of the proposal is attached for your review. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindly return the signed original, or an email or email attachment conveying your cognate comment, by September 28, 2012, so that we may include your comments when submitting the proposal for APC review. Please do not send any cognate letters directly to the dean’s office. Thank you.

COMMENTS: Archaeology is most pleased to endorse the proposal for an interdisciplinary major in Middle Eastern Studies. We find the proposal to be well prepared support the initiative wholeheartedly.

Please explain fully any objections.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: September 25, 2012

Title: Chair, Archaeology