EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, & SOCIAL SCIENCES  
REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION  
May 19, 2009

To be adopted:

Proposed New Minor Middle East and Islamic Studies

PRESENT:

PROPOSED:

Majors requirements:

1. Select two from the required courses — (8 units of required courses):

ARLC 001, GBST 169/ANTH 169, HIST 121, HIST 122, POSC 156, RLST 111, RLST 113, WMST 168

2. Select four from the elective courses — (16 units of elective courses)

a) Arabic Literatures and Cultures
ARLC 120, ARLC 151/CPLT 151, ARLC 152/CPLT 152, ARLC 154/CPLT 154/PHIL 154, ARLC 156/CPLT 156

b) Anthropology
ANTH 136/SEAS 136, ANTH 140I

c) Asian Studies
AST 167/CPLT 167

d) Comparative Literature
CPLT 153

e) History
HIST 124, HIST 125, HIST 126

f) Middle East and Islamic Studies
MEIS 199

g) Political Science
POSC 107, POSC 120, POSC 133, POSC 152

h) Religious Studies
RLST 116, RLST 124K, RLST 149, RLST 150, RLST 151, RLST 155/PHIL 155
i) Theater
THEA 191 (E-Z) (J)

j) Women’s Studies
WMST 151, WMST 162

JUSTIFICATION:

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of programs, departments, and research centers that have been developed to disseminate knowledge, provide educational and informational resources, and facilitate academic partnerships in the Middle East and Islamic world. At UC Riverside, we have seen a growth in demand for classes on the Middle East and Islamic Studies and have been the fortunate beneficiaries of a cluster hire, which has brought eight new faculty researching Islamic cultures to CHASS in the past two years. Various courses in our Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Creative Writing, Hispanic Studies, History, Religious Studies, Theatre, Political Science, and Women’s Studies departments deliberate and address historical, political and cultural themes of the Middle East and countries influenced by Islamic culture. More broadly, the Education Abroad Program offers study abroad opportunities in Egypt, Israel and Turkey, as well as countries with significant Muslim minorities, such as India, the Philippines and Singapore.

Owing to the broader trends, increased demand, and the intellectual community in Middle East and Islamic Studies that is developing at UC Riverside, it is important and appropriate that faculty present students with an opportunity to select a minor in Middle East and Islamic studies. The Middle East and Islamic Studies minor is designed to provide undergraduate students with a broad understanding of the history, politics and culture of the Middle East and Islamic traditions. The students are required to fulfill both core and elective requirements, which are designed to introduce students to the complexity and diversity of the cultural and geographic regions that are represented in the Middle East and Islamic world. We offer an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the Middle East and Islamic traditions with focuses on gender, history, literature, popular discourses and politics, which canvass from North Africa to Southeast Asia.

The multidisciplinary nature of the program prepares students for a critical understanding of current issues and further study in a number of academic fields at the graduate level. The minor is useful to students planning careers in politics and government, business, education, international organizations, journalism, and the art, as well as for those who simply desire a better understanding of the Middle East, Islam and Islamic cultures.

Further, the minor in Middle East and Islamic Studies brings together diverse faculty at UCR to foster collective interests and activities in research and teaching. It aims to open an academic space, which facilitates active engagement with the Middle East and Islam in diverse, multilingual, and global contexts, while bringing that engagement into conversation with existing areas of research and teaching at UCR and other programs in Middle East and Islamic studies in California and elsewhere. We hope the minor will eventually evolve into a major in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies as UCR offers more courses in this research area and expands language instruction in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and Turkish.
APPROVALS:

Effective: Fall 2009
Approved by the faculty Committee of Middle East and Islamic Studies: February 16, 2009
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: March 11, 2009
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: April 8, 2009
Middle East and Islamic Studies Minor (MEIS)

Response to Guidelines for Establishing a New Undergraduate Academic Program

1. Name and Administering Unit:

Minor in Middle East and Islamic Studies, to be administered through the Interdisciplinary Studies Office.

2. Justification:

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of programs, departments, and research centers that have been developed to disseminate knowledge, provide educational and informational resources, and facilitate academic partnerships in the Middle East and Islamic world. At UC Riverside, we have seen a growth in demand for classes on the Middle East and Islamic Studies and have been the fortunate beneficiaries of a cluster hire, which has brought eight new faculty researching Islamic cultures to CHASS in the past two years. Various courses in our Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Creative Writing, Hispanic Studies, History, Religious Studies, Theatre, Political Science, and Women's Studies departments deliberate and address historical, political and cultural themes of the Middle East and countries influenced by Islamic culture. More broadly, the Education Abroad Program offers study abroad opportunities in Egypt, Israel and Turkey, as well as countries with significant Muslim minorities, such as India, the Philippines and Singapore.

