

Currently I am enrolled in a Middle East Past and Present course, where just like Dr. Rosenblum's Middle East Seminar this past Winter Intercession, I am able to study how the Middle East has evolved and how big of a factor religion and culture play in this evolution. While I am very passionate about History in all aspects, I am very passionate about world history and connecting things back to their origins. The Middle East to me is that foundation both from a historical and religious perspective. I am very passionate about the culture and history of the region. I originally applied for the Ibrahim Dialogue Program in hopes of learning more about the region by immersing myself in it.

Attending Dr. Rosenblum's Middle East seminar during the Winter Intercession was truly an eye-opening experience because it helped shape the way I viewed the middle East and the conflicts that have evolved over time. Had it were not for that type of seminar being offered I probably would continue to being ignorant towards much of what had occurred and is still going on until hopefully being submerged in it. If accepted into the 2016 Ibrahim Leadership and Dialogue Program it will assist me in achieving my professional goals as a future historian while also myself being able to provide back to my community as well as my peers and future students. I will be able to try to incorporate programs that could help raise cultural awareness for the Middle East and possibly one day through historical research this experience is able to unite society.

One possible program in collaboration with the seminar that was already offered, one could try to make it a more extensive program maybe for two weeks and provide class hours and eventually the entire winter intercession to educate students more on interfaith relations and cultural awareness. We could coordinate to have guest speakers from the region come out and speak and possibly host some of these programs with the Muslim Student Association and Coptic Society, Campus Crusaders and Newman Catholic Association to form a dialogue on the matters of the Middle East and how us as students could help raise awareness and form part of the change to end the conformity of social fears and ignorance's.

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