

Center for the Middle East and Islamic Studies Strategic Plan 2022-2026

Vision

The center aspires to be inclusive with a participatory approach, to attract and support academically rigorous faculty and students from diverse disciplines across campus, to be a safe space for campus and public community, and to collaborate with other similar centers around the world.

Mission Statement

The center promotes understanding of the Middle East through teaching, research, and community outreach. The center explores and promotes cross-regional approaches to Middle Eastern studies.

Values

1. Participatory Approach
2. Collaborating across campus
3. Building community

Larger Regional and Topical Focuses

Growth in one specific area rather than spreading thin

In addition to the regions and topics already covered, including events on Muslim communities of Central, South, and Southeast Asia, and West Africa and on issues around minorities, women, LGBTQI+ rights

Strategic Emphases

1. **Fundraising** (email and in person/events)
2. **Faculty Research/Intellectual Exchange**
 - a. Faculty intellectual exchanges, Syllabi workshop, Book launch and talk series; book/writing workshop; faculty colloquium, tenure/promotion and award celebrations
 - b. Partnership with the arts, STEM, public health, and social sciences faculty
 - c. thematic lecture series
 - d. annual consortium conference
 - e. faculty curriculum development, research/fellowship, and publication grants
3. **Graduate Student Learning and Leadership**
 - a. research colloquium
 - b. Annual Islamicate graduate student association conference
 - c. Graduate student travel and research grants funded by our annual email fundraising

- d. holding social events for graduate students to network with each other and faculty across campus
 - e. Creating a non-hierarchical relationship environment between faculty and grad student via a research colloquium which is not graduate specific or faculty specific but for both.
 - f. Grad student professionalization workshops both for MA and PhD: job market, how to publish a journal article or write a book proposal
 - g. Incoming grad student workshop
 - h. Maintain the FLAS program
 - i. library orientations and information for graduate students
- 4. Undergraduate Student Engagement**
- a. Undergraduate fellowships for study abroad in the Middle East
 - b. Undergrad Honor's thesis student presentations
 - c. Active collaborations with student organizations
- 5. Positive community impact**
- a. CMEIS Social Café
 - b. Highlighting Public Humanities
 - c. Public facing scholarship/events/speakers
 - d. Statewide Consortium Collaborations
- 6. Outreach**
- a. Engaging language teaching professors in K-14 outreach to give lectures and engage with teachers.
 - b. Organizing conferences to connect all the ME languages
 - c. Continue strengthening core languages and area studies
 - d. Maintain one-credit Arabic-language content courses ("Languages Across the Curriculum") on refugee issues and other topics
- 7. Global presence and partnership**
- a. Continue engaging in Digital humanities and international partnerships with Middle East libraries
 - b. continue partnerships with the Middle East and European universities to Study Abroad
 - c. Maintain visiting scholarship program – virtual and in-person
- 8. Administration**
- a. Appoint Outreach Director (funded by Title VI)
 - b. Appoint a temporary staff member
 - c. Appoint NC Consortium Administrative Staff

Faculty Positions

- Media studies
- Mideast environmental studies/science and technology studies
- Performing Arts
- Contemporary Middle Eastern/Iranian art and art history
- transnational feminism

- North African geography and/or environmental studies
- ME migration/refugee studies
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- Mideast medical humanities
- Turkish contemporary cultures and language
- Arabic and Persian (and other ME languages) languages

Objectives

1. Create promotional emails/videos for online fundraising and organizing VIP dinners to bring in donations but more importantly, endowments to enhance the center's operation
2. Convene an annual research colloquium for faculty and grad student intellectual exchange
3. Collaborating with Music and Dramatic Arts dept. faculty, CPA, and Ackland Museum to organize cultural events
4. Collaborate with STEM, public health, etc. faculty to diversify events and curriculum
5. Thematic lecture series so all faculty will have an opportunity to be involved around topics they are passionate about
6. Bring public and campus community to the center to engage grad and undergrad students

Implementation

1. Convene working groups/steering committees for the implementation of these plans
2. Develop an implementation timeline over five years
3. Provide support and track progress
4. Report on progress and ensure continuous improvements