Owing to the broader trends, increased demand, and the intellectual community in Middle East and Islamic Studies that is developing at UC Riverside, it is important and appropriate that faculty present students with an opportunity to select a minor in Middle East and Islamic studies. The Middle East and Islamic Studies minor is designed to provide undergraduate students with a broad understanding of the history, politics and culture of the Middle East and Islamic traditions. The students are required to fulfill both core and elective requirements, which are designed to introduce students to the complexity and diversity of the cultural and geographic regions that are represented in the Middle East and Islamic world. We offer an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the Middle East and Islamic traditions with focuses on gender, history, literature, popular discourses and politics, which canvass from North Africa to Southeast Asia.

The multidisciplinary nature of the program prepares students for a critical understanding of current issues and further study in a number of academic fields at the graduate level. The minor is useful to students planning careers in politics and government, business, education, international organizations, journalism, and the art, as well as for those who simply desire a better understanding of the Middle East, Islam and Islamic cultures.

Further, the minor in Middle East and Islamic Studies brings together diverse faculty at UCR to foster collective interests and activities in research and teaching. It aims to open an academic space, which facilitates active engagement with the Middle East and Islam in diverse, multilingual, and global contexts, while bringing that engagement into conversation with existing
areas of research and teaching at UCR and other programs in Middle East and Islamic studies in California and elsewhere. We hope the minor will eventually evolve into a major in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies as UCR offers more courses in this research area and expands language instruction in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and Turkish.

3. **Relationship of the minor to existing programs:**

   As an interdisciplinary minor, the proposed curriculum in Middle East and Islamic Studies draws on courses from several departments in CHASS. More courses may be added as interest and opportunity in this area of study expands.

4. **Proposed Curriculum:**

   Please see the pages that follow.

5. **Faculty Involvement:**

   **Faculty Committee Members:**

   Muhamad Ali, Fariel Cherif, Ebru Erdem, Sherine Hafez, Erith Jaffe-Berg, Ruhi Khan, Benjamin Liu, Susan Ossman, Jeffrey Sacks, and Fariba Zarinebaf.

   **Teaching Faculty:**

   Muhamad Ali, Reza Aslan, Ebru Erdem, Sherine Hafez, Erith Jaffe-Berg, Ruhi Khan, Laila Lalami, Benjamin Liu, Susan Ossman, Jeffrey Sacks, and Fariba Zarinebaf.

6. **Degree of Participation and Roles of Participating Departments:**

   The role of participating departments is limited to and evident by the courses listed in the proposal. No other resources from other departments are needed to support this minor.

7. **Projected Enrollments:**

   We expect enrollment in the minor to be small at the beginning, but anticipate that the minor will grow noticeably within the first few years. We base this projection on two things. First, students expressed interest in drafting a petition to establish a minor and major in Middle East and Islamic
Studies. From a single class alone there was strong interest from seven to eight students in developing curriculum in this field of study. Second, the Arabic language program both serves as a way to stimulate interest in Middle East and Islamic Studies and also is a measure to gauge existing interest in this subject.

8. Name of Degree:

Not applicable.

9. Potential Impact on Existing Program:

Please see e-mails and letters from chairs of departments offering courses in the minor.

10. Required Resources:

The minor relies on administrative and academic advising support from Liberal Studies and Interdisciplinary Programs.

11. Supporting Letters:

We include some letters of support for the minor but request a waiver with regard to extramural letters. The proposed program is only a minor. Asking faculty from other institutions to review the minor curriculum is onerous.

12. Approvals:

The Middle East and Islamic Studies Steering Committee has approved this proposal. We will appreciate the approval of the Executive Committee of CHASS, the college faculty, and the Senate Committee on Educational Policy so it may go before the full Senate.

