Evaluating your period of study abroad is one of the most valuable services you can render Middlebury College and future students planning to study abroad, and it is one of the most important ways you can help us maintain the highest possible standards. For this reason, until this form is submitted to International Programs and Off Campus Study a hold will be placed on official Middlebury transcript requests for Middlebury College students who studied at Middlebury Schools Abroad. Please note: If you studied abroad for two semesters on two different programs, you must submit two separate evaluations.

The staff of International Programs and Off Campus Study welcomes the opportunity to hear about your experiences abroad; please feel free to stop by or call and talk with us!

This document contains respondents between 1 and 11 inclusive.
Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

Brown University

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

Given that all coursework was completed with American students, the atmosphere was not remarkably different from that in America. If anything, the program was smaller and more personal than what I have experienced in the US.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identical</th>
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Please Comment:

It goes without saying that the two cultures are remarkably different. I enjoyed Egyptian culture tremendously.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

I gained a great deal of insight into Egyptian culture, but I can't say that it radically changed my understanding of American culture.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

Hard to say, I learned to deal with some difficult situations, but nothing changed significantly.
How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

I hope to return to the Middle East after graduation and continue my Arabic study.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- [ ] Homestay
- [ ] Dormitory
- [ ] Homestay then Apartment
- [ ] Dormitory then Apartment
- [ ] Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

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Please comment on your response to the question above.

Living with the Egyptian students was a tremendous opportunity for learning Egyptian Colloquial Arabic and gaining cultural insights.

However, the housing (especially the food) was much worse than I expected, especially considering the costs. The meals need to be better quality and more varied.

The dining hall staff were nice people, but were not immediately responsive to our complaints. We had to ask several times for basic changes.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

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What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

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Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

I made significant gains in Egyptian Colloquial, and I don't know of any other program that allows students to improve so quickly, given the focus on Modern Standard Arabic in language instruction.

My MSA improved as a result of three courses that were conducted in MSA, however there were few opportunities to speak and use MSA outside of the classroom.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

☑ Yes

☐ No

Please explain:

Egyptian Colloquial instruction was exceptional
Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Please explain:

Some disorganization, although clearly improving with each semester

Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exams and quizzes

Describe course content

MSA reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

al-Kitaab

Other comments about this course:

..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

<table>
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<th>Strongly disagree</th>
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Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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Beginning Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Oral presentations

Describe course content

Grammar handouts, speaking, songs

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Somewhat informal, but highly effective

Other comments about this course:

Heba is an amazing teacher

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Intermediate Media Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Examinations, one paper

Describe course content

Newspaper articles and vocabulary

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Assigned readings and vocabulary lists

Other comments about this course:

Rasha is a wonderful teacher, but the exams (particularly the final) didn't seem to convey what was taught in the course

| Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement: |
| "I learned a great deal in this course." |
| Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
| ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

| Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement: |
| "The instructor's teaching in this course was effective." |
| Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
| ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
Islamic Politics and Society: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Examinations, short papers

Describe course content

Survey of topics relevant to political Islam and society

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Assigned readings and lectures

Other comments about this course:

Very effective lecturer

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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<td>○ Gender Studies</td>
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<td>○ Anthropological Perspectives on Egyptian Women</td>
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<td>○ Slum Development &amp; Urban Planning</td>
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<td>○ History of Oil in the Middle East</td>
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<td>○ Geo-Politics of the Middle East</td>
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<td>○ Egyptian Literature</td>
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<td>○ Classical Poetry</td>
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<td>○ Arabic Novel/Poetry/Drama</td>
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<td>○ Other (Please write topic in box below)</td>
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</table>
One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Homework preparation, final exam

Describe course content

Rules for proper recitation

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Very effective handouts

Other comments about this course:

Wonderful professor

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

- Poor
- Good
- Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

- Poor
- Good
- Excellent
Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not helpful</th>
<th>Somewhat helpful</th>
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Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- □ Not concerned or approachable
- □ Approachable, but not concerned
- □ Concerned, but not approachable
- □ Somewhat concerned and approachable
- □ Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- □ Yes
- □ No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

Harassment was not directed at me but towards my female friends, I cannot provide any advice given how ingrained it is in Egyptian culture

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- □ Yes
- □ No

Please explain:

Compared to other programs such as AUC, a much more direct immersion into Egyptian culture and a great opportunity to learn Egyptian Arabic

Why did you choose this particular program and site?

Language pledge
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Did your expectations of the program as advertised before you went abroad match the reality of your experience during your study abroad? | - Completely matched  
- Was what I expected for the most part  
- Was somewhat different from what I expected  
- Was vastly different than what I'd expected |          |
| Did you receive acceptance and pre-departure information in a timely fashion? | - Yes  
- No |          |
| Did you find the mailings and online resources useful?                  | - Yes  
- No |          |
| How would you recommend that we improve in this area?                   | No recommendations |          |
| Were there particular challenges unique to you as a student from another institution? Please explain. | No |          |
Home Institution
- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

What was the period of your study abroad?
- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country’s educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

The academic environment is completely different and forced me to learn almost everything outside the classroom. The classroom environment got better and the second semester involved a lot of learning in the classroom. You could say a different academic environment made me more flexible... but I disagree that it was a “different” academic environment, I would argue that what we had was a less advanced academic environment i.e. no true syllabuses, homework assignments unknown, unstructured, teachers lacking experience... don't get me wrong i had a great time and i'd do it over again... but you had to know how to learn outside the classroom too (and there is room for academic environment improvement)

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

- Identical
- Very Similar
- Mostly Similar
- Somewhat Different
- Very Different

Please Comment:

What kind of question is this???? Human beings are 99.9999% the same... Of course Egyptian culture is far from American culture in some aspects, but I would say all cultures are distinct... that's why they're called different cultures...

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

It gave me an understanding of my host culture. Gave me a new lens to view my own culture.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

Flexibility is the most important thing. It teaches you how to deal with stuff out of your control
How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

I'm not sure

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory
- Homestay then Apartment
- Dormitory then Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

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Please comment on your response to the question above.

Dorms=great way to learn arabic and the culture

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No
If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

---

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

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Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

We worked with the Rotoract club of Alexandria, and it was a great way to meet new people while we did a "village development" project.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

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**Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?**

A lot of progress... The biggest factors were my friends from my dorm. Not only would we hang out all the time, but we would go through my 3-5 page papers and correct every single mistake, which really helped my writing... Suggestions: writing tutors

**Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?**

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Please explain:

Islamic Politics class

**Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?**

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Please explain:

1st semester colloquial

**Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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</table>

Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exams

Please describe the course content:

MSA

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

from the book...

Other comments about this course:

...

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
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</table>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."
Beginning Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
oral tests

Describe course content
colloquial

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.
random stuff

Other comments about this course:
...

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:
"I learned a great deal in this course."

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</table>

Intermediate Media Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
tests

Describe course content
media arabic

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.
vocab lists

Other comments about this course:
she always arrived late to class
Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Intermediate Translation: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exams and assignments

Describe course content

translations

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Teaching style=American=very good

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
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Page 29 of 152
Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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**Fall Semester: One-on-One Tutorial**

- ○ Islamic Politics and Society
- ○ Egyptian-Israeli Relations
- ○ Gender Studies
- ○ Anthropological Perspectives on Egyptian Women
- ○ Slum Development & Urban Planning
- ○ History of Oil in the Middle East
- ○ Modern History of the Middle East
- ○ Egyptology
- ○ History and Geography of Oil in the Middle East
- ○ Geo-Politics of the Middle East
- ○ Egyptian Literature
- ○ Classical Poetry
- ○ Arabic Novel/Poetry/Drama
- ○ Sufism & Islamic Philosophy
- ○ Religious Life in Egypt
- ○ Quranic Studies
- ○ Other (Please write topic in box below)
### One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

#### Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):


#### Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

- papers

#### Describe course content

- geography of oil in the world

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.


### Other comments about this course:


### Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

**"I learned a great deal in this course."**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Strongly disagree</th>
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Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exams

Describe course content

msa

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

book

Other comments about this course:

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Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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**Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced High:** Please tell us about this course.

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<td>Describe course content</td>
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<th>Other comments about this course:</th>
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**Beginning Egyptian Colloquial Arabic:** Please tell us about this course.

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Intermediate Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
exams

Describe course content
colloquial

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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**Intermediate Media Arabic: Please tell us about this course.**

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**Advanced Media Arabic: Please tell us about this course.**

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Intermediate Translation: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

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Describe course content

........................................................................................................................................

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

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Other comments about this course:

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Advanced Translation: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

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Describe course content

........................................................................................................................................

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

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Other comments about this course:

........................................................................................................................................
Geo-politics of the Middle East: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exams

Describe course content

the definition of the middle east

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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</tbody>
</table>
Islamic Politics and Society: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exams, papers

Describe course content

islamic politics

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

American style with Egyptian prof=very good

Other comments about this course:

..........................................................................................................................................................................................

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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</table>
### Spring Semester: One-on-One Tutorial

- Islamic Politics and Society
- Egyptian-Israeli Relations
- Gender Studies
- Anthropological Perspectives on Egyptian Women
- Slum Development & Urban Planning
- History of Oil in the Middle East
- Modern History of the Middle East
- Egyptology
- History and Geography of Oil in the Middle East
- Geo-Politics of the Middle East
- Egyptian Literature
- Classical Poetry
- Arabic Novel/Poetry/Drama
- Sufism & Islamic Philosophy
- Religious Life in Egypt
- Quranic Studies
- Other (Please write topic in box below)
One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exams

Describe course content

oil

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.
great

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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</table>
Mainstream Course at Alexandria University: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Describe course content

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:

**Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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**Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?**

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<th>Excellent</th>
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</table>

**Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not helpful</th>
<th>Somewhat helpful</th>
<th>Very helpful</th>
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</table>

**Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?**

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable
**Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?**

- Yes
- No

**If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.**

> It's not personal, and it's just how life works there.

**Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?**

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Language pledge, big city without foreigners, dorm provided great place to meet Egyptians

**What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?**

do it
Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

While I think it's important to experience different teaching styles, I found that the educational environment was really lax in Egypt. I honestly didn't feel challenged in any of my classes. I think my hardest class was Islamic Politics, but that's not saying much. I wish that the academics were stronger at the Middlebury Program. Some of the professors seemed to not care about the class and did not put enough time into preparing for the class.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identical</th>
<th>Very Similar</th>
<th>Mostly Similar</th>
<th>Somewhat Different</th>
<th>Very Different</th>
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Please Comment:

The way they treat women in Egypt is very different. The emphasis on religion in every aspect of society is a little hard to take at times, especially if you are not particularly religious.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

Coming back to the States, I definitely experienced some culture shock. There's somethings that I found that I missed in Egypt, like all the cafes that are open into the wee hours of the night. But mostly, I came to appreciate the abundance of independent thought in the States as well as gender equality. Also it was interesting to see how class relations and relations between people of different religions differ in Egypt and the States.
In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

I think that my time in Egypt made me a little more independent and increased my self-confidence. I had never traveled alone until I went to Egypt. Also I found that I needed to have confidence in my language skills and not second guess myself as much. I had to get over myself. I have always been a little bit of an over-achiever and it took me a while to realize that I had to be ready to sound like an idiot if I wanted any chance of succeeding.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

Politics and international relations was always a field that I wanted to go into, but it wasn't until I spent time working with Egyptians that I thought about going into international development. My study abroad experience has helped me to decide what areas I want to focus on.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory
- Homestay then Apartment
- Dormitory then Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

Not at all - it was isolating
Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected
As helpful as I expected
Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected
Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration

Please comment on your response to the question above.

If I had to choose again, I would probably choose to live in a homestay. I think that the people who were in a homestay picked up Arabic much more quickly and also came to understand some more cultural insights. That being said, I am happy that I got to spend some time in the dorm. If I hadn't lived there, I wouldn't have left Egypt making what I hope are life-long friends. There's no way I would have been as close to some people as I am now. Also, it gave me more insight into the youth culture than I think I would have gotten living in the dorm. That being said, I feel like living in the dorm kind of limited my understanding of Egyptian society. Everyone I knew in the dorm was Muslim. I didn't think anything of this until we had a discussion about interfaith relations in Egypt and found that all of us were some what ignorant of the role of Copts in Egyptian society and their feelings and thoughts about it. I realized that although they make up a significant percent of the population I knew very little about interfaith relations in Egypt and everything I heard was coming from my Muslim friends’ point of view.
Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- **Yes**
- **No**

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- **Poor**
- **Neutral**
- **Helpful**
- **Very Helpful**
- **Not Applicable**

**Comments**

---

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- **Yes**
- **No**

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I think that it’s harder for girls to go out and interact with Egyptians, especially when they are living in the dorm -- because of the curfew, not many of the Egyptian girls do much outside of the dorm except for some shopping and occasionally going out to eat. I wish I had taken advantage of the extra-curricular activities like going to the zoo with the orphans or volunteering with Rotaract. I think doing something like that should be required.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No improvement</th>
<th>Little improvement</th>
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</table>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No improvement</th>
<th>Little improvement</th>
<th>Improved somewhat</th>
<th>Improved</th>
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</table>
What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

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<tr>
<th>No improvement</th>
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What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

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<th>No improvement</th>
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</table>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

I think I improved a lot, and a huge part of that was due to the language pledge. However, the sad thing about the language pledge is that when even one or two people aren't committed to it, it can really be damaging to others. To be honest, I broke the pledge a lot at first—because that's what the people I was living with were doing. I wish I hadn't, because the minute I decided that no matter what anyone else did that I was going to stick to the pledge I saw a marked improvement in both my comprehension and ability to speak.

I think my reading comprehension improved and can usually get through newspaper articles without having to look up more than a few words. I wish we had done some more writing.

While I think that I am more fluent in Arabic, I also know that I make a lot of mistakes when I speak. Most of my Egyptian friends wouldn't really correct me when I said something incorrectly, especially the girls in the dorm. Some of the boys from the dorm would call me out on my errors, but not always. Most of the time it was Khalid who would correct me, but as we all know it's much harder to break a habit than to make one.

Also I think it might be a good idea to have language partners. It seemed to work out really well for Flagship and the American University program. Maybe a couple hours a week of one on one conversations with dormmates would help. It might also be helpful in having someone help correct our mistakes.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

○ Yes

○ No

Please explain:

Middlebury students were much better in conversing and comprehending Arabic.
Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Like I mentioned before, the teachers are lax and don't seem committed to the class.

Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced High: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exams mostly, some homework

Describe course content

Al-Kitaab Part 3 Ch. 6-10

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture

Other comments about this course:

..........................................................................................................................

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree
---|---|---|---|---
○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree
---|---|---|---|---
○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○
Beginning Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exams, Discussions, Homework

Describe course content

Dardasha handouts

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture, Discussion, Movies, Songs

Other comments about this course:

..........................................................................................................................

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
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"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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</tbody>
</table>
 Intermediate Media Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

| Exams, some homework |

Describe course content

| Articles, Vocab lists, In class handouts |

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

| Going over Vocab, Reading articles in class, Talking about Headlines |

Other comments about this course:

| .......................................................................................................................... |

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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</table>
**Islamic Politics and Society: Please tell us about this course.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Papers, Exams</td>
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</table>

Describe course content

Islamic Politics, especially in regard to Egypt

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Readings, Lectures, Discussions

Other comments about this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;I learned a great deal in this course.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Semester: One-on-One Tutorial</td>
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<td>Islamic Politics and Society</td>
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<td>Egyptian-Israeli Relations</td>
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<td>Gender Studies</td>
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<td>Anthropological Perspectives on Egyptian Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slum Development &amp; Urban Planning</td>
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<td>History of Oil in the Middle Ease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modern History of the Middle East</td>
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<td>Egyptology</td>
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<tr>
<td>History and Geography of Oil in the Middle East</td>
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<td>Geo-Politics of the Middle East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egyptian Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classical Poetry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arabic Novel/Poetry/Drama</td>
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<td>Sufism &amp; Islamic Philosophy</td>
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<td>Religious Life in Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quranic Studies</td>
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<td>Other (Please write topic in box below)</td>
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</table>
One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Paper, Enthusiasm displayed in class

Describe course content

History, Culture, Art

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
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Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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<tr>
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Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

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<tr>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

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<th>Poor</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?</td>
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<td>Not helpful</td>
<td>Somewhat helpful</td>
<td>Very helpful</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not concerned or approachable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approachable, but not concerned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concerned, but not approachable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat concerned and approachable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very concerned and approachable</td>
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<tr>
<th>Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I dealt with some religious discrimination and some sexual harassment while in Egypt. What bothered me the most was how sexual harassment was written off as caused by my lack of adherence to Islam. Also, a lot of Egyptians had a problem with the fact that though I am Muslim, I'm not religious. To some, this automatically made me a bad person. I think the thing that future students have to keep in mind is that there are some things that you can't change, but you can find ways to deal with them. For harassment, know that everyone deals with it and that there are some things you can do to prevent it (like not smiling to everyone on the street or not being passive about it). I think they plan to cover it in the orientation. In terms of the religion thing, I think that at the end some of the Egyptians realized that people practice religion in different ways. They realized (or so they claimed to) that although I don't do all my prayers, religion is still important to me and that my lack of religiosity doesn't make me a bad person. Just persevere and don't be afraid to talk about religion because you may just teach them something or learn something in return. Also be prepared for the fact that some people are so set in their beliefs that they will never change, but it never hurts to understand other people's points of view.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please explain:
What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

There's a lot of stuff about studying abroad that sucks, but it's worth it in the end. There were a lot of things about Egypt that annoyed me, and there were times when I wanted nothing more than to go home, but when the end of the program came around I didn't want to leave. I still think about it nearly everyday and really miss being there. Everyone in this program genuinely wants to see you to succeed and are there to help in any way possible. Voice any concerns you have and talk to the other kids in the program when you're feeling down; it really helps. I would recommend sticking to the language pledge, or else you'll walk away regretting it.
Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country’s educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

I would boil the differences in academic environment down to differences in the interaction between teachers and students, and I would say that in some ways I benefited from the ability to have close interaction with professors. With small classes, I was able to speak out and practice my language a lot more, and improved my Arabic skills a lot through class. The professors were very caring, and genuinely cared about what we did, whether or not we went to class, whether we were doing all right, etc. and although this isn't particularly academic, the care that the professors had for the students was a significant benefit to my overall experience.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

Identical
- 
Very Similar
- 
Mostly Similar
- 
Somewhat Different
- 
Very Different

Please Comment:

From the driving to the food, the weather to the living situation, to the academics, Egypt is a fundamentally different place in both the daily habits of people living there, as well as different takes on how life should be lived. I came away from this experience with a profoundly changed take on how the human experience can differ with respect to culture and region.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

Seeing as I had very little knowledge of what Egypt would be like before going, study abroad is almost completely the basis for my understanding of Middle Eastern culture. It was fascinating to see the views of American culture from the Egyptian point of view. Before going to Egypt, I had already seen a bit of the world, and had been exposed to different perspectives on American culture, but if anything, studying abroad allowed me to see the incredible penetration American cultural artifacts have made into the far corners of the Middle East.
In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

