## ISRAEL STUDIES MINOR

[israelstudies.umd.edu](https://israelstudies.umd.edu)

**Program Director:** Paul Scham, J.D.

Students doing a Minor in Israel Studies will study the history, culture and political structure of Israel and its place in the Middle East. Students from all majors are encouraged to apply.

To make an appointment to explore or declare a minor go to: [arhu.umd.edu/undergraduate/academics/minors](http://arhu.umd.edu/undergraduate/academics/minors/).

Students should also contact **Prof. Paul Scham**, Israel Studies Advisor  
pscham@umd.edu  
4141 Susquehanna Hall  
College Park, MD 20742  
Or visit: israelstudies.umd.edu (http://israelstudies.umd.edu)

### Requirements

The minor consists of 15 credits, and is organized around the following requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Core Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISRL342/HIST376</td>
<td>History of Modern Israel^1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISRL448</td>
<td>Seminar in Israel Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select one course in the area of Middle East Studies:^2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST120</td>
<td>Islamic Civilization</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST491</td>
<td>History of the Ottoman Empire</td>
<td></td>
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#### Elective Courses

Select six credits of the following:  
6

- ISRL289 New Explorations in Israel Studies (ISRL289I)
- ISRL448 Seminar in Israel Studies (ISRL448A)
- ISRL448 Seminar in Israel Studies (ISRL448B)
- ISRL449 Advanced Topics in Israel Studies
- HEBR111 Elementary Hebrew I^3
- HEBR112 Elementary Hebrew II^3
- HEBR211 Intermediate Hebrew I^3
- HEBR212 Intermediate Hebrew II^3
- ARAB104 Elementary Modern Standard Arabic I-II^3
- ARAB105 Elementary Modern Standard Arabic III-IV^3
- ARAB204 Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I^3
- ARAB205 Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic II^3
- ARAB207 Egyptian Colloquial Arabic II^3
- ARAB304 Advanced Modern Standard Arabic I
- ARAB305 Advanced Modern Standard Arabic II
- JWST304 Critical Approaches to Israeli Culture
- HEBR313 Conversation and Composition I
- HEBR314 Conversation and Composition II
- HEBR381 Introduction to Hebrew Cultural Studies
- JWST478 Readings in Modern Hebrew

### Restrictions

- Coursework must include at least 9 3xx or 4xx-level credits, of which 6 of those credits MUST be taken at University of Maryland. These include credits earned in UM Study Abroad programs.
- A student may use a maximum of 6 credits (two courses) to satisfy requirements for both a major and a minor. Courses completed for one minor, may not be used to satisfy the requirements for another minor.
- No courses with an earned grade below “C-” may count towards the minor.
- An overall GPA of 2.0 in the minor is required for graduation.
- Up to 2 courses may be taken at another university if the courses are approved by the Israel Studies Advisor. These would include credits earned in non-UM Study Abroad Programs.

Special Topics in recent years have included: The Arab-Israeli Conflict through Film; Introduction to Israeli Cinema; Immigration & Ethnicity in Israel; Israel Politics and Society; Women and Gender in Israel; Public Culture in Israel; Israel Society as Seen Through Literature & Culture; Cultural Diversity and Multiple Identities in Contemporary Israeli Society; Society Politics and Mass Media in Israel; The Theater of Terror: Modern Terrorism and Mass Media; Israeli Politics for Young Leaders, and more.

Other courses may be applied toward the minor by petition.

### Notes

1 A comparable course at another university may substitute for this; consult the Minor Advisor
2 To fulfill the Middle East Studies requirement, students must take one of the courses listed below or a comparable course. Courses within ISRL cannot be counted for this requirement. This list is not complete; other courses may be substituted with the approval of the Advisor. Students may also take one additional course from this list as an elective for credit toward the Minor. Other courses in Middle East Studies at UMD or elsewhere may be substituted for those on this list in consultation with the Advisor. HIST, COMM, GVPT, and SLLC all regularly offer special topics courses on the Middle East.
3 No more than 3 credits of language instruction below the 3xx-level may be credited toward the Minor.
4 Special Topics in Israel: (Topics change on an annual/semester basis, generally taught by distinguished visiting faculty.)

[^1]: A comparable course at another university may substitute for this; consult the Minor Advisor.
[^2]: To fulfill the Middle East Studies requirement, students must take one of the courses listed below or a comparable course. Courses within ISRL cannot be counted for this requirement. This list is not complete; other courses may be substituted with the approval of the Advisor. Students may also take one additional course from this list as an elective for credit toward the Minor. Other courses in Middle East Studies at UMD or elsewhere may be substituted for those on this list in consultation with the Advisor. HIST, COMM, GVPT, and SLLC all regularly offer special topics courses on the Middle East.
[^3]: No more than 3 credits of language instruction below the 3xx-level may be credited toward the Minor.