

# Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES)

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The Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES) offers interdisciplinary MA degrees in Middle Eastern Studies and Islamic Studies. CAMES's goal is to enhance the understanding of the Middle East and Islamic civilization and to encourage informed scholarship in all related academic disciplines. The MA programs aim to assist students in acquiring a sound grounding in one or more aspects of the study of the Middle East and Islamic civilization, and in the Arabic language. The Center offers seminars in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies as well as a full range of Arabic language courses for non-native speakers. CAMES is an interdepartmental, interdisciplinary unit. The MA programs draw on other departments to provide coursework and thesis advising for their students. To complement students' coursework and promote scholarship about Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at AUB, the Center also sponsors visiting lectures and conferences, and holds occasional events such as film screenings and readings.

CAMES focuses on current methodologies and approaches in the fields of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. Students structure their own coursework in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, and in fields such as history, Arabic language and literature, contemporary politics, international relations, archaeology, anthropology, sociology, media studies and philosophy. The courses, thesis and project requirements encourage students to think critically and independently while undertaking analytical, in-depth research.

CAMES is committed to the study of the Arabic language and offers courses at all levels, as well as seven-week intensive language courses in Modern Standard Arabic and Lebanese colloquial Arabic in the summer, in coordination with the Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages.

The CAMES MA programs offer both a thesis option and a project option.

## Requirements

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General requirements for graduate study are found in the Admissions section of this catalogue. Applicants to the MA in Islamic Studies track must submit an Arabic writing sample with their application. The submission of official GRE scores is optional.

## MA in Middle Eastern Studies

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The MA program in Middle Eastern Studies is designed for students who wish to obtain broad knowledge of the contemporary Middle East and study the Arabic language. The interdisciplinary nature of the program encourages students to develop a critical understanding of the history, culture and politics of the region as well as to conduct in-depth, independent research.

### Thesis Option

Students following the thesis option are required to complete a minimum of 21 credit hours in courses numbered 300 and above in addition to a 9-credit thesis. They are also required to take the two core courses, MEST 300 Making of the Modern Middle East and MEST 301 Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies. Non-native speakers of Arabic are required to complete a minimum of 6 credits of Arabic language study and may take up to 9 credits of Arabic. Students may take their remaining courses at CAMES or at departments other than CAMES in topics related to Middle Eastern Studies.

### Project Option

Students following the project option are required to complete a minimum of 27 credit hours in courses numbered 300 and above in addition to a 3-credit project. They are also required to take the two core courses, MEST 300 Making of the Modern Middle East and MEST 301 Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies. Non-native speakers of Arabic are required to complete a minimum of 6 credits of Arabic language study and may take up to 12 credits of Arabic.

## Courses

**MEST 300                      Making of the Modern Middle East                      3.0; 3 cr.**  
 This course is a survey of the modern history of the Middle East with a focus on the late 18th century to the present. It examines the main political, economic, social and cultural institutions and forces at work, with an emphasis on identifying how specific events as well as long-term processes defined social and political realities in the region. Topics covered include: Ottoman reform and legacy; political ideologies including Arab nationalism, state nationalisms, communism and Islamism, among others; interactions with imperialist and colonial powers; regional conflicts; social movements (including women and peasants); and cultural changes. *Annually.*

**MEST 301                      Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies                      3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A general course in modern Middle Eastern studies designed to introduce students to the interdisciplinary study of the Middle East. Faculty from the various departments associated with CAMES, such as History and Archaeology, Philosophy, Arabic, Economics, Political Studies, Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies are asked to present a seminar that illustrates the approaches and methodologies used in their respective fields to study the region. *Consent of instructor required. Annually.*