I would say that studying abroad allowed me to develop a more completely sense of being independent. I didn't think twice of taking a bus by myself somewhere, or taking a night off to have some personal time. This was a huge aspect of growth for me. I see myself as a very understanding and accommodating person, and if there is one attribute that is absolutely necessary for someone studying abroad in Egypt, its a sense of patience and understanding. Whether it is a radical cultural difference, or the general Egyptian inclination to be quite late, a sense of understanding and curiosity are invaluable.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

Study abroad has dramatically influenced my career goals, as it has convinced me that I want to work in the Middle East after graduation for a couple of years. It has also inspired me to apply for a Fullbright scholarship in the Middle East.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory
- Homestay then Apartment
- Dormitory then Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not at all - it was isolating</th>
<th>Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected</th>
<th>As helpful as I expected</th>
<th>Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected</th>
<th>Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration</th>
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</table>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

I felt that I had the perfect situation where I was able to meet a bunch of Egyptian friends and integrate into the culture while still maintaining a sense of privacy.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No
If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

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Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

- Not helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Very helpful

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I helped the Rotaract club of Alexandria work on a community service project. I was able to see some of the very poor rural areas of Egypt which I wouldn't have seen otherwise. I also played soccer which was both fun and a cultural experience.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

- No improvement
- Little improvement
- Improved somewhat
- Improved
- Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

- No improvement
- Little improvement
- Improved somewhat
- Improved
- Very much improved
What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improvement Level</th>
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What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

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Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

I improved remarkably. I think that there are still some kinks to be worked out, but for me, my Arabic skills improved far more than I could have expected.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

There are many extra-curricular activities which are very helpful to learning the language.

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

The quality of the professors isn’t the same as Middlebury, though I believe it will much improve as the program has a couple of years behind it.
Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced - High: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

papers, exams, homework

Please describe the course content:

Continuation of ARBC 302

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The professor would lecture while the students would ask questions and participate.

Other comments about this course:

Great professor, it was sad to see him go for the spring.

| Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement: |
| "I learned a great deal in this course." |
| Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
| ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

| Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement: |
| "The instructor's teaching in this course was effective." |
| Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
| ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
Beginning Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

homework, exams, skits, daily assignments

Describe course content

An introduction to Egyptian Arabic

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

all speaking, lots of interaction between the students and the professors

Other comments about this course:

Still being improved, though it was much better in the spring

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
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History of the Middle East: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exams, homework

Describe course content

An introduction to Modern Middle Eastern history, from Mohammed Ali Basha to the partition of Palestine

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture

Other comments about this course:

Dr. Ahmed was great. Unfortunately, it took half the semester before we got to have him.
Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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<thead>
<tr>
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"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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Intermediate Media Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exams, papers

Describe course content

An introduction to reading Arabic written media

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lots of discussion, and some reading

Other comments about this course:

Dr. Rasha was ok, great teacher, though it didn't seem as though she was all that focused on this class.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
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**Fall Semester: One-on-One Tutorial**

- ○ Islamic Politics and Society
- ○ Egyptian-Israeli Relations
- ○ Gender Studies
- ○ Anthropological Perspectives on Egyptian Women
- ○ Slum Development & Urban Planning
- ○ History of Oil in the Middle East
- ○ Modern History of the Middle East
- ○ Egyptology
- ○ History and Geography of Oil in the Middle East
- ○ Geo-Politics of the Middle East
- ○ Egyptian Literature
- ○ Classical Poetry
- ○ Arabic Novel/Poetry/Drama
- ○ Sufism & Islamic Philosophy
- ○ Religious Life in Egypt
- ○ Quranic Studies
- ○ Other (Please write topic in box below)
One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Papers

Describe course content

We discussed Islam, contemporary issues within the religion, and how it is practiced in Egypt

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

I would ask questions about what I'd seen, and she would answer

Other comments about this course:

She was a great person, very caring, and I hope she's doing well in Kazakhstan.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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</table>
Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced High: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

papers, exams, homework

Describe course content

A continuation from the fall

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture

Other comments about this course:

I wish we could have done something other than Al-Kittab by this point. Like a novel or more poetry and short stories.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Intermediate Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
projects, homework, exams

Describe course content
Continuation from the fall

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.
We watched and listened to lots of media, television, radio etc.

Other comments about this course:
I loved this course. Mona and Lana were fantastic!!

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:
"I learned a great deal in this course."

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### Geo-politics of the Middle East: Please tell us about this course.

**Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)**

- papers, exam

**Describe course content**

- A look at the Middle East and its place in the world

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

- lecture

**Other comments about this course:**

- not particularly interesting or stimulating

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**Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

"**I learned a great deal in this course.**"

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</table>
Islamic Politics and Society: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
papers, exams

Describe course content
A look at the state of political islam, from radical islamic groups, to conservative morals

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.
lecture

Other comments about this course:
FANTASTIC course!!

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:
"I learned a great deal in this course."

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</table>
One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):
Modern history of Egypt

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
final research paper

Describe course content
We started with political movements in the 1800's and ended with the death of Gamal Abd Al- Nasser

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.
discussion

Other comments about this course:
A truly wonderful man. He has such interesting experiences and is one of the highlights of my study abroad experience.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:
"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

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<th>Poor</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

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<th>Excellent</th>
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Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

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<tr>
<th>Not helpful</th>
<th>Somewhat helpful</th>
<th>Very helpful</th>
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Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- ☐ Not concerned or approachable
- ☐ Approachable, but not concerned
- ☐ Concerned, but not approachable
- ☐ Somewhat concerned and approachable
- ☐ Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

Don't let it bother you.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please explain:

The best year of my life.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Accept that you will be surprised, and just go with the flow. Your life will be the better for it.
Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country’s educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

Egypt's educational environment was quite different my previous experiences at Middlebury and in High School. In some ways, the smallest factors were what made my academic tougher, like not having a designated place to study, sporadic internet access, low-light, and lack of a comprehensive and accessible library. Egyptian lecture style is also very different in that the teacher gets up, gives a lecture, and students aren't necessarily encouraged to participate or critically assess the material. The most effective classes I had while abroad were when Egyptian professors actively engaged us in class through discussion questions, lectures, and homework.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

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<th>Identical</th>
<th>Very Similar</th>
<th>Mostly Similar</th>
<th>Somewhat Different</th>
<th>Very Different</th>
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Please Comment:

While there are many core human values that are shared by my home community and my Egyptian community, they are manifested in completely different ways. In general, apathy for the political system, bureaucracy in every sense of the word, and a great belief that their misfortunes are god's will permeated my experiences abroad.
How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

Study abroad provided me with the opportunity to become immersed in Egyptian society, linguistically and culturally, giving me the chance to start to grasp a deeper understanding of both Egypt and America. Being abroad allows the unique perspective of looking at America on the outside, and seeing Egyptian perceptions of world events and America through media, day-to-day interactions, academic classes, and travel. Alexandria, Egypt is not home to a large ex-pat population, and while I would say that all of my Egyptian friends had seen white people before, many had little to no personal contact with a westerner. They had many pre-conceived notions of how we would act, what we would wear, and of our general behavior as judged by TV shows and Hollywood films. I would also say the same for most of the students on my program, we arrived in Egypt without much previous experience with Egyptian culture, and I can't even begin to calculate the value and deeper understandings I gleaned through out my time abroad.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

My time in Egypt contributed hugely to my personal growth. I now have a much greater ability to jump into uncomfortable situations and be confident in what I value. I feel much more independent and capable of taking on projects and future travels that before Egypt seemed daunting and undoable. Flexibility, confidence, risk taking, and respect for elders and those who hold conflicting view points are some of the characteristics I found most valuable while abroad.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

The Middle East has a long, rich, and complex history, and studying abroad really ignited my interest and passion for the major I had chosen last year. Trying to understand the history of such an intense and complicated region is still daunting, but after being in Egypt and getting the chance to travel around the region I am hooked.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory
- Homestay then Apartment
- Dormitory then Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not at all - it was isolating</th>
<th>Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected</th>
<th>As helpful as I expected</th>
<th>Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected</th>
<th>Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration</th>
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</table>
Please comment on your response to the question above.

Living in the dorms we had the unique opportunity to live with girls from the countryside, giving us a very different perspective on life than many of the Alexandrians we met in the city. While living in an apartment, I was able to get out a lot more and really feel at home in Alexandria. My second semester, although it would have been great to live with Egyptians, I probably spent the same if not more, time conversing with Egyptian friends I now had the freedom (away from the dorm) to make.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

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Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I had a non-credit bearding internship second semester with Rotoract (part of the Rotary Club). We attempted to implement an economic development plan that we created for a poor village on the outskirts of Alexandria. Although I'm not sure if any of our initial goals were addressed in the project, it did give me a chance to meet other young Egyptians who care about making a difference in Egypt, practice my Arabic, as well as travel to slums and have the heart-wrenching experience of talking with Egyptians who only had a life of poverty and hardships ahead of them.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

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<th>No improvement</th>
<th>Little improvement</th>
<th>Improved somewhat</th>
<th>Improved</th>
<th>Very much improved</th>
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What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

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</table>
What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

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What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

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Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

My Colloquial Arabic improved drastically, but I would say my Modern Standard Arabic did not improve nearly as much as I would have liked.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

The language pledge is crucial to improvement in Arabic.

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Despite improvements, I generally (there are exceptions) did not feel intellectually engaged or academically challenged by my classes.
Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Occasionally homework, exams

Please describe the course content:

end of al-kitaab al-tanie, and beginning of al-kitaab al-thalith

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Unclear presentation of material, very little in-class discussion, little actual speaking of modern standard Arabic

Other comments about this course:

This course was ineffective in significantly advancing my level and understanding of Modern Standard Arabic. Class time was not used productively or efficiently, and the subjects of lectures often seemed random and unplanned.

