




# Interdisciplinary Middle East Studies at Carolina: Integrating a Fragmented World



Carl W. Ernst

Co-Director, Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East  
and Muslim Civilizations



# The Middle East: part of UNC

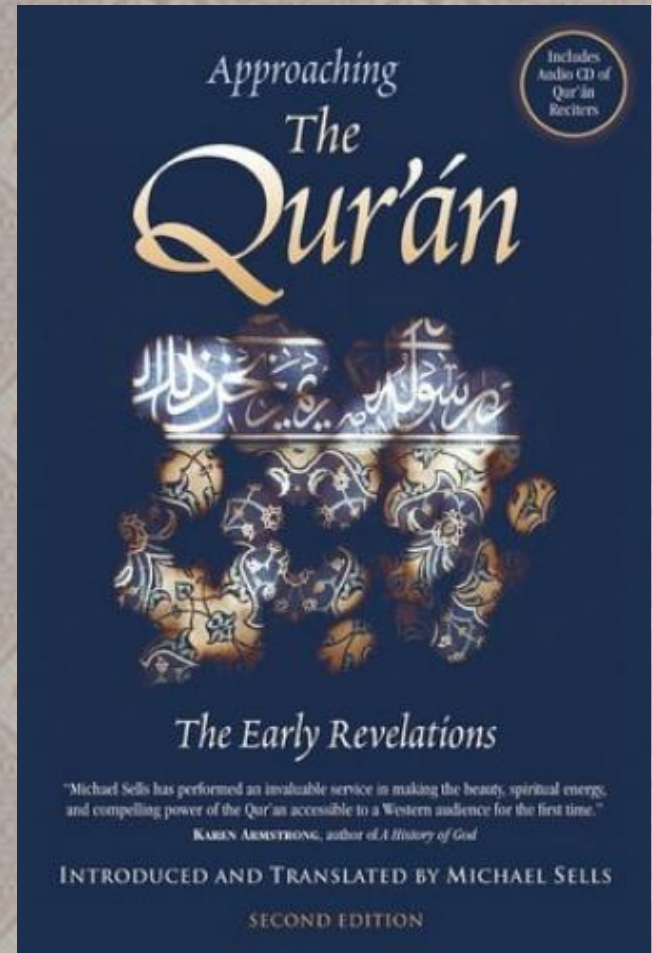
✦ Arab migration to NC in 19<sup>th</sup> century

✦ UNC Muslim Student Association handling security at Kenan Stadium



# Development of Middle East Studies at UNC

- ✦ **1957-8:** Islamic civilization courses, Arabic language
- ✦ **1990:** Largest Middle East film collection in US
- ✦ **2002:** Summer Reading Program: *Approaching the Qur'an*
- ✦ **2003:** Mideast Center founded
- ✦ **2010:** Title VI grant

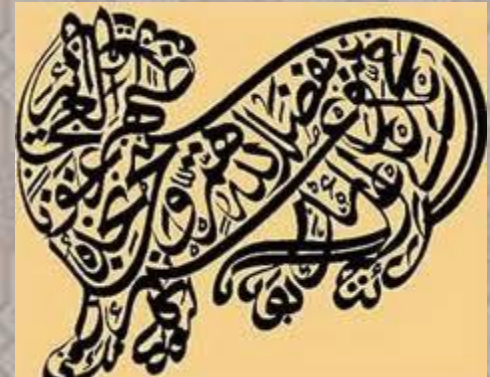


# UNC's core strengths: 5 Cultural Regions *plus*



# Integrating the 5 Cultural Regions into the Curriculum

- ✦ Focus on **cross-regional perspectives**
- ✦ Building **interdisciplinary programs**
- ✦ Emphasize **the arts**



# Core language and culture faculty in Department of Asian Studies



**Nadia Yaqub:** Palestinian film



**Yaron Shemer:** Israeli cinema



**Fadi Bardawil:** Arabic culture



**Shahla Adel:** Persian

**Zeina Halabi:** Arabic literature

**Hanna Sprintzik:** Hebrew

**Afroz Taj:** Urdu, Bollywood



# Engaging Middle East studies across the departments



**Andrew Reynolds: Political Science**



**Banu Gokariksel: Geography**



**Charles Kurzman: Sociology**  
Center Co-Director  
**Sarah Shields: History**



**Glaire Anderson: Art**



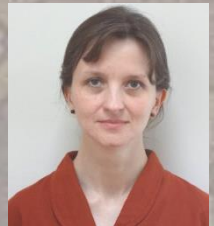
**Cemil Aydin: History**



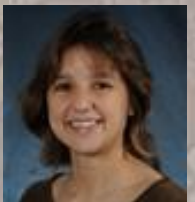
**Michael Figueroa: Music**



**Charles Kurzman: Sociology**



**Juliane Hammer: Religious Studies**



**Zeynep Tufekci: SILS**

# Middle East studies at UNC



✦ Middle East area studies: **100 courses**

✦ Middle East languages: **35 courses**

✦ Total of **4412 undergraduates and graduate students** enrolled in Middle East-related classes in 2010-11



# UNC's Middle East Curricula in various departments



- ✦ **3 Undergraduate majors**
  - Arab cultures, Global/Middle East, Jewish studies
- ✦ **5 Undergraduate minors**
  - Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi-Urdu, Islamic/Middle East, Jewish studies
- ✦ **Master's and Doctoral degrees**
  - Islamic studies, Franco-Arabic studies, Middle East libraries
- ✦ **Middle East graduate certificate**
  - combined with various degree programs
- ✦ **Study Abroad programs**
  - Jordan, Israel, etc.

# Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations

Program and Outreach  
Coordinator Emma Harver



Associate Director  
Shai Tamari

Email [mideast@unc.edu](mailto:mideast@unc.edu) to join the Center's listservs

# mideast.unc.edu

THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL

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#### Events at UNC

<b>WEL</b> 25	<b>Passion in Practice: Muslims in the Community</b> March 25   6:30 pm Great Hall, Student Union
<b>THU</b> 26	<b>Lutz Fiedler: The History of the Anti-Zionist Israeli Left</b> March 26   12:00 pm Toy Lounge, UNC

#### Stories with a Heartbeat in Jordan, Palestine, and Turkey

March 17, 2015



UNC alumni Will McInerney '11 and Mike Mallah '09 are currently working with the [Palestine Children's Relief Fund](#) and the [Syrian American Medical Society](#) on a creative storytelling project in Jordan, Palestine, and Turkey.

Their initiative, *Stories with a Heartbeat*, documents the experiences of medical professionals and their patients through creative, engaging, and dynamic storytelling.

McInerney and Mallah just wrapped up 10 days in Palestine where they documented a team of American surgeons working in collaboration with local Palestinian doctors, nurses, and medical staff in Jenin. They also visited Palestine's only pediatric cancer center, the Huda Al Masri Pediatric Cancer Department in Beit Jala.

McInerney and Mallah have taken more than 1,000 photographs, recorded 10 hours of interviews, and witnessed countless stories of beauty, struggle, and resilience. All of their documentation efforts and creative products will be donated to the Palestine Children's Relief Fund to help them continue their work on the ground.

A story connecting voices in Palestine to the tragic shooting deaths in Chapel Hill last month recently aired on WUNC, North Carolina's NPR affiliate. [Click here to listen now.](#)

McInerney and Mallah are currently on the Turkish-Syrian border and working with the Syrian American Medical Society to document stories from the newly named Deah, Yusor, and Razan Dental Clinic.