13. Timing
We send this proposal forward, hoping that approvals will be swift and smooth and placed on the agenda of the May Senate Division Meeting. We thank all who participate in this process.
Proposed Curriculum for a Minor in Middle East and Islamic Studies

1. Select two from the required courses - 8 units of required courses (2 courses):
   a) ARLC 001 Introduction to Arabic Literatures and Cultures
   b) GBST 169/ANTH 169 From the Maghreb to the Middle East
   c) HIST 121 Middle Eastern History, 1200 to 1800
   d) HIST 122 Survey of Middle Eastern History, 1800-Present (new course being proposed not in CRAMS)
   e) POSC 156 Political Systems Across Muslim Societies
   f) RLST 111 Islam
   g) RLST 113 Topics in Modern Islam
   h) WMST 168 Gender and Power in Muslim Societies

2. Select at least four from the elective courses - 16 units of elective courses (4 courses):

   **Arabic Literatures and Cultures**
   a) ARLC 120 Classical Arabic Literary Prose
   b) ARLC 151/CPLT 151 Palestine/Algeria
   c) ARLC 152/CPLT 152 Modern Arabic Poetry in a Multilingual Frame
   d) ARLC 154/CPLT 154/PHIL 128 Introduction to Arabic Philosophy (new course being proposed in CRAMS)
   e) ARLC 156/CPLT 156 Jews and Arabs

   **Anthropology**
   a) ANTH 136/SEAS 136 Anthropological Perspectives of Gender in Southeast Asia
   b) ANTH 140/1 Ethnographic Interpretations: Cultures of Southeast Asia

   **Asian Studies**
   a) AST 167/CPLT 167 Postcolonial Literature and Criticism in Southeast Asia and South Asia

   **Comparative Literature**
   a) CPLT 153 Literature, Language, Relation

   **History**
   a) HIST 124 Gender in Middle Eastern-Islamic history (new course being proposed in CRAMS)
   b) HIST 125 Islam and Revolution in Iran
   c) HIST 126 Istanbul in History and Fiction

   **Middle East and Islamic Studies**
   a) MEIS 199 Independent Study (new course being proposed not in CRAMS)
Political Science
a) POSC 107 Non-Western Political Thought
b) POSC 120 The Politics of India and Pakistan
c) POSC 133 Politics of Central Asia in Comparative Perspective
d) POSC 152 Politics of the Middle East

Religious Studies
a) RLST 116 Religion and Violence
b) RLST 124K Zionism and the Holocaust
c) RLST 149 Southeast Asian Religions
d) RLST 150 Islam in Southeast Asia
e) RLST 151 Reading the Qur'an
f) RLST 155/PHIL 155 Peace in the Middle East

Theater
a) THEA 191 (E-Z) Seminar in Theatre: (J) Staging the Middle East

Women's Studies
a) WMST 151 Islam, Women, and the State
b) WMST 162/RLST 162 Women's Issues in Modern Muslim Thought
1. Select two from the required courses – 8 units of required courses (2 courses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARLC 001</td>
<td>Introduction to Arabic Literatures and Cultures</td>
<td>An introduction to Arabic literatures and cultures. Focuses on the close reading of texts, specifically on language and rhetoric. Examines texts from the major periods (classical and modern) and modes of writing (poetry, literature, history, the novel, the law, and philosophy).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBST 169/ANTH 169</td>
<td>From the Maghreb to the Middle East</td>
<td>An introduction to the peoples and societies of North Africa and the Middle East. Follows the travels of IbnBattutah, IbnKhaldun, and Rafik al Tahtawi. Topics include religion, migration, gender, political organization, the global Middle East, Orientalism, and cultural production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 121</td>
<td>Middle Eastern History, 1200 to 1800</td>
<td>Explores the history of the Middle East from 1200 to 1800. Includes the Mongol conquests, as well as the rise and expansion of the Ottoman empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 122</td>
<td></td>
<td>This is a new course it will be proposed by the History Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSC 156</td>
<td>Political Systems across Muslim Societies</td>
<td>A survey of the different political systems and institutional arrangements regulating the relationship between religion and the state across the Muslim world. Includes the history and main tenets of Islam and case studies such as Iran, Indonesia, Jordan, Pakistan, Nigeria, and the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLST 111</td>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>An overview of Islam from the time of Muhammad (d. 632 A.D.) to the present. Attention is given to its distinctive beliefs and practices, its influence upon societies in which it became dominant, and its interaction with other traditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLST 113</td>
<td>Topics in Modern Islam</td>
<td>Examines key issues facing Islam in the modern world such as Islam's engagement with and reaction to nationalism, feminism, the status of sacred texts in the face of critical historical and philological studies, science, and technology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 168</td>
<td>Gender and Power in Muslim Societies</td>
<td>Examines the dynamics of gender relations within the context of the Muslim world. Analyzes processes of power which influence concepts of femininity, masculinity, and the body and sexuality. Explores heterogeneity of the Muslim world, as well as its unifying cultural and social history.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Select a minimum of four from the elective courses – 16 units of elective courses (4 courses):