<b>MEST 302</b>	<b>Graduate Tutorial</b>	<b>3 cr.</b>
<b>MEST 310</b>	<b>Seminar in Early Islamic History</b>	<b>3.0; 3 cr.</b>
A seminar course that provides a social and intellectual introduction to approximately the first five hundred years of Arabic Islamic history, using a thematic rather than a chronological approach. <i>Consent of instructor required. Annually.</i>		
<b>MEST 311</b>	<b>Special Topics in Medieval Islamic Cultural History</b>	<b>3.0; 3 cr.</b>
<i>Consent of instructor required. Biennially.</i>		
<b>MEST 315</b>	<b>Special Topics in Modern Middle Eastern Social and Political History</b>	<b>3.0; 3 cr.</b>
<i>Consent of instructor required. Biennially.</i>		
<b>MEST 316</b>	<b>Special Topics in Modern Arabic Cultural and Intellectual History</b>	<b>3.0; 3 cr.</b>
<i>Consent of instructor required. Biennially.</i>		
<b>MEST 317</b>	<b>Special Topics in Contemporary Middle Eastern Politics</b>	<b>3.0; 3 cr.</b>
<i>Consent of instructor required. Biennially.</i>		
<b>MEST 318</b>	<b>Special Topics in Contemporary Middle Eastern Society</b>	<b>3.0; 3 cr.</b>
<i>Consent of instructor required. Biennially.</i>		
<b>MEST 321/322</b>	<b>Arabic as a Foreign Language I and II</b>	<b>5.0; 3 cr. (each)</b>
This sequence of courses introduces students who have no previous knowledge of Arabic to the Arabic language and culture within its Lebanese setting. The course utilizes an integrated approach to Arabic and emphasizes communicative tasks and contexts. By the end of the course, students will be able to speak and write simple connected sentences about themselves, their families and their immediate environment, and read and listen to short authentic texts. By the end of the course sequence, students reach Intermediate-Low to Intermediate-Mid proficiency in Arabic on the ACTFL scale. <i>Consent of instructor required. Each term.</i>		
<b>MEST 323/324</b>	<b>Arabic as a Foreign Language III and IV</b>	<b>5.0; 3 cr. (each)</b>
This course sequence aims to further enhance students' proficiency in the various skills by expanding their vocabulary, control of pronunciation and grammatical structures, and cultural knowledge. The course utilizes an integrated approach to Arabic that is based on communicative tasks and contexts. Students' activities at this level involve giving oral presentations and doing writing projects. By the end of this course sequence, students reach Intermediate-Mid to Intermediate-High proficiency in Arabic following the ACTFL scale. <i>Prerequisites: MEST 321 and MEST 322 or equivalent, or placement based on a placement examination. Each term.</i>		
<b>MEST 325/326</b>	<b>Arabic as a Foreign Language V and VI</b>	<b>3.0; 3 cr. (each)</b>
This course sequence aims to enable students to reach advanced proficiency in Arabic in all skills. Students are required to do extensive readings on a variety of topics and genres, such as literature, language and the social sciences. They are also expected to engage in debates, give oral presentations and write short research papers. The course utilizes an integrated approach to Arabic and is based on communicative tasks and contexts. By the end of this course sequence, students reach Advanced-Low to Advanced-Mid		

proficiency in Arabic following the ACTFL scale. *Prerequisites: MEST 323 and MEST 324 or the equivalent, or placement based on a placement examination. Every term.*

**MEST 327/328 Arabic as a Foreign Language VII and VIII 3.0; 3 cr. (each)**

This course sequence aims to take students to the Advanced-High level in the various skills in Arabic. Readings at this level are extensive and span a variety of genres. Listening skills are sharpened through extensive work with news broadcasts, documentaries, and television shows in both Standard and Lebanese Arabic. The course also features extended oral presentations in class and extensive writing activities. Special emphasis is placed on understanding the nuances of the language and the use of idiomatic expressions and rhetorical devices in all language skills. *Prerequisites: MEST 325 and 326 or the equivalent, or placement based on a placement examination. Every term.*

**MEST 329 Special Topics in Arabic Language and Literature 3.0; 3 cr.**

*Occasionally.*

**MEST 330 Introductory Syriac 3.0; 3 cr.**

The course provides students with working knowledge of the Syriac language and grammar. With the help of a lexicon, students are expected to read and translate simple Syriac texts. *Occasionally.*

**MEST 331 Introduction to Syriac Literature 3.0; 3 cr.**

The aim of this introductory course is to provide the student with an overview of Syriac literature from its origins to the present day. *Prerequisite: ARAB 215/MEST 330, or consent of instructor. Occasionally. Students who receive credit for MEST 331 cannot receive credit for ARAB 217.*

**MEST 332 Intermediate Syriac 3.0; 3 cr.**

This course complements ARAB 215/MEST 330 'Introduction to Syriac Language', focusing on the reading, translation, and analysis of Syriac texts from various authors, genres, and time periods. In addition, the course provides a review of Syriac grammar. It is intended for those students who had taken the introductory course ARAB 215/MEST 330 or who already have a basic knowledge of Syriac and wish to continue studying the Syriac language for a second term. *Prerequisite: MEST 331 or consent of instructor. Annually.*

