MODERN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES (MODM)

The courses listed on this page are exclusive to the LPS BAAS degree (https://lpsonline.sas.upenn.edu/features/what-bachelor-applied-arts-and-sciences-degree) and LPS Online certificates (https://lpsonline.sas.upenn.edu/academics/certificates).

MODM 100 The Middle East and the West
This course provides an overview of themes and issues in Middle Eastern history from the medieval era to the present, with an emphasis on encounters and exchanges between the "Middle East" (defined as Southwest Asia and North Africa) and the "West" (chiefly Europe and the United States). Key topics include perceptions of Islam since its inception, conflicts between predominantly Christian Europe and the Islamic world during the Crusades, East-West encounters during the age of exploration, European colonial domination of the Middle East from the 19th century, independence movements and the rise of nationalism in the 20th century, the Middle East and the Cold War, and the challenge of Islamist radicalism and anti-Western sentiment in recent times.
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit

MODM 200 Women and Gender in the Middle East
Depictions of Middle Eastern women frequently present them as voiceless, oppressed, and disadvantaged, and often cite Islam as the cause. This course explores the many complexities of gender and the position of women in the predominantly Islamic Middle East, surveying the major developments, themes, and problems in women's history from the medieval era to the contemporary period. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of women in foundational Islamic texts and the many interpretations of those texts regarding questions of gender. The course will also challenge the idea that gender divisions and the role assigned to women have been static throughout history, by tracing women's legal status, sexual morality, family life, and economic and political participation over time. Themes discussed include the importance of the harem and the influence of women in political life, the challenges posed by the impact of the West, women's reactions to these challenges, the return of Islam and Islamism, and the repercussions for women in dress, employment, and morality. The course will also consider gender norms and homoerotic relations. In addition, the course will also look at Western representations of the Oriental woman, the effects of colonialism and nationalism on Middle Eastern women, and the rise of Muslim women activist movements. We will also address the highly contested subject of veiling and consider the effects of modern US wars on Middle Eastern women. Seeking to go beyond just scholarly studies, this course will make use of art, documentaries, and literature in order to demonstrate how, in the modern period, women have defined themselves amid great political, social and economic turmoil.
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit

MODM 260 Oil, Poli in Mid East
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit

MODM 300 Rlgs Trads Mid East
Activity: Online Course
1.0 Course Unit