

Arabic & Middle Eastern Studies Newsletter

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March 2022



Welcome to the second edition of the Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies monthly newsletter! Midterms are upon us, and we hope all students, staff, and faculty are having a great semester so far. The Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies Department has stayed busy this month with students competing in Model Arab League, events held by the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Cultural Club, and lots of interesting classes this semester. Check out the contents of this newsletter for upcoming events, study abroad opportunities, future course offerings, a faculty spotlight on Dr. Nick Crane, and more!

Upcoming Events

March 8th, 7pm, Classroom Building Rm. 141

MENA Cultural Club Meeting: Roundtable discussion with Eric Nigh, Director of Arabic & Middle East Studies Program, on his experiences in the Middle East

March 15th

Deadline for most Summer/Fall study abroad and scholarship opportunities

March 21st

Priority registration for Fall 2022 begins

March 21st-27th

Islamic Festival Week - Events held throughout the week

March 24th-27th

National University Model Arab League in Washington, D.C.

March 29th (Time and Location TBD)

MENA Cultural Club Meeting



Fall 2022 SPPAIS Course Offerings!

Registration is almost upon us, and we know students are thinking about their Fall 2022 schedules. Consider these great courses for next semester!

- RELI/HIST 2320 - History of Islam
- RELI/HIST/WMST 4335 - Women and Islam
- RELI 4500 - Kabbalah and Sufism
- ART 3720 - Art & Architecture of Medieval and Contemporary Islam (contact Tracey Eckersley, teckersl@uwyo.edu, for permission)
- INST 1101 - FYS: Camels, Hookah & Oil
- INST 4990 - US Foreign Policy in the Middle East
- INST 4990 - Topics: Refugees and Forced Migration
- HP 4151 - Diplomacy and Negotiation
- ENG 3200 - Topics in: Medieval Literature

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Nick Crane

Dr. Nicholas Crane is an Associate Professor of Geography and International Studies here at the University of Wyoming. He has been teaching at the university since 2016, providing courses in cultural and political geography. While his research has recently focused on the political economy of violence in Mexico, Dr. Crane is currently launching a pivot in his research and teaching, turning towards the study of socio-political dynamics in Turkey. The thematic emphasis of his work, on the interaction between violence and economic development, is relevant in both countries. Crane's new work in Turkey will accordingly connect to his ongoing projects in Mexico.



The UW College of Arts & Sciences recently supported Dr. Crane in his pivot to working in/on Turkey, in the form of a Seibold Professorship for the academic year 2022-2023. The Seibold award is given annually to College of Arts & Sciences faculty members who have been heavily focused on teaching. Awardees receive a year's leave, during which they pursue a project that can enhance their teaching and advance their careers. Crane has said, "I am grateful for the College's support. Working in Turkey follows from longstanding personal interest and family connections to the country. I also expect this work to enrich research and teaching at the university. There are many people at UW who share my interest in Turkey and the wider region, so I expect my efforts can dovetail with those of others in our campus community."

Dr. Crane will utilize the Seibold Professorship to travel to Turkey for research on how violence implicated in economic development, especially land-use development, is shielded from critique using images and forms of landscape. Crane will also be working to build capacity on our campus for study of the post-Ottoman Middle East, creating opportunities for students, academic units, and UW-based initiatives that matter across the state. In the next few years, keep an eye out for a new course he is developing, "Cultural Politics in the Contemporary Middle East," and potential study abroad opportunities in Turkey, to complement UW's emerging framework for experiential learning in the MENA region!

Rocky Mountain Model Arab League



UW students had a successful showing at the regional Model Arab League (MAL) conference at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah in February. Our students represented Bahrain, Jordan, and the Syrian National Coalition on four different councils, and debated on a host of different topics of importance to the Arab League. We easily took first place determined by the number of awards our delegation received, including two of the top four awards. We are now gearing up towards the National University MAL conference/competition in Washington, D.C., at the end of March. Stay tuned for results from NUMAL in next month's newsletter, and check out the results from this competition below! We would also like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Anderson, the Milward L. Simpson Fund, and all of SPPAIS for the support that has made these accomplishments for our students possible.

University Awards

Outstanding Delegation - Syrian National Coalition
Distinguished Delegation - Bahrain

Individual Awards

Joint Defense Council

Distinguished Delegation - Samuel Bunn (Bahrain)
Distinguished Delegation - Morgan Miller (Bahrain)
Distinguished Delegation - Allison Brown (Syrian National Coalition)
Distinguished Delegation - Michael Newman (Syrian National Coalition)

Council on Palestinian Affairs

Outstanding Delegation - Andrew Bishop (Syrian National Coalition)
Outstanding Delegation - Nick Schriber (Syrian National Coalition)

Council on Political Affairs

Outstanding Delegation - Danny Deming (Bahrain)
Outstanding Delegation - Ethan Maglione (Bahrain)
Distinguished Delegation - Kyle Sorrell (Jordan)
Distinguished Delegation - Paden Knull (Jordan)

Council on Social Affairs

Distinguished Delegation - Andrew Albers (Syrian National Coalition)

Chair Awards

Outstanding Chair - Maeve Knepper (Social Affairs)
Distinguished Chair - Trey Kirk (Political Affairs)
Distinguished Chair - Ayoub Nachat (Joint Defense Council)

Study Abroad Spotlight: Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco

Maeve Knepper is a junior studying Economics and International Studies, and studied abroad at Al Akhawayn University (AUI) in Ifrane, Morocco during Fall 2021. Ifrane is a charming ski town, known as the "Switzerland of Morocco," in the heart of the Atlas Mountains. She highly recommends AUI as a place to study abroad, whether or not you are an international studies or political science major. It is also easy to visit other locations around Morocco including Fez, Rabat, Casablanca, Tangier, and Marrakech. There are a wide variety of courses for all majors, and classes are taught in English! For more information, contact UW Education Abroad and schedule an advising appointment. If you would like to hear more about the student experience, contact Maeve at mknepper@uwyo.edu.



RSB Spotlight: Muslim Student Association

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) is a campus organization dedicated to promoting a true, balanced message of Islam at the University of Wyoming and in Laramie. The organization meets biweekly on Wednesdays at 1pm in the Union. One of MSA's biggest events, Islamic Festival Week, will be held March 21st-27th! Islamic Festival Week includes a variety of events including "Ask a Muslim," flower distribution, a panel discussion, and more. To learn more about MSA or to get involved contact MSA's president, Bilal Madjour, at bmadjour@uwyo.edu or find MSA on Instagram @uwyomsa.

Contact Us!

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