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ABSTRACT

Short-Term Teacher Training Seminar in Jordan 2005 Center for Middle East Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

The Center for Middle East Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara will conduct a short-term training seminar in Jordan for 20 California-based K-12 teachers, administrators, and instructors working at two- or four-year colleges. The seminar is designed to strengthen the knowledge of Middle Eastern society and culture among California educators who teach or administer social studies and humanities curricula. The goal of the seminar is to expand the network of experienced teachers who will foster curriculum development in Middle East area studies and the Arabic language. The seminar will consist of daily lectures and field trips in Amman, other parts of Jordan, and a short trip to Damascus, Syria. Participants will meet with Jordanian Ministry of Education officials, educators, NGO representatives and students, in order to establish ongoing curricular exchange networks via the Internet and personal contacts. They will visit a wide range of educational institutions including public and private schools, university education facilities, community colleges, literacy training programs, handicraft and vocational training centers. A special focus of the seminar will be daily Arabic language classes for non-specialists in order to introduce the basic elements of Arabic language culture into K-12 curriculum. UCSB faculty and Jordanian experts will lecture in the areas of archeology, Islam and religious studies, Middle East history, social studies, politics, and culture. Classroom discussions will be accompanied by field trips to archeological, historical, cultural, and religious sites in Jordan and Syria.

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