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<tr>
<td>a) ARLC 120 Classical Arabic Literary Prose</td>
<td>Explores aspects of classical Arabic literary prose. Includes the modes of quotation, citation, falsification, fabrication, and forgery. Focuses upon selected writings of al-Hamadhai, al-Jahiz, al-Ma'arri, IbnTufayl, and IbnHazim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) ARLC 151/CPLT 151 Palestine/Algeria</td>
<td>Considers two distinct and related literary and historical moments—Palestine and Algeria. Topics include the relations between language and context; literature and literary historiography; genre and idiom; violence and the body; and the state and institutional practices of reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) ARLC 152/CPLT 152 Modern Arabic Poetry in a Multilingual Frame</td>
<td>Considers selected writings of Adunis ('Ali Ahmed Sa'id), Mahmoud Darwish, Abdelatif La'abi, and Etel Adnan, published originally in Arabic, French, and English. Topics include language (idiom, statement, utterance, translation, repetition, rhythm) and history (loss, violence, mourning, inheritance, future, legacy). Course is taught in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) ARLC 154/CPLT 154/PHIL 128 Introduction to Arabic Philosophy (new course being proposed in CRAMS)</td>
<td>An introduction to Arabic philosophical texts. Provides close and literary reading of texts in philosophy, as well as considers the impact these texts have had or can have on Western cultural formation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) ARLC 156/CPLT 156 Jews and Arabs</td>
<td>Traces the formation of the shared and divided history of the Jewish and Arab peoples. Focuses on the literary and institutional dimensions of this history, as well as the formation of related areas of study, such as religion, philosophy, literature, and psychoanalysis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Anthropology                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) ANTH 136/SEAS 136 Anthropological Perspectives on Gender in Southeast Asia | Examines the intersections of gender, power and sexuality in post-colonial Southeast Asia. Revisits early ethnographic claims of gender equality. Addresses current anthropological literature on the effects of colonialism, capitalism and globalization on gender roles and gender relations within national and transnational contexts. |
| b) ANTH 1401 Ethnographic Interpretations: Cultures of Southeast Asia | Anthropological interpretations of culture and society in southeast Asia, including Indonesia; topics include prehistory, ethnic groups, social organization and structure, human ecology, folk and high culture, etc. |

| Asian Studies                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|

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<td>AST 167/CPLT 167</td>
<td>Postcolonial Literature and Criticism in Southeast Asia and South Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPLT 153</td>
<td>Literature, Language, Relation</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 124</td>
<td>Gender in Middle Eastern-Islamic History (new course being proposed in CRAMS)</td>
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<td>HIST 125</td>
<td>Islam and Revolution in Iran</td>
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<td>Istanbul in History and Fiction</td>
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<td>MEIS 199</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>POSC 107</td>
<td>Non-Western Political Thought</td>
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**Comparative Literature**

- **CPLT 153** Consider the rapport among language, relation, and literature. Focuses upon the relations among context and modes of address (the Qur'an, Levinas, Austin, Derrida); the name and the positing force of language (Darwish, Plato, Nietzsche); and language, violence, and poetic statement (IbnArabi, Heidegger, Benjamin).

**History**

- **HIST 124** Explores the history of women in the Middle East from the medieval to the modern period. Focuses on the legal status of women, their social and economic position, the rise and development of feminist movement and the impact of Islamist movements.
- **HIST 125** Explores the historical background to the Iranian Islam and Revolution in Iran revolution of 1978-1979. Offers a critical assessment of the existing scholarship. Includes the rise of Shi'ism as Iran's state religion; the relationship between religion, state, and society; and the role of Shi'i Islam versus other ideologies with social movements.
- **HIST 126** Explores urbanization in Middle Eastern and Istanbul in History and Fiction Ottoman history. Includes the history of Istanbul from the Ottoman conquest to the end of that empire. Addresses questions of urban transformation, imperial cities, Islamization, urban institutions, cosmopolitanism, and modernity.

