

Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages

Chairperson:	Orfali, Bilal W.
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Instructors:	^P El Mallah, Jihad; ^P Harb, Reem; Malti, Samir; Semaan, Rima; Zein, Raghida M.

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.

For admission and graduation requirements, refer to the faculty and department web pages.

MA in Arabic Language and Literature

Students registered in the master's program in the Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages are required to take a minimum of 21 graduate credit hours and present a thesis based on independent research.

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, mainly through exchange and visiting programs as well as through highly selective and rigorously defined recruitment.

Goals and Objectives of the Doctoral Program

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

1) Part time

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.)

Admissions

Admission requirements are in line with those set by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and may be found in the section entitled Admission to PhD Programs under Admissions. The department necessitates the following three requirements:

- a master's degree in Arabic from a recognized university, or an equivalent considered acceptable by the department, plus three recommendation letters and an interview (when considered necessary by the department). Students of exceptional promise may be admitted after finishing their BA.
- proven unimpaired Arabic.
- 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. In return, PhD students are expected to teach courses and perform other tasks assigned by the department. Students may also apply for support to carry out research in archives and libraries outside Lebanon and to attend international scholarly conferences.

Requirements for the Completion of the PhD

- **Credits:** A minimum of 18 credits is required beyond the MA. These are comprised of six graduate courses (including a 3-credit tutorial) in the following required and optional fields.
- Required fields:
 - Arabic language and linguistics
 - Classical Arabic literature
 - Modern Arabic literature
- Optional fields:
 - Arab cultural history (Qur'an, Hadith, kalam, tasawwuf, heresiography, etc.)
 - Literary theory (comparative: Arab/Western)

In addition, the following is required: a 3-credit tutorial to be conducted by the candidate's advisor, 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.
- **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.
- **PhD Publication Requirements:** See PhD Publication Requirements under General University Academic Information.
- **Supervision:** During the first term of graduate study, the department will appoint an academic committee to draw up a program of study for the student and to follow up on her/his progress. At a later stage, the department, in consultation with the student, will assign the student an academic advisor.
- **Candidacy Status:** See Admission to Candidacy under General University Academic Information. The student must achieve candidacy status no 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 master's degree or 39 credits and the equivalent of an MA thesis for students with a BA while also satisfying the proposal and 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 writing questions and correcting answers. Within two weeks from the date of the written comprehensive, the student shall appear before the proto-examining committee to defend her/his answers.
- **Doctoral Proposal:** A detailed proposal defining the thesis problem, describing the pertinent literature and suggesting the proposed approach to solving it must be defended before and approved by the thesis examining committee (PhD Qualification Exam Part II). The committee membership must be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and a copy of the proposal must be sent to the Graduate Council.
- **Thesis Examining Committee:** For the composition of the committee, refer to PhD Thesis Committee under General University Academic Information.
- **Thesis Defense:** Six copies of the pre-defense final manuscript must be submitted to the advisor 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.
- **Awarding/Withholding the Degree:** The decision of the thesis examining committee may be one of the following four:
 - Award: with or without demanding minor corrections
 - Award: provided certain specific and restricted alterations are implemented within three months and approved by the proto-committee
 - Suspend: major alterations are required and must be implemented within 6-12 months, after which the whole committee shall reconvene
 - Withhold: without further recourse

Course Descriptions

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 focus on major trends and figures in classical Arabic literature before 1258/657. *The language of instruction in this course is Arabic.*

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. *The language of instruction in this course is Arabic.*

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. *The language of instruction in this course is Arabic.*

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. *The language of instruction in this course is Arabic.*

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. *The language of instruction in this course is Arabic.*

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 folk literature's impact on Arabic literature during later centuries. *The language of instruction in this course is Arabic.*

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 global literature, encouraging research on transcultural aspects of literary production, theory and criticism. *The language of instruction in this course is Arabic.*

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. *The language of instruction in this course is Arabic.*

ARAB 319 Graduate Seminar in Arabic Literary Theory 3.0; 3 cr.
 A survey of schools of literary criticism, genres and issues pertaining to 20th century Arabic literature. *Annually.*

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. <i>The language of instruction in this course is Arabic.</i>		
ARAB 390	Tutorial in Arabic Language or Literature	1–3 cr.
<i>May not be repeated for credit.</i>		
ARAB 395A/B	Comprehensive Exam	0 cr.
<i>Prerequisite: Consent of advisor.</i>		
ARAB 399	MA Thesis	9 cr.
ARAB 401	Tutorial in Arabic Language or Literature	3 cr.
ARAB 480	Qualifying Exam Part I: Comprehensive Exam	0 cr.
<i>Every term.</i>		
ARAB 481	Qualifying Exam Part II: Defense of Thesis Proposal	0 cr.
<i>Every term.</i>		
ARAB 484¹	PhD Thesis	30 cr.
To be taken only by regular track PhD students. Taken at first thesis registration, then registered for every subsequent term with sequential letter annotations (A-L; 0 credits) until completion of thesis work. <i>Every term.</i>		
ARAB 488¹	PhD Thesis	42 cr.
To be taken only by accelerated track PhD students. Taken at first thesis registration, then registered for every subsequent term with sequential letter annotations (A-L; 0 credits) until completion of thesis work. <i>Every term.</i>		

1) The choice to register for ARAB 488 should be done in consultation with the thesis advisor to ensure that the total number of PhD thesis credits and PhD course credits are met as per AUB rules and regulations.