**MEST 340 Introduction to Lebanese Arabic 5.0; 3 cr.**

This course is for foreign speakers of Arabic only. The course builds proficiency in Lebanese Arabic through the introduction of grammatical features of the Lebanese dialect and the practice of interactive functional skills, including listening comprehension, conversation tasks and vocabulary building. *For undergraduate and graduate students. Consent of instructor required. Each term.*

**MEST 341 Intermediate Lebanese Arabic 5.0; 3 cr.**

This course is for foreign speakers of Arabic only. Intermediate Lebanese Arabic is a continuation of MEST 240/340 Introduction to Lebanese Arabic. The course emphasizes the further development of conversational skills in Lebanese Arabic, and therefore primarily targets speaking and listening skills. Knowledge of the Arabic alphabet is required to join MEST 241/341. This course concentrates on increasing vocabulary and command of syntax enabling students to reach a higher level of fluency. *For undergraduate and graduate students. Consent of instructor required. Prerequisite: MEST 240/340 or placement based on a placement interview. Each term.*

<b>MEST 342</b>	<b>Advanced Lebanese Arabic</b>	<b>3.0; 3 cr.</b>
<p>This course is the continuation of the sequence begun in MEST 241/341 Intermediate Lebanese Arabic and MEST 240/340 Introduction to Lebanese Arabic. Like the preceding courses, it focuses on spoken rather than written Arabic, and will therefore primarily target the oral/aural skills, speaking and listening. Knowledge of the Arabic alphabet is required to join MEST 242/342. The course is designed to meet the needs and expectations of non-native young adults and adults who are seeking to develop a comfortable level of proficiency in a variety of complicated communicative tasks and social situations. <i>For undergraduate and graduate students. Consent of instructor required. Prerequisite: MEST 241/341 or placement based on a placement interview. Each term.</i></p>		
<b>MEST 395A/B</b>	<b>Middle Eastern Studies Comprehensive Exam</b>	<b>0 cr.</b>
<p><i>Prerequisite: Consent of advisor.</i></p>		
<b>MEST 398</b>	<b>MA in Middle Eastern Studies Project</b>	<b>3 cr.</b>
<b>MEST 399</b>	<b>MA in Middle Eastern Studies Thesis</b>	<b>9 cr.</b>

## MA in Islamic Studies

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The MA program in Islamic Studies is an interdisciplinary program with the goal of providing students with the background to expand their knowledge and understanding of classical and modern Islamic religious thought and textual traditions; and to offer critical insight into the political, intellectual, literary and social history of Islam up to the present day.

### Thesis Option

Students following the thesis option are required to complete a minimum of 24 credit hours in courses numbered 300 and above, in addition to a 6-credit thesis. They are also required to take the core courses, ISLM 301 Sources and Methods and ISLM 302 Islamic Civilizations. Students may take their remaining courses at CAMES or at departments other than CAMES in topics related to Islamic Studies.

### Project Option

Students following the project option are required to complete a minimum of 27 credit hours in courses numbered 300 and above, in addition to a 3-credit project. They are also required to take the core courses, ISLM 301 Sources and Methods and ISLM 302 Islamic Civilizations. Students may take their remaining courses at CAMES or at departments other than CAMES in topics related to Islamic Studies.

All Islamic Studies students are required to take at least 6 credits related to the classical epoch, 6 credits on the modern era, at least 3 credits in classes based on texts and 3 credits based on social science methodology. Non-native speakers of Arabic are required to take intensive Arabic language classes, which are not counted as part of the degree credits. The program recommends the study of a second European language other than English, and for native speakers of Arabic to also develop a reading proficiency in a second language central to literature in Islamic civilizations and cultures, or a second Semitic language, depending on the field of specialization.

