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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR
THE STUDY AND TEACHING OF THE
MIDDLE EAST

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OUR MISSION

The Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES) promotes research and scholarship in South Asia and Middle East. CSAMES was recently designated a National Resource Center (Title VI) by the US Department of Education for the study and teaching of the Middle East, enabling us to further strengthen our commitment to an academic inquiry into a region that is home to some of the world's oldest religions and civilizations.

Housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, CSAMES works closely with more than a dozen departments and affiliated faculty of over eighty members, who bring to the Center their expertise and diverse areas of interest. Our core Middle Eastern faculty comprises about 37 members. Some of the disciplines that CSAMES faculty are associated with are contemporary and historical studies of South Asia and the Middle East, and inquiries into such topics as religious and social identities, cultural values, literary expression, urbanization, politics and gender.

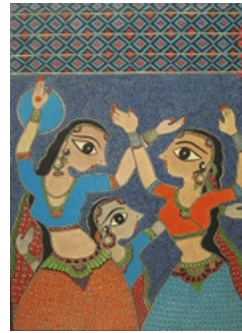
MA program

CSAMES administers the South Asian and Middle Eastern concentration of the MA in Asian Studies. Our students specialize in either South Asian Studies or Middle Eastern studies. The program is offered through the Department of

East Asian Languages and Cultures. However, admissions, advising and evaluation of students' progress are the responsibility of CSAMES.

Minor studies

Apart from the Master's program, CSAMES also offers interdisciplinary minors in both South Asia and Middle East. The minor is especially suited for students with a South Asia or Middle Eastern focus as a complement to their disciplinary study. The structure of the minor provides students greater flexibility and possible areas of emphasis include language and literature, history and social sciences, art and architecture and empires and religious studies.



Language studies

CSAMES also supports language studies through its affiliated faculty that teach Hindi, Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew and Turkish. We support the graduate study of Middle Eastern languages with Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships through the Title VI funding. Our new language studies features include the introduction of fourth year Arabic and Turkish at the elementary, intermediate and advanced levels.

Outside the classroom

CSAMES also organizes events on campus for (and with) students and faculty to facilitate debate about current events and histories concerning the Middle East and South Asia. We sponsor a bi-weekly noon Brown Bag lecture series. We frequently co-sponsor Miller Committee lectures set up to bring renowned scholars to campus. Our annual Turkish Studies Symposium and Indian Studies Lecture series provide a platform for noted scholars from campuses across the globe. We also host film screenings and art exhibits to explore discourses beyond the stereotypical and to provide a deeper and more meaningful understanding of these two geopolitically significant regions of the world.



Resources

- **South Asian Library**
<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/asx/southwest.html>
- **Middle Eastern Studies Library Collection**
http://www.library.uiuc.edu/administration/collections/collections/descriptions/middle_east.htm
- **Jewish Studies Library**
<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/hix/jewstud/index.html>