Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages

Chairperson: Khairallah, Assaad I.
Professors: Agha, Saleh S.; Baalbaki, Ramzi M. (Margaret Weyerhaeuser Jewett Professor of Arabic); Jarrar, Maher Z.; Khairallah, Assaad I.; *Makarem, Sami N.; *Naimy, Nadeem N.; Tuqan, Fawwaz A.
Associate Professor: Wilmsen, David E.
Assistant Professor: Orfali, Bilal W.
Senior Lecturers: El-Zein, Abdul fattah H.; *Kattourah, George B.
Lecturers: Abu-Jawdeh, Siham E.; Jeha, George E.; *Kozah, Mario K.
Instructors: *Hajjar, Olga A.; Zein, Raghda

The Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages offers graduate programs leading to the MA and PhD degrees. The requirements for both degrees are listed below.

Students who are candidates for the MA program in the Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages, and who do not satisfy the AUB English Entrance Examination (EEE) requirements, may be accepted for graduate study provided they satisfy the university English entrance requirement before graduation.¹

The PhD program in Arabic and Near Eastern Languages was reactivated in October 2007. For admission and graduation requirements, refer to the faculty and department web pages.

MA in Arabic Language and Literature

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARAB 301</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar in Classical Arabic Literature (Poetry or Prose)</td>
<td>3.0; 3 cr.</td>
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¹ Part time
¹ These students may have to take one or more courses in English over and above their graduation requirements
ARAB 313  Graduate Seminar in Folk Literature  3.0; 3 cr.
ARAB 315  Graduate Seminar in Comparative Literature  3.0; 3 cr.
ARAB 317  Graduate Seminar in Advanced Semitics or Linguistics  3.0; 3 cr.
ARAB 351  Special Topics  1–3 cr.
ARAB 390  Tutorial in Arabic Language or Literature  1–3 cr.
ARAB 395A/395B  Comprehensive Exam  0 cr.
Prerequisite: Consent of adviser.
ARAB 399  MA Thesis  9 cr.

Doctor of Philosophy in Arabic Language and Literature

The Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages is steeped in the Arabic philological and literary tradition. Its faculty is also experienced in the use of contemporary western methods of teaching and approaches to language and literature. For this reason, the department is well-positioned to train future leaders in the field.

Academic governance of the department complies with the practices and procedures currently applied by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. The department seeks to augment its faculty as needed and this mainly through exchange and visiting programs as well as through highly selective and articulately defined recruitment.

Goals and Objectives of the Doctoral Program

The program’s objective is to train men and women to become technically competent in their preferred field of specialization and to train them to play a principal role in enhancing education in the region.

PhD candidates will acquire:
• Critical, interpretive and analytical skills,
• Benchmark methodologies leading to the conduct of advanced research, and
• Deeper, more sophisticated and more nuanced understanding of Arabic language and literature.

Curriculum

The offerings of the department fall within three broadly defined fields:
• Arabic language and related fields (phonetics, morphology, syntax, history of grammar, lexicology, stylistics, etc.);
• Classical and pre-modern Arabic literature and thought (including poetry, prose, belles lettres and other forms of literary expression);
• Modern Arabic literature and thought (including poetry, prose, literary theory, etc.).
Admission

Admission requirements are in line with those set by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and may be found in the section entitled Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under General University Academic Information. The department requires the following three requirements:

• A Master's degree in Arabic from a recognized university, or an equivalent considered acceptable by the department, plus three recommendations and an interview (when considered necessary by the department). Students of exceptional promise may be admitted after finishing their BA;

• Proven unimpaired Arabic; and

• English proficiency. For the required level of proficiency, see the section entitled English Language Proficiency Requirement under Admissions.

Financial Support

The department offers, on a selective basis, substantial support which fully covers tuition and includes a monthly stipend. At some point, depending on student abilities and departmental needs, the stipend could be replaced with monies to be earned through teaching. A PhD candidate is expected to begin teaching in the middle of his/her third year. Students may also apply for support to carry out research in archives and libraries outside of Lebanon and to attend international scholarly conferences.

For further details concerning student support, contact the Office of Admissions of the University.

Requirements for the Completion of the PhD

• **Credits:** A minimum of 18 credits, beyond the MA. These are comprised of six graduate courses (including a three-credit tutorial) in the following fields: (a) Arabic language and linguistics, (b) classical Arabic literature, (c) modern Arabic literature, (d) Arab cultural history (Qur'an, Hadith, kalam, tasawwuf, heresiography etc.), (e) literary theory (comparative: Arab/Western), (f) a one-on-one exploratory tutorial, conducted by the candidate’s adviser, and leading to the production of the candidate's doctoral proposal. The distribution of the above requirements over the said fields will be decided by the department in each case on its own merit. Students who are admitted directly after the BA are required to take 39 credits and write the equivalent of an MA thesis. For admission to the doctoral program after the BA, see Admission to PhD Programs, under Admissions.

• **Language Requirements:** A working reading knowledge of a second European language, preferably French or German, must be shown before candidacy status is achieved.

• **Residence Requirements:** See Residence Requirements, under General University Academic Information.

• **Supervision:** During the first semester of graduate study, the department will appoint an academic committee to draw up a program of study for the student and to follow up his/her progress. At a later stage, the department, in consultation with the student, will assign an academic adviser for him/her.