## Course Descriptions

- ISLM 301 Sources and Methods 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 This course familiarizes students with the sources, research tools and methods in Islamic Studies by also looking at the history of the discipline and surveying its major research areas; including history, language, literature, religious sciences, intellectual sciences and social studies. *Arabic native speakers can replace ISLM 301 with the equivalent Arabic course: ARAB 309. Annually.*
- ISLM 302 Islamic Civilizations 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 This course examines key aspects of Islamic civilizations, cultures and thought. It will focus on the political, social and religious institutions that shaped Islamic civilizations as well as on the intellectual and scholarly traditions, which characterized the Muslim world from the foundation of Islam onwards, and across various geographical regions and cultures. Beginning with the geographical, cultural and historical context of the rise of Islam, the life of the Prophet, and the Qur'an, it will extend through modernity and beyond, with a special emphasis on texts. The readings consist of a selection of translated primary sources from languages that are central to the literature of Islam, as well as complementary secondary source literature. *Annually.*
- ISLM 315 The Qur'an in History 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A historical study of the Qur'an and other allied disciplines. Themes include the Islamic concept of the Qur'an; thematic and formal aspects of the Qur'an; modes of interpretation and principles of exegesis; and medieval and modern controversies regarding its history, formal structure, authorship and authority. *Biennially.*
- ISLM 316 Art and Architecture in Islamic Civilizations 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 This course examines Islamic art, material culture and architecture, with a focus on key cities in the Ottoman and Qajar regions. The course also studies local perceptions of modernity and how these views related to or diverged from those of the European, British and American colonialists/missionaries in the region. This also includes a study of identity politics, archaeology, collecting practices and museums. *Biennially.*
- ISLM 317 Approaches to the Qur'an 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 This interactive graduate seminar presents an introduction to the corpus of Sunni Islamic exegesis (tafsir) from the 9th to the 20th century. *Biennially.*
- ISLM 321 Graduate Seminar in Islamic Philosophy and Theology 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 This course is intended to cover the major debates, concepts, modes of reasoning, figures and texts of Islamic philosophy (falsafa) and theology (kalam) in their intellectual historical contexts. *Biennially.*
- ISLM 325 Graduate Seminar in Sufism 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A general presentation of Sufism that, while not aiming at exhaustiveness, will seek to acquaint students with the place and function of Sufism in Islam; the main outlines of its history; doctrinal and ritual features; the relationship between Sufism and literature, especially poetry. The course will give an overview of the sources of classical Sufism. Students will read Islamic mystical texts dealing with the Sufi Path, the nature of God and the hidden meanings of the Qur'an, dreams and miraculous powers, and the different Sufi stations. *Biennially.*

**ISLM 331 Islamic Movements and Reform 3.0; 3 cr.**

An in-depth course on modern Islamic political thought. This course focuses on the historical and intellectual developments that have fueled both revolutionary and conservative trends in Islamic political movements and states. Discussions over issues such as the relationships between religion and politics, political philosophy and ideology, and political action and revolution. *Biennially*.

**ISLM 333 Islamic Thought and Modernity 3.0; 3 cr.**

This course starts by examining the main reform movements of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and the transformations in Islamic thought in the wake of the encounter with Europe. The course then explores various models of Islamic political and social activism, and major themes addressed by leading thinkers of Islamic movements in the twentieth century. The focus is on Islamic movements from Egypt and the Arab Middle East, India/Pakistan and Iran. Topics include the intellectual networks of scholars in the eighteenth century, the contexts of various forms of reform and revival, questions of continuity and European influence, the effects of the encounter with colonialism and imperialism, the attitude toward nationalism and other modern ideologies, and Islamic discussions of modernity and liberalism. In addition to background essays, primary sources in translation will be studied; the selected texts are classics that have wide circulation within contemporary Islamic movements. *Biennially*.

**ISLM 341 Christian-Muslim Encounters 3.0; 3 cr.**

A collaborative investigation of select topics in Arab and Middle Eastern History viewed from multiple perspectives. Periodic progress reports and the incorporation of findings in an interpretive term paper are required. *Students who receive credit for ISLM 341 cannot receive credit for ARAB 248. Biennially.*

**ISLM 395A/B Islamic Studies Comprehensive Exam 0 cr.**  
*Prerequisite: Consent of advisor.***ISLM 396 Special Topics in Islamic Studies 3.0; 3 cr.**  
*May be repeated for credit.***ISLM 398 MA in Islamic Studies Project 3 cr.****ISLM 399 MA in Islamic Studies Thesis 6 cr.**

## Intensive Summer Arabic Programs

### Modern Standard Arabic

**MEST 360 Elementary Arabic (Intensive) 9 cr.**

This course is designed to introduce students who have no previous knowledge of Arabic to the Arabic language and culture within its Lebanese setting. The course utilizes an integrated approach that teaches both Standard and Lebanese Arabic based on communicative tasks and contexts. By the end of the course, students will be able to speak and write simple connected sentences about themselves, their families and their immediate environment. They will also be able to read and listen to short authentic texts (announcements, advertisements, short weather reports, menus, daily schedules, etc.) During the course, students will become familiar with Arab culture in general and various aspects of Lebanese culture and society. The course will use *Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds* (3rd Edition) as well as part of *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: Part One* (3rd Edition). At the end of this course, students are

expected to reach Intermediate-Low to Intermediate-Mid proficiency in Arabic on the (ACTFL) scale. *Annually.*