Beginning Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Homework, exams

Describe course content

greetings, simple grammar, vocab, expressions

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

discussion type lecture

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

<table>
<thead>
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</table>
**History of the Middle East: Please tell us about this course.**

---

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Homework, exams

Describe course content

ME history from about 1798 to fall of Ottoman empire

---

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lectures

---

Other comments about this course:

The first Doctor didn't have respect for the class time and gave repetitive and uninformative lectures; the second Professor gave a comprehensive history in easily accessible lecture format with some discussion.

---

**Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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**Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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**Intermediate Media Arabic: Please tell us about this course.**

**Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)**

Exams

**Describe course content**

Newspapers and current events, media vocab

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture style with some discussion

**Other comments about this course:**

Although Doctor Rasha can be an excellent Arabic teacher for foreigners, she never seemed invested in the class and was uninspiring in her presentation of the materials.

**Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"I learned a great deal in this course."**

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<td>- Other (Please write topic in box below)</td>
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</table>
Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
Class notes, and end of term paper

Describe course content
History of Ancient Egypt, some hieroglyphics

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:
The Doctor used some English during class time despite my requests for purely Arabic instruction. He also was consistently late and unprepared for class time.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:
"I learned a great deal in this course."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
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Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced High: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Homework, exams

Describe course content

al-Kitaab al-thalith, up to chapter 5 or 6

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Ustaz Sayeed was straight lecture, Doctor Nehad was lecture with some discussion (although generally limited and not necessarily inclusive of all students in class)

Other comments about this course:

There were many communication problems between the students, Ustaz Sayeed, and Doctor Nehad, on content of the course as well as daily homework assignments.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Intermediate Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Homework, exams, class presentations

Describe course content

Further grammatical structures in Egyptian Colloquial, vocab

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Movies, use of literature in class, discussion based lectures

Other comments about this course:

This was a great course. I learned a great deal and there were many opportunities in class to actually use what we were being taught. It was academically challenging and engaging.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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</table>
Geo-politics of the Middle East: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Papers and exams

Describe course content

“What is the Middle East?”

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture

Other comments about this course:

This course was dry, uninspiring, and many of the lectures were repetitive and not at an adequate academic level to be challenging. Despite my participation in class, the Doctor didn't know my name by the end of over 12 lectures, although he knew the name of every boy in the class. I know this is cultural, but it was obvious (to me) and frustrating.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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</table>
Islamic Politics and Society: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
weekly response papers, exams

Describe course content
Political islamic movements and themes in the twentieth century, focusing on Egypt

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.
Lecture with discussion on readings and lecture topics

Other comments about this course:
This was possibly the best course I had while abroad. The material was interesting and presented in a way that challenged me academically while still being at an adequate language level where we could understand complex ideas and concepts.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:
"I learned a great deal in this course."

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### Spring Semester: One-on-One Tutorial

- Islamic Politics and Society
- Egyptian-Israeli Relations
- Gender Studies
- Anthropological Perspectives on Egyptian Women
- Slum Development & Urban Planning
- History of Oil in the Middle East
- Modern History of the Middle East
- Egyptology
- History and Geography of Oil in the Middle East
- Geo-Politics of the Middle East
- Egyptian Literature
- Classical Poetry
- Arabic Novel/Poetry/Drama
- Sufism & Islamic Philosophy
- Religious Life in Egypt
- Quranic Studies
- **Other** (Please write topic in box below)
One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

Early Islamic History

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exams

Describe course content

Brief Coptic history and Islamic history from the birth of Muhammad

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture

Other comments about this course:

Most of this was rote memorization of facts and dates with very little analytical thinking or critical historical analysis.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

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<tr>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
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Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

- [ ] Not helpful
- [ ] Somewhat helpful
- [ ] Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- [ ] Not concerned or approachable
- [ ] Approachable, but not concerned
- [ ] Concerned, but not approachable
- [ ] Somewhat concerned and approachable
- [ ] Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

Talk about it. Harassment is a part of daily life if you are a girl (no matter what you look like), and it sucks. You will cry sometimes, you will wish you studied abroad in Spain, you will want to punch Egyptians in the face, you will feel victimized, violated, and targeted. There is no way to prepare for what it feels like to be grabbed walking down the street, or to have your virginity questioned by complete strangers, but the worst thing you can do is to let it stop you from exploring Alexandria and getting to know genuine people who truly make Egypt an amazing place. Keep a journal, vent to your friends, but keep going out the next day, because there is so much of Egypt to experience if you can get past its sometimes ugly surface.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Please explain:

Although there are academic improvement to be made, I believe Middlebury gave me a truly unique opportunity to learn Arabic and be immersed in Egyptian culture not available through any other study abroad program. With Middlebury, I learned more then I ever thought was possible about Egyptians, Arab culture, Arabic, and what it means to be American.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Middlebury College's program in Alexandria is not for those who plan on spending their semester abroad at the beach or in bars. You must be committed to becoming immersed in Egyptian culture, following the language pledge even when you sound like an idiot, and be open to people and a society that hold some customs that may seem absurd or backwards. If you want to hang out with ex-pats and drink in bars on Cairo's rooftops, go to AUC, but if you want to improve your Colloquial Arabic exponentially and gain a much more realistic snapshot of Egypt in your study abroad semester, go to Alexandria.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
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</table>
| Did your expectations of the program as advertised before you went abroad match the reality of your experience during your study abroad? | - Completely matched  
- Was what I expected for the most part  
- Was somewhat different from what I expected  
- Was vastly different than what I'd expected  
Comments: ...                                                                 |
| Did you receive acceptance and pre-departure information in a timely fashion? | - Yes  
- No                                                                 |
| Did you find the mailings and online resources useful?                     | - Yes  
- No                                                                 |
Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

I had a huge problem adjusting to the different standard of teaching. It wasn't bad, it was atrocious. I have grown up in a non-US education system and I knew going to Egypt was going to take some getting used to and that standards would be different. However, I felt that the program in Egypt, academically, doesn't deserve the Middlebury name. In essence, that was the true problem because I at least expected some standards but those were non-existent. I would definitely say I learned more outside of the classroom than in, which I suppose is the true goal of studying abroad. However, it still doesn't take away from the frustration I had to encounter day in and day out when going to school.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

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<th>Identical</th>
<th>Very Similar</th>
<th>Mostly Similar</th>
<th>Somewhat Different</th>
<th>Very Different</th>
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Please Comment:

I think just the name of the country I studied in says it all: Egypt.

I would have loved a better preparation for the experience, especially being a girl. We had one short, and completely useless meeting, before departing. We heard one student speak for about five minutes. Organize and plan it better so that when a girl arrives in Egypt she doesn't feel like a piece of property right from the get-go. I knew there were issues in that area, but a little more preparation would have been nicer because someone's experience as a girl is DEFINITELY a lot harder and different than a boy's.
How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

I'm not going to lie, it definitely had a negative impact upon my impression of Egypt. After seeing how women are treated and how there is a general disregard for equality, it made me sick. I definitely believe that it was a useful experience to have, however, it was pretty awful at times.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

I came to appreciate more of what I have back in the US and what I grew up with in Europe. Additionally, I did come to understand Islam more, in some regards. I definitely have a better picture and understanding of the Middle East as a whole as a result of this experience.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

Not much, my major is completely unrelated to my study abroad experience.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory
- Homestay then Apartment
- Dormitory then Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

- Not at all - it was isolating
- Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected
- As helpful as I expected
- Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected
- Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration

Please comment on your response to the question above.

The population within the girls dorm is very narrow in that it's mainly girls from the country who are extremely conservative and didn't always have the most welcoming attitude. I didn't feel like we got a whole picture.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No
### Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?
- Yes
- No

### What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Little improvement</th>
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- Yes

### What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

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<td>Improvement</td>
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- Yes

### What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Little improvement</th>
<th>Improved somewhat</th>
<th>Improved</th>
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</table>

- Yes

### What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

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<tr>
<th>Progress</th>
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<td>Speaking</td>
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<td>Progress</td>
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- Yes

### Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

This is definitely the most positive aspect of my experience abroad, my Arabic improved exponentially. I definitely feel like I could have a full conversation with someone in Arabic or read a newspaper and understand most of it. Even more so, my listening comprehension improved immensely.

### Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?
- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Egyptian colloquial class with Heba was the best.
Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Modern Standard Arabic was absolutely abominable.

**Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced: Please tell us about this course.**

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

- quizzes, homework, participation

Describe course content

- reading, discussion, going over homework

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

- lecture, handouts

Other comments about this course:

- teacher had a very stereotypical view of the west and made judgements about us that I didn't particularly like.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
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Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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</table>
Beginning Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

- presentations, homework

Describe course content

- learning colloquialisms and other aspects of Egyptian culture

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

- discussions, lectures, activities

Other comments about this course:

Heba is an amazing teacher and definitely the best in this program.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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</table>
**Intermediate Media Arabic: Please tell us about this course.**

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<th>Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>tests, homework</td>
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</table>

**Describe course content**

learning how to read and understand arabic media

**Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.**

lecture

**Other comments about this course:**

Class was horrible and teacher wasn't really all that interested in teaching the course. I didn't really learn anything regarding Arabic media.