**Middle East and Islamic Studies**

- **MEIS 199** This is a new course it will be proposed by Interdisciplinary Programs.

**Political Science**

- **POSC 107** Exposes students to some of the key political thinkers and ideas outside the Western canon. Familiarizes students with both the cultural-religious legacies and the political thought endemic to non-Western societies. Follows an overview of key non-Western civilizations and addresses crucial problems in comparative political theory. Provides a more detailed analysis of some regions - from the political thought of Islam to the traditions.
of India to the Far Eastern political theory.

b) **POSC 120**  
*The Politics of India and Pakistan*  
A study of the domestic and international politics of India and Pakistan, with attention to other South Asian countries. Explores nationalist movements, struggles for development, contrasting experiences with democracy and dictatorship, and internal and external conflicts.

c) **POSC 133**  
*Politics of Central Asia in Comparative Perspective*  
Studies the current political and economic issues and problems, and international relations of the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Includes a historical background of the region.

d) **POSC 152**  
*Politics of the Middle East*  
The domestic policies and international relations of the contemporary states of the Middle East. Includes analysis of the politics of various transnational forces and the policies of external powers as they impinge on the area.

**Religious Studies**

a) **RLST 116**  
Explores the capacity of religion to mobilize and legitimate violence. Materials covered include theoretical texts by Rene Girard, Walter Burkert, Jonathan Z. Smith, and others, and case studies dealing with religion and violence in India, Northern Ireland, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Sri Lanka, and the United States.

b) **RLST 124K**  
*Studies in Judaism from 70 C.E. to Modern Period: Zionism and Holocaust*  
A survey of the religious, historical, and ideological background regarding the origins of the Zionist idea and Holocaust.

c) **RLST 149**  
*Southeast Asian Religions*  
Introduces aspects of religion in various Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and the Philippines, through contextualized readings featuring historical, anthropological, literary, and other disciplinary perspectives on this diverse region.

d) **RLST 150**  
*Islam in Southeast Asia*  
Introduces the religious, intellectual, and cultural history of Muslim Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, as well as minority communities in Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, and the southern Philippines. Examines a series of contextualized readings in translated primary sources. Approaches texts from historical, anthropological, literary, and other disciplinary perspectives.

e) **RLST 151**  
*Reading the Qur’an*  
A study of the Qur’an, Islam’s primary scripture. Examines the contexts in which the text originated. Offers critical analyses of the Qur’an and discussion of its roles in the cultural histories of Muslim societies.
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<tr>
<td>f)</td>
<td>RLST 155/PHIL 155</td>
<td>Peace in the Middle East A study of the roots of the Middle Eastern crises. Focuses on the Arab-Israeli conflict and possible solutions toward peace. Addresses problems through historical, religious, and political lines of inquiry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Theater</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a)</td>
<td>THEA 191 (E-Z)</td>
<td>Seminar in Theatre: (J)Staging the Middle East Covers various topics on a rotating basis. Includes playwriting, acting, directing, scenic design, theatre history, and dramatic literature. J. Staging the Middle East; M. American Frontier in American Drama; N. Theatre of Eugene O'Neill; S. Script to Production; W. Women in Theatre: Theory and Performance.</td>
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<td><strong>Women’s Studies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a)</td>
<td>WMST 151</td>
<td>Islam, Women, and the State Examines the links between women, Islamic practices, and the politics of state formation and nation building. Explores ways women constitute the terrain of struggle between the traditional and modern, colonialism and nationalism, and religion and politics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b)</td>
<td>WMST 162/RLST 162</td>
<td>Women’s Issues in Modern Muslim Thought Introduces complex religious and social issues related to the role of women in modern Islamic societies ranging from North America to Southeast Asia through an examination of Muslim writings produced during the past century.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
March 7, 2009

TO: Feryal Cherif, Department of Political Science

FROM: T. Scanlon, Chair, CL&FL

RE: MEIS Minor Proposal

CL&FL faculty believe that the MEIS minor should in principle have a language requirement. Although we acknowledge that UCR is not currently able to offer coursework in languages of the Middle East other than Arabic, we are concerned that the ideal be an enemy of the good. Holding out for an ideal of offering a greater selection of Middle Eastern languages at UCR vitiates the achievement of a significant good in requiring knowledge of arguably the widest language in that region.

We also wish to stress the essential role of language as a medium of culture and thought in the serious study of any culture, and the serious, real consequences of claiming some degree of expertise in a culture without knowing the language.