**MEST 361 High Elementary Arabic (Intensive) 9 cr.**

This course is designed for students who have had the equivalent of one semester of Arabic instruction. It is also appropriate for students who have already had some limited exposure to the Arabic language, for instance, those who have lived in an Arab country or an Arabic-speaking environment, as well as those who have received some tutoring in Arabic. Students who enroll at this level are expected to know the Arabic alphabet and have limited reading, writing and conversational skills. The course utilizes an integrated approach that teaches both Standard and Lebanese Arabic based on communicative tasks and contexts and will use *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: Part One* (3rd Edition). By the end of the course, students are expected to reach Intermediate-Mid proficiency in Arabic following the ACTFL scale. *Annually.*

**MEST 362 Intermediate Arabic (Intensive) 9 cr.**

This course is designed for students who have completed at least two semesters of Arabic in an academic setting but whose placement results require that they go at a slower pace than the intermediate class. The course is also appropriate for students who have been away from the language for some time. The objectives of this course, in general, are to further develop the students' skills and strategies, expand active vocabulary in a wide variety of topics and settings, enhance knowledge of basic Arabic grammar, and further develop intercultural competence. The course utilizes an integrated approach that teaches both Standard and Lebanese Arabic based on communicative tasks and contexts and will use *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: Part One* (3rd Edition) and a part of *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: Part Two* (3rd Edition). By the end of the course, students are expected to reach Intermediate-Mid to Intermediate-High proficiency in Arabic following the ACTFL scale. *Annually.*

**MEST 363 Intermediate Mid Arabic (Intensive) 9 cr.**

This course is designed for students who have had the equivalent of two to three semesters of Arabic instruction. The course aims to further enhance students' proficiency in the various skills, expand their cultural knowledge, expand their vocabulary, and enhance their control of grammatical structures and pronunciation. All communications between instructors and students are carried out strictly in Arabic. Part of the students' activities at this level involves giving oral presentations and doing a lengthy writing project. The course utilizes an integrated approach that teaches both Standard and Lebanese Arabic based on communicative tasks and contexts and will use *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: Part Two* (3rd Edition) and parts of *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: Part Two* (2nd Edition). By the end of the course, students are expected to reach Intermediate-High proficiency in Arabic following the ACTFL scale. *Annually.*

**MEST 364 Intermediate High Arabic (Intensive) 9 cr.**

This course is designed for students who have already had the equivalent of four to five semesters of Arabic instruction. The objective of the course is to further enhance students' proficiency in the various skills, expand their cultural knowledge, expand their vocabulary, and enhance their control of complex grammatical structures and pronunciation. The course utilizes an integrated approach that teaches both Standard and Lebanese Arabic based on communicative tasks and contexts. By the end of the class, students are expected to comprehend lengthy authentic listening material and to give long oral presentations with facility. They are also expected to be able to write extensive compositions and to read authentic Arabic texts for research purposes. The course will use part of *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: Part Two* (2nd Edition) and part of *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: Part Three*. By the end of the course, students are

expected to reach Advanced-Low to Advanced-Mid proficiency in Arabic following the ACTFL scale. *Annually.*

**MEST 365                      Advanced Arabic (Intensive)                      9 cr.**  
 This course is designed for students who have already had the equivalent of six semesters of Arabic instruction. It aims to enable students to reach higher levels of advanced proficiency in all skills. Students are required to do extensive readings on a variety of topics and genres, such as literature, language and the social sciences. They are also expected to engage in debates, give oral presentations and write short research papers. The course utilizes an integrated approach that teaches both Standard and Lebanese Arabic based on communicative tasks and contexts and will use *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: Part Three*, to be supplemented by extra material as needed. By the end of the course, students are expected to reach Advanced-Mid to Advanced-High proficiency in Arabic following the ACTFL scale. *Annually.*

**MEST 366                      Advanced High Arabic (Intensive)                      9 cr.**  
 This course is designed for students who are placed at the Advanced-Mid level of proficiency of Arabic upon entering the program and it aims to take them to the Advanced-High level in the various language skills. Readings at this level are extensive and span a variety of genres; readings will cover at least one novel, short stories, academic articles, lengthy newspaper articles, and selections from medieval texts. Listening skills are sharpened through extensive work with news broadcasts, documentaries, and television shows in both Standard and Lebanese Arabic. Special emphasis is placed on understanding the nuances of the language and the use of idiomatic expressions and rhetorical devices in all the language skills. The course also features extended oral presentations in class where students demonstrate the oral skills of an educated native or near native speaker of Arabic. The course will use *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: Part Three* in addition to other readings assigned by the teachers. By the end of the course, students are expected to reach Advanced-High proficiency in Arabic following the ACTFL scale. *Annually.*