---

**Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"I learned a great deal in this course."**

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</table>
Geo-politics of the Middle East: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exam and weekly papers

Describe course content

teacher would lecture entire class, very little discussion

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

see previous response

Other comments about this course:

Material was very simple and I didn't learn too much. The class was extremely boring and the teacher made no attempt to make it more engaging.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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<td>Egyptian-Israeli Relations</td>
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<td>Gender Studies</td>
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<td>Anthropological Perspectives on Egyptian Women</td>
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<td>Slum Development &amp; Urban Planning</td>
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<td>History of Oil in the Middle East</td>
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<td>Modern History of the Middle East</td>
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<td>History and Geography of Oil in the Middle East</td>
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<td>Classical Poetry</td>
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<td>Arabic Novel/Poetry/Drama</td>
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<td>Sufism &amp; Islamic Philosophy</td>
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<td>Religious Life in Egypt</td>
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<td>Quranic Studies</td>
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<td>Other (Please write topic in box below)</td>
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One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exams

Describe course content

lecture, reading

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

not enough discussion, all lecture

Other comments about this course:

teacher was very effective in teaching material in a simple way. sometimes it was too simple, but overall I felt like I learned a great deal.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
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Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

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<th>Poor</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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</table>

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

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<th>Poor</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

- [ ] Not helpful
- [ ] Somewhat helpful
- [ ] Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- [ ] Not concerned or approachable
- [ ] Approachable, but not concerned
- [ ] Concerned, but not approachable
- [ ] Somewhat concerned and approachable
- [ ] Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

Just be prepared to be harassed on the streets and don't take anything personally. Try not to get too angry because it will consume you to the point where you just don't want to walk on the streets anymore.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Please explain:

Both yes and no. Yes, because in terms of learning the language you can't get any better. No, because another Middle Eastern country would have been a better choice for a happier experience. I understand issues with the dialect and such, but in terms of happiness and experience satisfaction other countries like Jordan or Lebanon would have been more satisfactory.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Study abroad if you can, it definitely is a life-changing experience and an eye-opener, no matter where you go.
Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:
Washington University in St. Louis

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to
your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on
how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a
different academic environment.

The Middlebury staff in Alexandria definitely eased my transition into this new style of teaching. However, the style of teaching was not necessarily completely
different. Several of the professors adapt to their American students' needs.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host
country and that of your own?

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<tr>
<th>Identical</th>
<th>Very Similar</th>
<th>Mostly Similar</th>
<th>Somewhat Different</th>
<th>Very Different</th>
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Please Comment:

Yes, there are stark differences between Egypt and the United States. However, it has been useful to recall the human aspect of every culture in that, despite our
differences we all cope with very similar emotions and needs.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced
your perceptions of American culture?

I have yet to return to America.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you
find most useful during your time abroad?

My study abroad has undoubtedly led to my personal growth. My adaptive capacity was my most useful characteristic during my time abroad.
How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

My study abroad gave me more insight into Arabic literature and prepared me further for Graduate study in Comparative Literature. I now pick up on the Egyptian colloquial subtext to Fus’ha texts.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory
- Homestay then Apartment
- Dormitory then Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

- Not at all - it was isolating
- Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected
- As helpful as I expected
- Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected
- Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration

Please comment on your response to the question above.

I found living with the Egyptian students to give me a very skewed perspective of Egypt: that all Egyptians were lower, that no Egyptians never went out, that no Egyptians took part in so-called "Western" activities. For an American who has never left the country, this leads to a reductive understanding of Egypt. They may go back to America and quote in their classes that, "well in Egypt they do not do this and do not do that." The dorms did not allow students to step into more real-world situations in Egypt. The food was absolutely terrible. The boys did not understand how to deal with students of different sexual orientations.

I am thankful that I was allowed to move out of the dorms after a month. The Middlebury staff was very understanding of my needs for to have a successful term abroad.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No
If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

- Not helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Very helpful

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

Paul Wulfsberg did a brilliant job of organizing the extracurricular activities in Alexandria: cooking club and soccer. I was very pleased with these activities as I was able to interact with my professors outside of the classroom.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

- No improvement
- Little improvement
- Improved somewhat
- Improved
- Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

- No improvement
- Little improvement
- Improved somewhat
- Improved
- Very much improved
What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

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Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

My progress in Egyptian Colloquial was much more than that of my Fus'ha. This is due to the fact that most social interactions are carried out in the colloquial. I appreciate this, but my lack of progress in Fus'ha due to classwork went against my expectations of a Middlebury program. My Fus'ha professors were terrible and did not meet the needs of American students. They did not give me a technical understanding into the language at the fourth year level.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

The Independent Study Course

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Learning Fus'ha
Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced High: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Class Participation, Exams

Describe course content

Al-Kitaab III

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture

Other comments about this course:

This was my worst course abroad. Please improve.

| Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement: |
| "I learned a great deal in this course." |

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Intermediate Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exams, Presentations, Homework, Projects

Describe course content

High Intermediate Egyptian Colloquial

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Very multimedia

Other comments about this course:

| Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement: |
| "I learned a great deal in this course." |
| Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ |

| Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement: |
| "The instructor's teaching in this course was effective." |
| Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☑ |
Advanced Translation: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
Homework, Midterm and Final projects

Describe course content
Advanced Translation

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.
Weekly translation assignments both ways

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:
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</table>
Geo-politics of the Middle East: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
Weekly homework, Final exam

Describe course content
Topics in Geopolitics of the Middle East

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.
Weekly lectures on Geopolitics related issues

Other comments about this course:

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Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:
"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

Contemporary Arabic Novel

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Final Paper, outside of class interview, participation

Describe course content

A critical reading of Ala'a El-Aswany's Chicago and contemporary poetry

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

A very humanistic approach to literature

Other comments about this course:

Brilliant conversation, led to my interview with the author himself

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

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- Not helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

Learn very good Egyptian colloquial so you can show your understanding of a culture and scare rude people away.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

The language pledge is very important and it is something that only this program has.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Pave your own way when you are abroad. Do what you want to do. Be independent. Travel every free moment. Make smart choices. Do not subscribe to a monolithic view of a nation. Be aware of internal difference and struggles within your host nation.

Why did you choose this particular program and site?

The Middlebury pedagogy.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
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| Did your expectations of the program as advertised before you went abroad match the reality of your experience during your study abroad? | ○ Completely matched  
○ Was what I expected for the most part  
○ Was somewhat different from what I expected  
○ Was vastly different than what I'd expected |
| Comments                                                                |                                                                                 |
| Did you receive acceptance and pre-departure information in a timely fashion? | ○ Yes  
○ No |
| Did you find the mailings and online resources useful?                  | ○ Yes  
○ No |
Home Institution
- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

What was the period of your study abroad?
- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

In general, the classes seemed very disorganized. It was rare that we received syllabi, and when we received them, it was even rarer that they were actually followed throughout the term. In addition, some co-teachers did not coordinate, so we ended up either learning material twice or not learning it at all. The one facet of these classes I found very beneficial was that most teachers encouraged participation and questions, which gave us students a chance to direct the particulars of what we learned and practice speaking in coherent formal Arabic.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identical</th>
<th>Very Similar</th>
<th>Mostly Similar</th>
<th>Somewhat Different</th>
<th>Very Different</th>
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Please Comment:

Nothing could have prepared me for how women are treated in Egypt. I knew that people told me that I would be harassed in the street for being a woman and for being white, but I had no conception of how much I would be harassed. Constantly feeling conspicuous was the biggest challenge. Also, Egyptians are very willing to speak their minds, by and large, so nobody pretended that I didn't stick out. At the same time, one of my close Egyptian friends lived in a rural village and I spent a lot of time out there, and given that such an environment is generally less exposed to Western ideas, I probably got the extreme end of some harassment and misconceptions about the United States.
How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

While there was a lot of Egyptian culture, such as the food and history and historical relics, that I deeply appreciated, in general, I felt extremely happy to get back to the United States. I was very open-minded while in Egypt, and tried my best to embrace the culture and really get to know Egyptians, but once I got back in the United States, I realized that while the U.S. has a long way to go in combating discrimination and promoting individual liberty, the extent to which I felt respected and free to be myself was so much greater here. One thing I realized is that my conception of how the government works and how society should influence the individual is largely incompatible with the realities of Egypt. Religion in Egypt was one very particular aspect that was hard for me to understand. It seemed to permeate all aspects of the culture, and though I am a Christian, I could not live surrounded by that sort of religious thinking. I would also say that study abroad made me finally accept that it was all right to make judgments about another culture and about what I thought was right and wrong, at least in regards to my personal beliefs.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

I am a very persistent person, and I think that was the single characteristic that helped me the most. No matter how difficult it was to immerse myself in such a vastly different culture, I had gone over there to learn about Egypt and Egyptian culture, and I was going to learn about Egypt and Egyptian culture. I had never lived outside of Vermont before traveling to Egypt, so moving to and living in such a different place forced me to adapt in a way that most people probably do more when they begin attending college. I now feel that I am prepared to move to a new place and begin a life there, and thrive.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

I am living in the United States in the future. I could not live in a culture with the attitudes about women that I found all too common in Egypt, and I do not want to live in a culture where I feel and will always feel like a stranger unless I give up a crucial part of myself. As far as academic and career goals, though I found learning Arabic to be a very rewarding experience, I am an English major, and my understanding of the English language is more deep and broad than my understanding of Arabic could ever be, so I see my future leading me towards English, and perhaps teaching English.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory
- Homestay then Apartment
- Dormitory then Apartment
- Other (please describe)
Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not at all - it was isolating</th>
<th>Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected</th>
<th>As helpful as I expected</th>
<th>Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected</th>
<th>Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration</th>
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Please comment on your response to the question above.