There are, as you know, real consequences, in international economic or diplomatic activity, when participants claiming a degree of expertise in a culture are utterly ignorant of its language, which conveys not only words but also forms of politeness, gestures, etc. Our faculty is interested in offering additional Middle-Eastern languages in the future, working with MEIS and the dean's office.

In sum, we support the proposed minor in MEIS with the qualification that we believe that there should be a language requirement as part of it. We urge you to reconsider this question and even to meet with my faculty if you would like. We do not, however, want to stand in the way of this minor, and if, in the end, it goes forward without a language requirement, we do support Jeff Sack’s participation and the inclusion of his courses in the degree curriculum.
Dear Eyal,

I'm writing in support of the Middle East and Islamic Studies proposed minor. This would be a timely and important addition to UC R's curriculum.

This promises to be an exciting minor that I'm sure many students both now and in the future will find both appealing and rewarding. Faculty in Political Science are also supportive of the proposal and anticipate fruitful collaboration and participation over the coming years.

If I can add to or clarify these comments in any way please do not hesitate to ask, and good luck with the programme.

Shaun Bowler
Department of Political Science
UC Riverside
Riverside
CA 92521

Tel 951 827 5595
Fax 951 827 3933

Email: shaub@ucr.edu

http://www.politicalscience.ucr.edu/index.html
February 23, 2009

Iryal Cherif
Department of Political Science
University of California, Riverside
2230 Watkins Hall
Riverside, CA 92521

I write this letter to state my support for the proposed minor in Middle East and Islamic Studies.

As a Chair whose departmental courses are included in your minor proposal, I commend you for this initiative and offer my full support.

Thank you for expanding educational options for our students!

Sincerely,

June O'Connor, Professor and Chair
MEMORANDUM

2/23/2009

FROM Benjamin Liu, Associate Professor, Acting Chair (Winter 2009)  
Department of Hispanic Studies

TO Feryal Cherif, Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Science

RE Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies minor

I am writing in support of the proposed minor in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies (MEIS). Although I have only joined the UCR faculty this year, I have already encountered an impressive array of faculty across the campus who share interest and expertise in the areas encompassed by the proposed minor. To date, I have been involved with some of them, based on common research interests, in proposing a residential fellowship research group at the Center for Ideas and Society on the topic of Islamic law in local contexts, including medieval and early modern Spain. Additionally, I have attended and learned from a number of the talks that the collaborating faculty have organized.

It is also my sense that there is a keen student interest in the areas of the proposed minor. This is partly based on anecdotal evidence of the number of students (and colleagues) I have met who express some knowledge of or some interest in the Arabic language, or social and cultural interactions involving the Islamic world. In a more direct sense, I can attest to the degree of interest expressed by Spanish major students in a Senior Seminar I am currently teaching, within the Hispanic Studies department, on the topic of "Spain and Islam: 711-1609" (SPN 193). They have been studying the complex human and cultural phenomena produced from this historical interaction, and have already completed a writing assignment involving some of the more than 4000 Spanish words borrowed from Arabic. Though I have not been here long enough yet to create new course offerings in the catalog, I expect that the range of courses that I will be teaching will reflect my interest in the area of the proposed minor.

Given the importance of Arabic, Islamic and Middle Eastern issues in my own field of medieval Spanish studies, I would be very willing to announce and promote the minor in my classes, which I think will be an important strategy in publicizing the proposed new minor across the various departments represented by the collaborating faculty and across the campus. I do hope that that this initiative can get underway, and do give it my full support.
Date: Sun 22 Feb 17:18:52 PST 2009  
From: "Susan Ossman" <susan.ossman@ucr.edu> Add To Address Book | This is Spam  
Subject: MEIS minor  
To: <cherif@ucr.edu>  

Dear Colleagues on the CEP committee,

I am writing to indicate my strong support of the proposed MEIS minor. As the director of the Global Studies program, I know that many students interested in international and global issues have a particular interest in the Middle East and North Africa, and more broadly in the Muslim world. In the course I teach on this subject, quite a number of students have expressed a strong interest in enrolling in such a minor should it be made available.

Following recent hires of specialists of various aspects of Islam and the MENA area, UCR now has the expertise necessary to support a new program in this area.

Please give this fledgling program your full support.

Sincerely,

Susan Ossman  
Director of Global Studies  
Professor of Anthropology
Feryal,

I am very much in support of your proposal. The minor is exciting and timely.