**MEST 367                      Superior Arabic (Intensive)                      9 cr.**  
 Students entering this level are expected to have Advanced-High proficiency in Arabic and are expected to make progress towards Superior proficiency. This level features extensive readings that cover a wide variety of genres including novels, short stories, academic articles, lengthy newspaper articles, and selections from medieval texts. Listening skills are enhanced through extensive work with news broadcasts, documentaries, and television shows in both Standard and Lebanese Arabic. Special emphasis is placed on understanding the nuances of the language and the use of idiomatic expressions and rhetorical devices in all the language skills. The course also features extended oral presentations in class where students demonstrate the oral skills of an educated native or near native speaker of Arabic. The course will use *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya: Part Three* in addition to other readings assigned by the teachers in a variety of genres. *Annually.*

## Lebanese Colloquial Arabic

### **MEST 380      Introductory Lebanese Colloquial Arabic (Intensive)      9 cr.**

This course is designed for students who have had little or no previous exposure to Arabic and would like to gain basic proficiency in Lebanese Arabic (LA). The course builds proficiency in LA through a communicative-based approach. Through video and text materials that deal with a wide variety of communicative functions and tasks and that are rich in cultural content, students will develop their speaking and listening skills in LA. In addition, they will be able to contextualize these skills in culturally-appropriate contexts and demonstrate their understanding of the diverse products, practices, and perspectives of Lebanese culture and society. The course will introduce students to the Arabic alphabet and to an extensive vocabulary and grammatical structures that will enable them to interact with speakers of LA in contexts related to the Novice and Intermediate levels of proficiency with ease and confidence. The course will focus on discussing topics of personal and public interest, describing and narrating personal experiences, delivering presentations, watching and analyzing TV programs, soap operas and films, and listening to songs. The course utilizes a wide variety of instructional materials developed by the CAMES Arabic teaching team. No prior knowledge of Arabic is required for the course. *Annually.*

### **MEST 382      Intermediate Lebanese Colloquial Arabic (Intensive)      9 cr.**

This course is designed for students who already have some knowledge of Standard Arabic and/or Lebanese Arabic (LA) but want to devote more attention to developing higher level of proficiency in LA. The program provides students with the opportunity to improve their Lebanese colloquial Arabic skills through a wide variety of activities, including discussing topics of personal and public interest, describing and narrating in detail, holding conversations and debates, stating and supporting opinions, delivering presentations, watching and analyzing TV programs, soap operas and films, and listening to songs and music. In addition, the program helps students develop familiarity with and understanding of the diverse products, practices, and perspectives of Lebanese culture and society. The program utilizes a wide variety of instructional materials developed by the CAMES Arabic teaching team. The prerequisite for this program is one year (two semesters or the equivalent) of Arabic study. To ensure proper placement in the program, a Skype oral interview is required of all applicants. *Annually.*

### **MEST 384      Advanced Lebanese Colloquial Arabic      9 cr.**

The Advanced Lebanese Colloquial Arabic class enables students to further develop their speaking and listening skills in Lebanese Arabic with special attention to expanding their knowledge of Lebanese culture. Students in the course are exposed to a variety of historical, social, economic, touristic, and artistic topics related to Lebanese Arabic language and culture. The class enhances students' listening skills by exposing them to different uses of the Lebanese dialect in authentic frames such as news reports, television and Internet series. Conversation skills are developed by encouraging students to speak in a participatory manner during the extensive discussions of the materials in class, with emphasis on pronunciation and speaking the Lebanese dialect properly. The class encourages students to use the general vocabulary used in daily life situations in a precise and smooth manner, and enriches their linguistic reserve by exposing them to a large amount of vocabulary and expressions related to the historical, social, economic, touristic, media and artistic fields. This enables students to use more complex and advanced structures and to master the use of certain verbs and words of recurrent use in the Lebanese dialect that have multiple meanings. The class demonstrates the similarities and differences between Lebanese Arabic and Standard Arabic, allowing students to learn how to move between the two with ease and helping them to understand the sociolinguistic contexts in which these Arabic varieties are used. *Annually.*