12:00 PM Welcome and Conference Opening (ARKU509)
   Tom Paradise, Director of the King Fahd Center;
   Lynda Coon, Dean of the Honors College

12:30 PM Lunch (ARKU510)

1:00-3:00 PM Israel/Palestine Project (ARKU 509)
   Facilitator:  Sanket Desai, History

   This activity challenges students to solve a problem that has thoroughly vexed the post-WWII world: the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. During the course of this project, students will engage primary and secondary sources, maps, and their knowledge of the conflict to generate a diplomatic solution. Each student will be playing the role of an Israeli or Palestinian political leader. Conference attendees are invited to observe the diplomatic process.

1:00-2:00 PM Gender and Sexuality in Islam and Christianity (ARKU511)
   Facilitator:  Sarwar Alam, Middle East Studies

   For the Love of Allah: Comparing Gender and Sexuality in Islam and Christianity (Kayla Cahill, University of Arkansas)

   “Women, Oh Women! When Will You Learn Your Places?” (Claire Williamson, University of Arkansas)

2:00-3:00 PM Religion in the Middle East (ARKU511)
   Facilitator:  Spencer Allen, Middle East Studies

   My Blood, My Brother, My Rival, My Ruin: Brotherhood in Christianity and Islam (Meagan Mosier, University of Arkansas)

   A Walk in the Fires of Love: Show Love to All, Love Only One (Jacob McCrasy, University of Arkansas)

   Karnak & Luxor Temples and the Procession of the Opet Festival (Christopher Bryant, University of Arkansas)

3:00-4:00 PM Geopolitics of Afghanistan (ARKU509)
   Facilitator:  Sanket Desai, History

   Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan (Nicholas Kahmann, University of Arkansas)

   The New Great Game (Christopher Cowan, University of Arkansas)

3:00-4:00 PM Media and Imperialism in the Middle East (ARKU511)
   Facilitator:  Matt Parnell, History

   Judging a Country by its Cover (Story): Examining the Framing of the Syrian Conflict in Middle Eastern and US Media Coverage (Ghada ElHaffar, Drury University)

   Paper, Ink and Blood: How the Sykes-Picot Agreement Shaped the Middle East (Meg Austin, University of Arkansas)

   ISIS Gaining Support from Central Asia? An Analysis of Geopolitical Power Struggle Increasingly Becoming Borderless (Joseph Largent, University of Arkansas)

4:00-5:00 PM Youth, Revolt and the Arab Spring (ARKU509)
   Facilitator:  Dan Brown, Political Science

   The Young and the Restless: Egyptian Youth and the January 25th Revolution (Abigail Witty, University of Arkansas)

   Students and Eslahaat in Modern Iran: A Comparative Analysis of Student Activism during the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the 2009 Green Movement (Meghan Shrewsbury, University of Arkansas)

   What Sparked the Arab Spring: Unearthing Egyptians’ Motivations (Christina Faoro, Drury University)
Special thanks to Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Conference Organization Committee members Sarwar Alam, Spencer Allen, Daniel Brown, Sanket Desai, and Matt Parnell for their dedication to furthering undergraduate scholarship in Middle East Studies at the University of Arkansas.

THE KING FAHD CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES is an academic and research unit in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Arkansas. An interdisciplinary and interdepartmental area studies center that offers diverse cultural, intellectual, educational, and practical opportunities for the University of Arkansas community, the Center promotes research and teaching in interdisciplinary Middle East studies.

Faculty members associated with the Center are rooted in degree-granting departments in Fulbright College and the broader University of Arkansas, specializing in history and politics, literature and popular culture, religious and secular practice and interpretation, and environment-human interaction with society and landscape in contemporary times and antiquity.

Home to an undergraduate co-major and minor under the auspices of the Middle East Studies Program, the King Fahd Center is dedicated to the study of the modern Middle East and North Africa, and the geo-cultural area in which Islamic civilization prospered and continues to shape world politics and history.

The Center also supports graduate studies in related departments, as well as summer language study and research assistantships for graduate students and teaching and research, through sponsored visits of scholars from foreign universities, VIPs from international nations and agencies, and diverse international programs, corporations, and NGOs.

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MIDDLE EAST STUDIES
Undergraduate Research Conference
December 4, 2015 from 12:00 - 5:30 PM
Arkansas Union, Rooms 509-511

The King Fahd Center invites students and faculty to take part in the first regional Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Conference, held on December 4th on the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville campus.

The conference will provide undergraduate students at the University of Arkansas and neighboring institutions performing research on topics related to the Middle East and North Africa with a forum in which to present their work and collaborate with peers, and aims to advance undergraduate scholarship at the University of Arkansas, as well as encourage interest in the geopolitical region.

Please join us in supporting our undergraduate scholars in Middle East Studies.