• **Candidacy Status:** See Admission to Candidacy, under General University Academic
Information. The student must achieve candidacy status not later than three years from the
date of admission, and at least one year before graduation. Achieving candidacy is conditional
upon completion of 18 credits, i.e. five courses plus the required tutorial for students with a
Masters degree, or 39 credits and the equivalent of an MA thesis for students with a BA; and
satisfying the proposal and the language requirements. To achieve candidacy, a student must
sit for a written comprehensive examination (PhD Qualification Exam Part I) comprising at
least three different papers. The proto examining committee, consisting of four AUB faculty
members of professorial rank, will be in charge of putting the questions and correcting the
answers. Within two weeks from the date of the written comprehensive, the student shall
appear before the proto examining committee to defend his/her answers.

• **Doctoral Proposal:** A detailed proposal defining the thesis problem, describing the pertinent
  literature, and suggesting the proposed approach to solving it, must be presented to,
defended before, and approved by the proto examining committee (PhD Qualification Exam
  Part II). The proposal must also be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty
  of Arts and Sciences and a copy sent to the Graduate Council.

• **Thesis:** Six copies of the pre-defense final manuscript must be submitted to the adviser
  at least eight weeks prior to the date of the defense session. This session shall be public.
  Candidates may, if they so elect, write their theses in English, provided members of the proto
  examining committee expressly state their satisfaction with the candidate’s capacity for
  acquisition of knowledge in Arabic.

• **Thesis Examining Committee:** The final official thesis examining committee shall include an
  ‘external examiner’ from another institution in Lebanon or elsewhere and members of the
  proto examining committee.

• **Awarding/Withholding the Degree:** The decision of the thesis examining committee may be
  one of the following four:
  
a. Award: with or without demanding minor corrections

b. Award: provided certain specific and restricted alterations are implemented within three
  months, and approved by the proto-committee

c. Suspend: major alterations are required and must be implemented within 6-12 months,
   after which the whole committee shall reconvene.

d. Withhold without further recourse

**Course Requirements**

The minimum course requirements (a total of six courses) are distributed as follows:

• One course in Arabic language

• One course in classical Arabic literature and thought

• One course in modern Arabic literature and thought

• One three-credit tutorial course in Arabic language or literature

• The two remaining courses must be distributed according to one of the following two options,
subject to the approval of the adviser:
  – Both courses in the same broad field to which the student’s thesis belongs OR
  – At least one course in the same broad field to which the student’s thesis belongs; the
    remaining course can be determined only subject to the approval of the student’s adviser.
Course Offerings

ARAB 301  Seminar in Classical Arabic Literature (Poetry or Prose) 3.0; 3 cr.
An overview of the formative elements (geographic, linguistic, ethnic, religious, and cultural) and defining issues (identity, nature, and economic drives), with selective focuses on major trends and figures in Classical Arabic Literature before 1258/657.

ARAB 303  Graduate Seminar in an Epoch, a Trend or a Book in Classical Arabic Literature 3.0; 3 cr.
Negotiating Classical Arabic Literature through the historical method, the thematic approach, or direct textual engagement, the selective focuses of this course cover a wide spectrum of Arabic literary production before 1258/657.

ARAB 305  Graduate Seminar in Qur’anic Studies 3.0; 3 cr.
A survey of the different problems in Qur’anic studies, such as compilation of the Qur’an, al-nasikh wal-mansukh, al-muhkam wal-mutashabih, the secret letters, and the different schools of tafsir.

ARAB 307  Graduate Seminar in European Literary Criticism and Its Influence on Modern Arabic Literary Criticism 3.0; 3 cr.
The course studies the rise of the Arabic Romantic Movement, the modern and post-modern trends, structuralism, intertextuality, deconstruction, as well as postcolonial, feminine and cultural studies.

ARAB 309  Graduate Seminar in Arabic Sources 3.0; 3 cr.
A systematic survey of the major sources of Arabic literary and linguistic study. The different genres represented by these sources are emphasized.

ARAB 311  Graduate Seminar in an Epoch, a Trend or a Book in Modern Arab Literature 3.0; 3 cr.
Focusing on a period, a trend, a particular author, or book, this course is an in-depth study using modern, critical and comparative approaches to literature.

ARAB 313  Graduate Seminar in Folk Literature 3.0; 3 cr.
An analytic study of Arabic folk literature and its development. Study includes the different influences on folk literature and its impact on Arabic literature during later centuries.

ARAB 315  Graduate Seminar in Comparative Literature 3.0; 3 cr.
This course deals with the theories and methods current in comparative literature in Arabic and worldwide, encouraging research on trans-cultural aspects of literary production, theory and criticism.

ARAB 317  Graduate Seminar in Advanced Semitics or Linguistics 3.0; 3 cr.
A study of the Arabic grammatical tradition, with special emphasis on the development of the grammarians’ analytic methods. Alternatively, and according to need, the course could offer a survey of comparative Semitic philology.

ARAB 351  Special Topics in Arabic Language and Literature 1–3 cr.
A course that varies in content and focuses on selected topics in language and literature.

ARAB 390  Tutorial in Arabic Language or Literature 1–3 cr.

ARAB 395A/395B  Comprehensive Exam 0 cr.
Prerequisite: Consent of adviser.
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<td>Preparation for Comprehensive Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARAB 495</td>
<td>Preparation for Dissertation Proposal</td>
<td>0 cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARAB 499</td>
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