Alicia Arrizón
Professor and Chair
Department of Women’s Studies
INTN (Interdisciplinary Bldg-North)
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521
Phone (951) 827-4359
Fax: (951) 827-6386

Dear Professor Cherif,

I see no problem in listing courses in the Department of Anthropology for the Middle Eastern studies minor.

Sincerely,
Thomas C. Patterson
Distinguished Professor and Chair
Department of Anthropology
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521

Date: Sat, 7 Mar 2009 15:13:52 -0800
To: cherif@ucr.edu
From: Thomas Scanlon <thomas.scanlon@ucr.edu>
Subject: Re: Middle East and Islamic Studies Minor

Dear Feyral,

Apologies for the delay. My department has had extensive discussion of your proposal. The attached memo reflects the sentiment of the faculty. I’d be happy to talk if you wish. Jeff Sacks can of course also discuss this with you.

Best wishes,

Tom Scanlon

Fri, 6 Mar 2009 12:53:31 -0800 (PST)
From: Vivian-Lee Nyitray <Vivian-Lee.Nyitray@ucr.edu>
Subject: Re: Middle East and Islamic Studies Minor
To: cherif@ucr.edu
Dear Feryal,

Please excuse me for not responding appropriately sooner! As chair of the interdisciplinary committee on Asian Studies, I can't see any reason why we would object or have concerns about any of our courses being cross-listed or otherwise accepted toward the proposed minor.

Please let me know if there's anything else you need from Asian Studies or if we can be helpful in any way.

with kind regards,

Vivian

Vivian-Lee Nyitray, Chair
Interdisciplinary Committee on Asian Studies

From: <rrussin@ucr.edu>
Subject: Re: Minor in MEIS
To: cherif@ucr.edu
Cc: eric.barr@ucr.edu

Dear Feryal,

I have looked over your proposed minor in Middle Eastern and Islamic studies, and it is a timely, well thought out and important addition to the university's curriculum. I believe Prof. Erith Jaffe-Berg's course, "Staging the Middle East" (THEA 191J), would be an appropriate part of this major, and as acting chair of the Theatre Department, I am happy to offer our department's permission for you to include it.

Best,

Robin Russin
Associate Professor & Acting Chair
Department of Theatre
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521
(951) 827-2707
(213) 949-1061 cell
robin.russin@ucr.edu

"If I look confused it's because I'm thinking." -- Samuel Goldwyn
Feryal,

The steering committee is fine, except you should be listed as Chair, not Interim Director. Chair positions are formally for a year's time, making the interim appointment moot.

Steve

At 12:00 PM 2/18/2009, Feryal Cherif wrote:

> Dean Cullenberg,
> 
> I have been in contact with Gabrielle Brewer in CHASS regarding a
> Middle East and Islamic Studies minor. She informed me that we need to
> get your approval for the steering committee and director for the minor
> proposal to move forward
> I am attaching a document with the names of the relevant people
> 
> Members of the MEIS listserv were invited twice to join the steering
> meeting. I think that we have a list of interested parties. The
> candidate for director position was elected unanimously
> 
> We are open to changes, should you prefer that. Could you please
> address a response to Gabrielle and I?
> 
> All the best,
> 
> Feryal
> 
> Department of Political Science
> University of California, Riverside
> 9230 Watkins Hall
> Riverside, CA 92521
> (951) 827-5609
> 
> Stephen Cullenberg
> Dean
> Professor of Economics
> College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences University of California, Riverside 92521
> Phone: (951) 827-2769
> Fax: (951) 827-4587
Feryal,
On behalf of Dr. Anne Sutherland, Director of Interdisciplinary Programs.

This is an official acknowledgement that Interdisciplinary Programs will house the proposed new minor: Middle East Islamic Studies (MEIS)

Thank you,
Sharon Payne
UCRiverside
Administrative Manager
Interdisciplinary Programs
sharon.payne@ucr.edu
951 827 2742

--- Original Message ---
From: Anne H Sutherland [mailto:annes@ucr.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 10:33 AM
To: cherif@ucr.edu
Subject: Re: Middle East and Islamic Studies Minor

Sharon will do the letter. Send her a reminder, however, as she is swamped with work. Anne

Dr Anne Sutherland
Director, Interdisciplinary Programs
Professor of Global Studies & Anthropology University of California, Riverside