I was certainly exposed to the culture by my host mother. Although as time went on, we spent less time together, she was always careful to have dinner with me at least once a week and also helped me a great deal with my Arabic in constructive ways (such as teaching me words for every item in the bathroom and kitchen, and then conducting quizzes). She also introduced me to some of her adult friends.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

- No improvement
- Little improvement
- Improved somewhat
- Improved
- Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

- No improvement
- Little improvement
- Improved somewhat
- Improved
- Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

- No improvement
- Little improvement
- Improved somewhat
- Improved
- Very much improved
What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

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Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

My improvement was far greater than I had expected it would be. That said, I think most of my improvement was in colloquial Arabic and was produced from my conversations with Egyptian Arabic speakers outside the classroom. A lot of my language I picked up from speaking with my host family, neighbors, and Egyptian friends. This isn't a function of the program not being adequate, I just learn by doing, so speaking a lot and having my errors corrected by speakers worked the best for me. I probably could have studied harder, which would have helped me to understand why parts of the language worked the way they did, and helped me to progress more in Fusha (which I feel was the area in which I made the least gain). My one suggestion to future students is to really throw yourselves into the culture and to speaking with Egyptians. There's a limited amount you can learn from other Americans, and this is your big chance to practice. You may think you sound really dumb at first, but you don't sound nearly as dumb as you think you do, and native speakers are happy to help you learn their language. And stick to the language pledge. You'll be happy you did.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Opportunity for as much or as little involvement in the programs as you wish -- and hence, opportunity to get as involved as you wish with activities outside the program.

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

It will not be as clear as it is in America what, exactly, the homework is, sometimes. Also, some teachers may seem disorganized. Sometimes they are. Sometimes, that’s just how they teach, and it works.
Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced: Please tell us about this course.

Instructor's Name (This will be hidden when the survey is published):

Dr. Sayed and Dra. Nehad

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Homework (very little); Tests

Describe course content

Examples from and outside textbook; in-class discussions; reading and exercises from the MSA textbook

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Most of the concepts were conveyed through in-class lecture, combined with discussion and practice of concepts. In my opinion, we could have practiced more and discussed less, but in general, this teaching style worked for me.

Other comments about this course:

The co-teachers really needed to coordinate more to make sure we learning all of the material, just once. They also needed to be much clearer about the syllabus and what, exactly, the homework was and what needed to be turned in.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Beginning Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Oral exams; written homework; take-home interviews of Egyptians

Describe course content

Most of the content was basic grammar and vocabulary, combined with discussions about culture.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

This class evolved a great deal throughout the semester, but in general, concepts were conveyed through reading and practice, along with listening to music and watching films and speaking (a great deal).

Other comments about this course:

This course was great when taught by Hiba. She was an encouraging and effective teacher.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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**Intermediate Translation: Please tell us about this course.**

**Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)**

Written (and a few oral, in-class) translations of Arabic material to English and vice-versa

**Describe course content**

Discussion of our weekly translations, which branched into discussions of broader concepts relating to translation

**Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.**

This class generally functioned as a discussion led by the teachers about what did and did not work in particular translations by the students, and what the best translations were and why. This was an effective teaching method once I got used to it.

**Other comments about this course:**

There were a couple weeks when our translation assignments were corrected and returned to us. This was really helpful and I wish it had been done every week.

**Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

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Geo-politics of the Middle East: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
Weekly writing assignments; Midterm; Final Exam

Describe course content
Lecture; Some in-class discussion

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

This course was pretty much straight lecture, straight being a somewhat subjective term, given the meandering course the lectures often took. Lectures are clear not a new way of learning for me; however, Dr. Fathi's lectures often wandered and did not seem to begin at one point with the goal of ending at another.

Other comments about this course:
Lectures would sometimes be essentially the same from week to week, or continue to discuss subjects in ways that didn't seem to really bring forth any new knowledge or concepts. That said, I did like how willing Dr. Fathi was to take our questions and honestly consider and answer them.

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<td>☐ Anthropological Perspectives on Egyptian Women</td>
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<td>☐ Slum Development &amp; Urban Planning</td>
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**One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.**

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Weekly writing assignments; In-class discussion

Describe course content

In-class reading; question and answer with instructor

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

In general, the teacher would expound on a particular subject, usually suggested by myself, and highlight and define particularly important concepts and vocabulary. She would also provide me with reading, read through it out loud, and then have me read through the same passage, correcting my pronunciation and explaining as we went.

Other comments about this course:

This professor spoke too much English for my taste sometimes. Though it would have been more circuitous for her to explain some concepts to me only in Arabic, I would have appreciated the extra practice.

**Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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**Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?**

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Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

<table>
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Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- [ ] Not concerned or approachable
- [ ] Approachable, but not concerned
- [ ] Concerned, but not approachable
- [x] Somewhat concerned and approachable
- [ ] Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

My advice would be to be prepared for the discrimination, ignore it when you can, and don't (up to the point of putting yourself in actual danger) let it stop you from doing anything. Women face a lot of stereotypes, harassment, and what are, in my opinion, backward attitudes, and it is particularly hard to deal with this given the relatively liberal attitudes prevalent in the U.S. (and especially at most college campuses). My advice to the staff -- that gathering that you had for all the female students to discuss harassment came a lot later in the semester than it should have, but it was good. Even though this harassment may seem normal, and possibly not even like harassment, it's a really big deal for Americans.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

Please explain:

Pros: You will get a great education. Cons: If you're looking for a really unified program with all the kinks worked out and lots of support for students, look elsewhere. A lot of the adjustment will come from within, not from the program easing you into the culture.
What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

It will be a very difficult, but very rewarding experience, and no matter whether you come out thinking it was the most amazing thing you've ever done or thinking that you would never return for any amount of money, you will have learned much about yourself.
Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

Tufts University

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country’s educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

The style of Egyptian teaching was quite different from than in America, mostly because I believe the Egyptian teachers thought less was expected of them. The education system in Egypt is not exactly stellar, and teachers in this environment kind of self-handicap themselves and do not really prepare for classes. Therefore, much of my learning was done outside of the classroom. However, there were certain requirements for my classes that forced me to study, which was also helpful.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

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Please Comment:

In Egypt, things seem to mostly revolve around Islam. It is an incredibly religious country, and basically every time you talk to someone, the first question is what religion are you. I’d find myself saying Christian, even though I don’t really identify with Christianity, just to keep things simple.

Arab culture in general is also very different than Western culture just in the way people interact. There is much more trust between strangers in the Arab world, and it’s a lot easier to meet people.

Finally, it has put into perspective the political and social problems in the U.S. Egypt has so many issues politically and socially; it makes the U.S. look almost perfect.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

See above. Also, it makes the relatively conservative (compared to Europe) America seem like the bastion of liberality.
In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

It opened up a whole new part of the Arab world for me. Previously I had only traveled in the Levant, but Egypt is completely different. It makes the Levant look incredibly prosperous, which adds to my experience in the Third World.

Being able to talk to people easily was definitely most useful for me. Meeting Egyptians and talking with them was one of the most interesting parts of my experience.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

My goal was to learn Arabic well, and I did. I came back better in every aspect of both MSA and colloquial. It was exactly what I was looking for.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory
- Homestay then Apartment
- Dormitory then Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

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Please comment on your response to the question above.

I lived with 7 other Americans, a German and 8 Egyptians, along with the staff in the dorms. This was an excellent opportunity to speak in Arabic, learn the language and learn about the culture. It was definitely the best part about the program.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No
Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

- [ ] No improvement
- [ ] Little improvement
- [ ] Improved somewhat
- [ ] Improved
- [x] Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

- [ ] No improvement
- [ ] Little improvement
- [ ] Improved somewhat
- [ ] Improved
- [ ] Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

- [ ] No improvement
- [ ] Little improvement
- [x] Improved somewhat
- [ ] Improved
- [ ] Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

- [ ] No improvement
- [ ] Little improvement
- [ ] Improved somewhat
- [ ] Improved
- [x] Very much improved

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

It was what I was hopinf for. I wasn't really sure what to expect in terms of improvement, but it met my hopes. Definitely, the most important part to my learning was the language pledge. It was the best part of this program, along with living with Egyptian students. At the beginning I mostly spoke with other Americans in slow, broken Arabic, but as the term progressed, I spoke more and more with Egyptian students and my ability to communicate increased immensely. My only suggestion is to keep the language pledge and maybe improve the classes a bit.
Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exams, homework (sometimes), in class participation

Describe course content

We followed Al-Kitaab part III almost exactly

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

We just took class time to go over the different drills and lessons in class. It wasn't particularly useful.

Other comments about this course:

It was obvious that both professors (I can't remember the other's name) didn't really prepare at all for the daily lessons. Every day they would open the book as if for the first time that week and discover what it was that we were going to be doing that day.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
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Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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Beginning Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exams, in class participation, homework

Describe course content

We learned very elementary colloquial Egyptian Arabic

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

There was a textbook, that wasn't very good, from which copies were made and handed out to the class. A lot of the time we did the drills in class, and they were almost always incredibly simple.

Other comments about this course:

This class, although a beginners class, was far too elementary. Whoever designed the curriculum did not seem to understand that a) everyone in the class had been studying Arabic for at least 2 years or b) that we were all constantly learning colloquial outside of class by talking with our dormmates. This class focused too much on elementary things that we already knew about Arabic, and not enough on the differences between Formal and colloquial Arabic.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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Intermediate Media Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Instructor's Name (This will be hidden when the survey is published):

Rasha

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Papers, exams, homework, in class participation

Describe course content

We read newspaper articles and sometimes talked about their content.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Rasha would hand out articles during class and we would read them aloud, sometimes talking about their content.

Other comments about this course:

Nothing in this class focused on any media other than newspaper. It seemed silly that in a media class we never turned the T.V. on.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Intermediate Translation: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Homework

Describe course content

Every week we translated a piece from English to Arabic and one from Arabic to English.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

In class we would go over mistakes made by the class. This was the most "American" class of them all, probably because it was half taught by an American.

Other comments about this course:

The homework was pretty time consuming, but helped immensely with reading and writing Arabic. Class time wasn't that useful.

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<td>Slum Development &amp; Urban Planning</td>
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<td>Classical Poetry</td>
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<td>Arabic Novel/Poetry/Drama</td>
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<td>Sufism &amp; Islamic Philosophy</td>
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<td>Religious Life in Egypt</td>
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<td>Quranic Studies</td>
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<td>Other (Please write topic in box below)</td>
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</table>
One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Paper

Describe course content

We mostly talked about Islamic Philosophy. And by we I mean my professor would talk at me for 90 minutes.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

It was straight lecture for the entire class. Each meeting I would usually get one, maybe two questions in.

Other comments about this course:

It was incredibly hard to pay attention to, mostly because Abdel-Qader would just talk for 90 minutes straight. I can barely pay attention for that long in English, let alone Arabic.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

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Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?  

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Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?  

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Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?  

- ☐ Not concerned or approachable  
- ☑ Approachable, but not concerned  
- ☑ Concerned, but not approachable  
- ☑ Somewhat concerned and approachable  
- ☑ Very concerned and approachable  

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?  

- ☑ Yes  
- ☐ No  

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.  

- Women just need to be careful in public.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?  

- ☑ Yes  
- ☐ No  

Please explain:  

- If you want to learn Arabic, do it.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?  

- Studying abroad is an amazing opportunity, and everyone should do it. Living in the U.S. for your entire life causes one to miss out on a lot of culture that exists.  
- This program does an exceptional job of immersing you in both the language and culture of Egypt, and the results are apparent.
**Why did you choose this particular program and site?**

Because it was exactly what I was looking for in a study abroad program. Intensive Arabic, language pledge, city without much English, living with native speakers, and the dialect was a good one.

**Did your expectations of the program as advertised before you went abroad match the reality of your experience during your study abroad?**

- [ ] Completely matched
- [ ] Was what I expected for the most part
- [ ] Was somewhat different from what I expected
- [ ] Was vastly different than what I’d expected

Comments:

I was expecting the classes to be better. Other than that, everything was essentially the same.

**Did you receive acceptance and pre-departure information in a timely fashion?**

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

**Did you find the mailings and online resources useful?**

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

**How would you recommend that we improve in this area?**

I applied incredibly early and I feel like whoever was supposed to email me with my acceptance simply forgot, based on a couple emails I received.

**Were there particular challenges unique to you as a student from another institution? Please explain.**

No.
Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

While the educational system in Egypt does differ, the Middlebury program attempted to find a middle ground between the two systems in its courses. One both the professor and the students could work with. For the most part this was successful, however, I personally felt that the program could have been a bit more adamant in insisting that the American students accept a teaching system different from their own.

The Egyptian system merely presents the material and the student is left to lean it by himself, as opposed to the American system, which walks the student through each step of understanding and memorizing the information.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

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Please Comment:

Egypt's culture is quite different from our own. In the ways that people interact with each other, from buying something in a store, to talking to someone on the street, to interactions between the sexes, to the dynamics of a friendship. I found it necessary to drop many of my assumptions about such interactions and learn the Egyptian way to foster better relationships.
How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

From the US we hear many of the opinions coming from Egypt and the Middle East and cannot understand how a person can think that way. Meeting and becoming friends with people who hold these beliefs helped me to understand that they are in fact rational. Many of these people think the same way I do, just starting from different assumptions. This also helped me understand some of the assumptions that are built into my way of thinking, simply because of where I was born and raised. I found that in most cultural conflicts, I sided with the American way for mostly the same reasons that the Egyptians sided with the Egyptian way.

Coming back to the US has also been very interesting as I now view my own culture for the first time as one of the many ways that a group of humans can be organized and as one system of values, rather than as the standard by which all else should be judged.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

It is impossible for a foreigner, especially of non-Arab descent to blend in in Egypt, in terms of looks, methods of thought, and mannerisms. Because of this my year abroad forced me to think a lot about my personal identity and what it means to be American, both in general and as it pertains to me.

I found that being forced to forge my own way through many situations, rather than take the path of someone else, gave me a great deal of self confidence.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

I loved learning the language. I would like to continue perfecting my Arabic, and perhaps go on to learn other languages and explore the diversity of human communication.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- [ ] Homestay
- [ ] Dormitory
- [ ] Homestay then Apartment
- [ ] Dormitory then Apartment
- [ ] Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

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Please comment on your response to the question above.

Living with a number of Egyptians was great for language acquisition. I learned more there than in class.
Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?
- Yes
- No

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?
- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

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Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I briefly worked as a volunteer translator at the Bibliotheca Alexandia. I learned some good vocabulary, but my translations sort of felt like just extra homework.

I also worked over the summer as a teacher of English and German. This was great as it help me see parts of what it is to be a native Arabic speaker in terms of what is easy and difficult about English and German. It was also good for my Arabic since many of my coworkers (secretaries teachers of subjects other than English, etc.) spoke little or no English. So I learned how to do scheduling and such in Arabic. I also gave all my feedback to parents of children and taught less advanced students in Arabic. I would highly recommend work of this kind to future students.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

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What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

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What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

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<th>No improvement</th>
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<th>Improved somewhat</th>
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Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

I feel that I went from being utterly incompetent to nearly fluent in Arabic. Living and hanging out with Egyptians were the biggest contributors to my progress. As far as suggestions, you will have the same conversation many, many times with different people. Rather than getting bored or frustrated, experiment and try to perfect that conversation.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:
Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Drills mostly

Please describe the course content:

Worked out of al-Kitaab with lengthy grammatical supplements at the hands of Sayed.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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</table>
**Beginning Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.**

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

All of the above

Describe course content

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:

I felt that the teachers were unsure of how to teach 3amiya, but this greatly improved over the course of the semester and the spring semester.

**Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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**Intermediate Media Arabic: Please tell us about this course.**

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Exams. Sometimes homework assignments

Describe course content

Read a lot of newspapers

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:

This would have been much more useful later in my study of Arabic. My Arabic at this point was really still too simple to read news articles. I honestly got more out of reading the newspaper and listening to the radio second semester and over the summer than I did out of this course.
Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Intermediate Translation: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Lots of translations

Describe course content

See above

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

We were given many passages that could not be literally translated and shown how to convey the same meaning in the other language.

Other comments about this course:

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Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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**Fall Semester: One-on-One Tutorial**

- ○ Islamic Politics and Society
- ○ Egyptian-Israeli Relations
- ○ Gender Studies
- ○ Anthropological Perspectives on Egyptian Women
- ○ Slum Development & Urban Planning
- ○ History of Oil in the Middle East
- ○ Modern History of the Middle East
- ○ Egyptology
- ○ History and Geography of Oil in the Middle East
- ○ Geo-Politics of the Middle East
- ○ Egyptian Literature
- ○ Classical Poetry
- ○ Arabic Novel/Poetry/Drama
- ○ Sufism & Islamic Philosophy
- ○ Religious Life in Egypt
- ○ Quranic Studies
- ○ Other (Please write topic in box below)
One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Final paper. Lots of participation grade based on how well I memorized my notes.

Describe course content

We discussed the language, religion, politics, and lifestyle of ancient Egypt.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

He stood up and lectured to me. I did very little other than take notes and memorize them later.

Other comments about this course:

Again, my Arabic was a bit simple for this course and I think that the language plede, although great for learning the language, impeded my ability to gain much from this professor, whose English was much, much better than my Arabic.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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</table>
Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

All of the above

Describe course content

Lots of al-Kitaab, and additional readings, grammar explanations and writing topics from Nihad.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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</table>
Intermediate Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

All of the above

Describe course content

Mostly we had a topic that we would discuss each class. We would learn the vocabulary and Egyptian viewpoints on the topic. We also had some grammar lessons, mostly on mistakes that people were making in class, as most of us had a fairly good grasp on colloquial grammar at this point.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:

I found this teaching style very effective. The professors really figured out how to teach colloquial over the fall semester and this course was great.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Geo-politics of the Middle East: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
Weekly short essays on the previous lecture's topic.

Describe course content
Lots of definitions. A little bit of content

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:
Very slow moving. Once we assured the professor that all of us could understand better than we could speak, we made a bit more progress, but honestly we didn't cover much that I couldn't have gleaned from a few hours on Wikipedia. I did get some good vocabulary though.

| Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement: |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| "I learned a great deal in this course." | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
| 〇 | 〇 | 〇 | 〇 | 〇 | 〇 |

| Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement: |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| "The instructor's teaching in this course was effective." | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
| 〇 | 〇 | 〇 | 〇 | 〇 | 〇 |
Islamic Politics and Society: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Response papers to articles and a final exam.

Describe course content

Lectures on the various schools of thought and organizations in Islamic politics.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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Spring Semester: One-on-One Tutorial

- Islamic Politics and Society
- Egyptian-Israeli Relations
- Gender Studies
- Anthropological Perspectives on Egyptian Women
- Slum Development & Urban Planning
- History of Oil in the Middle East
- Modern History of the Middle East
- Egyptology
- History and Geography of Oil in the Middle East
- Geo-Politics of the Middle East
- Egyptian Literature
- Classical Poetry
- Arabic Novel/Poetry/Drama
- Suphism & Islamic Philosophy
- Religious Life in Egypt
- Quranic Studies
- Other (Please write topic in box below)
One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Final paper

Describe course content

We read a lot of poems together and Dr. Ahmed gave me background on the poets and large movements. We started from the beginning of classical Arabic poetry and did a survey up to some modern writers.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:

While I often felt my Arabic was weak for this subject, Dr. Ahmed was very good at translating archaic Arabic into something I could understand. This course was also the only place all year that I used spoken formal Arabic to a goal and in a conversational style. Because of this I believe this class helped my formal Arabic better than the formal Arabic classes or anything else over the year did.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

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<th>Excellent</th>
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**Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?**

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<th>Poor</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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**Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not helpful</th>
<th>Somewhat helpful</th>
<th>Very helpful</th>
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</table>

**Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?**

- ☐ Not concerned or approachable
- ☐ Approachable, but not concerned
- ☐ Concerned, but not approachable
- ☐ Somewhat concerned and approachable
- ☐ Very concerned and approachable

**Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.**

> Just get used to the idea that you will stick out everywhere and will hear a lot of ignorant stuff about you and your culture. Try to remember that Americans do the same thing, the only difference being that we are more used to people of different colors. If you’re a girl, talk to a girl who has been. I think this is a much bigger issue for women.

**Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please explain:

> It will hook you up with some good Arabic

**What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?**

> This was probably the most mind expanding and interesting thing I’ve ever done. I would most definitely recommend it. Even if you hate Egypt (I don’t, I love it) you will learn a tremendous about.
Home Institution
- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

What was the period of your study abroad?
- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

Because my target was to use the language effectively and to experience the country, I found that time spent socializing actually improved my rate of acquisition of Arabic, and that time spent studying inside by myself ought to be minimized. This was difficult to do and I spent a lot of time trying to stick to the books for the first 2 months when I ought to have gone out more.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

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<tr>
<th>Identical</th>
<th>Very Similar</th>
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<th>Somewhat Different</th>
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Please Comment:

Egyptian values for the majority of Egyptians are not just different, but frequently polar opposite values from those I believe most Americans hold. I knew a handful of American-Egyptian couples, and these relationships highlighted the points at which these cultures clash. Of course, Egyptians with Western-style education or Egyptians from an upper-class upbringing tend to be more relatable. I was able to appreciate people who were drastically different than me simply because I took it for granted that we saw certain things wholly differently.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

I and other students came to Egypt completely open to an impressively different host culture. My first reaction was to let myself be swallowed up in that culture, to participate in it. From that period, I think I gained the ability to understand that culture. Later, Egyptian friends were open about their criticisms towards their own culture. I think I left with a familiarity and love of Egyptian culture, but also the ability to evaluate it but not judge it. On returning to America, I feel uncomfortable in revealing clothing. I feel strange about keeping personal space boundaries, which have ballooned out and now feel almost isolating. The return is subtly uncomfortable. I am home, and glad for it... I think.
In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

The greatest value study abroad held for me personally was that I could separate myself from my circumstances in America and see myself clearly. It was easy in Egypt to see how the culture affected me. That is not at all easy to do in one's home country. I think it was the first opportunity I had in my life to really understand myself.

I think the ability to socialize with people from variant backgrounds is an extremely useful quality. In the US, I have friends from varying socioeconomic backgrounds, races, sexualities, and politics, so it wasn't strange for me to make new friends from a background different than mine. I also make friends relatively easily, so I always had a native to help me through sticky spots.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

Academically, it nearly ruined me. I was not able to manage a Psychology major while getting the benefit of a full year. It's common knowledge that one semester is just enough time to leave the country as you should be reaching the peak of your learning. A full year grants more lasting benefits. It's common knowledge at Middlebury that if you do go abroad for a year, you had better know your major Fall of your freshman year to make most majors work. It's a common frustration.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory
- Homestay then Apartment
- Dormitory then Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

- Not at all - it was isolating
- Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected
- As helpful as I expected
- Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected
- Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration

Please comment on your response to the question above.

My host family gave me a huge advantage at first. I was doing better than the students in the dormitory because I had people to speak to in Arabic from the get-go, and my host parents happened to be skillful teachers. However, the benefit quickly degenerated because there were a lot of things going on in that home that made me uneasy, and I became unhappy. I ended up avoiding the father, who had once been my very best teacher. It was horrible, and might have been avoided if the screening process for host families were better. Then the apartment was not ideal either. The building and apartment had serious problems, such as lack of heating and leaks which left lakes on our floor for us to mop, gas tanks which were never delivered before the first ran out (which led to no hot water or use of the stove... we didn't have a microwave), and a broken elevator which we relied on to get to the 10th floor. Each of these problems were serious time-saps and distractions.
Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?
- Yes
- No

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?
- Yes
- No

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?
- No improvement
- Little improvement
- Improved somewhat
- Improved
- Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?
- No improvement
- Little improvement
- Improved somewhat
- Improved
- Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?
- No improvement
- Little improvement
- Improved somewhat
- Improved
- Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?
- No improvement
- Little improvement
- Improved somewhat
- Improved
- Very much improved

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

I did really well in the colloquial but improved little in the Modern Standard Arabic because those classes were always troubled; professors didn't seem to know how to make class time effective or have appropriate/realistic expectations concerning workload.
Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Trips gave breadth to the experience, we saw a lot of different sides of Egypt.

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

The housing situation is a disaster. Egyptian infrastructure doesn't support quality student housing, and malnutrition and bed bugs were among the chief concerns of students in the dorms. How distracting.

**Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced: Please tell us about this course.**

Instructor's Name (This will be hidden when the survey is published):

Sayid

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.):

class participation, exams

Please describe the course content:

al-Kitaab 2

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to:

- lecture

Other comments about this course:

________________________________________________________________________________________

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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Beginning Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

oral and written exams, homework

Describe course content

conversation, vocabulary for common situations such as going to the bank, popular music, some film/plays

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

either a) we came in with questions and most of the class was spent on answers b) there was a passage or piece to discuss and draw new vocabulary from or c) we were practicing conversational skills

Other comments about this course:

wonderful teachers, very understanding and patient, but also very bright ladies

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Intermediate Media Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

homework and exams

Describe course content

newspapers

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

reading articles, examining new vocab

Other comments about this course:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Intermediate Translation: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
translation projects, homework

Describe course content
practice translating

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.
group practice, discussion

Other comments about this course:
the most effective class Fall of 2008

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:
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### Fall Semester: One-on-One Tutorial

- Islamic Politics and Society
- Egyptian-Israeli Relations
- Gender Studies
- Anthropological Perspectives on Egyptian Women
- Slum Development & Urban Planning
- History of Oil in the Middle East
- Modern History of the Middle East
- Egyptology
- History and Geography of Oil in the Middle East
- Geo-Politics of the Middle East
- Egyptian Literature
- Classical Poetry
- Arabic Novel/Poetry/Drama
- Sufism & Islamic Philosophy
- Religious Life in Egypt
- Quranic Studies
- Other (Please write topic in box below)
One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)
- quizzes

Describe course content
- Egyptology vocab and background on important sites in Egypt, mythology

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.
- lecture/ notetaking

Other comments about this course:

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Modern Standard Arabic - Advanced: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

HW and exams

Describe course content

al-kitaab 3

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture

Other comments about this course:

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Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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Intermediate Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

- papers, exams, oral exams,

Describe course content

- film, popular music, advice columns and opinion articles to study colloquialisms, some text book content to refine grammar, and conversation

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

- discussion

Other comments about this course:

Lena was incredible. Do not lose her, she's the most capable and effective Egyptian professor I ever had. She's organized, motivated, and an all-around skillful teacher.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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Intermediate Translation: Please tell us about this course.

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Translation projects

Describe course content

Some instant translation, some written translation

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Practice, practice, practice

Other comments about this course:

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One-on-One Tutorial: Please tell us about this course.

Title of Course (If not on drop-down menu):
Selected topics in Psychology

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

essays

Describe course content
discussion of common complaints among Egyptian patients, Familiarization with where to use English terminology and where to use Arabic in a medical profession, read some research done in Arabic as well as sections of Arabic text books.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

the professor allowed me to choose my topics, and then we used a variety of methods to enhance my ability to use Arabic in psychology

Other comments about this course:
Doctor Medhat was fascinating. I will always, always remember his approach to psychology and his faith in this science. He was an inspiring teacher.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

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Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

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Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not helpful</th>
<th>Somewhat helpful</th>
<th>Very helpful</th>
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Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- O Not concerned or approachable
- O Approachable, but not concerned
- O Concerned, but not approachable
- O Somewhat concerned and approachable
- O Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- O Yes
- O No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

Girls ought to be given practical advice for handling harassment, because it is difficult to know how to react even if they understand that harassment is a problem. Harassment is rampant. If I walked down the Corniche in the afternoon, men would actually pull over to pick me up and make me offers, thinking that I was a prostitute! Dressed in jeans and a long sleeved tee, imagine it! I've been followed in cars, which is scary, but most of the time, it's more along the lines of "Hey Beautiful/Ya Gameela!" or sexual sounding grunts as I pass by. Nearly every girl in our program has been groped in public despite having been warned of that likelihood in advance.

The best thing to be done is to keep around sensitive, approachable female staff such as Mona, Heba, Lena, and Radwa. They could even be put in an advisor capacity. Nehad ends up spending so much time on these sorts of incidents, but some of my friends didn't want to mix the program coordinator up in such sordid events. If the aforementioned women had been in advisory capacities, I think my friends and I would have fared better. Each of these women were employed by the program Spring 2009, and I swear that they are among its strongest assets.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- O Yes
- O No

Please explain:

the program is worth it if you don't get terribly sick off the food. The food doesn't just make you sick the first month. It's an ongoing battle for some students.
What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Get an apartment but make friends too.
Make sure you can still finish your major.
Remember that Egypt does not have the FDA, and it shows.