

Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages

Chairperson:	Wilmsen, David
Professors:	Agha, Saleh S.; Baalbaki, Ramzi M. (Margaret Weyerhaeuser Jewett Professor of Arabic); Jarrar, Maher Z.; Khairallah, Assaad I.; ^p Naimy, Nadeem N.; Tuqan, Fawwaz A.; Wilmsen, David
Associate Professor:	Orfali, Bilal W.
Senior Lecturers:	El-Zein, Abdulfattah H.; ^p Kattourah, George B.
Lecturers:	Abu-Jawdeh, Siham E.; Caland, Brigitte; El Daif, Rachid; Jeha, George E.; ^p Kozah, Mario K.
Instructors:	^p Hajjar, Olga A.; Semaan, Rima; Zein, Raghida M.

In addition to the BA degree in Arabic, the Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages provides service courses for all Arabic-speaking students at AUB. ARAB 101 and ARAB 102 must be taken in the freshman year in addition to one more Arabic language or literature course (i.e., ARAB 201A, ARAB 201B, ARAB 202, or any other course numbered ARAB 211 or above [ARAB 213, ARAB 214, ARAB 215, ARAB 216, ARAB 217, and ARAB 220/221 excluded]). ARAB 201A requires a placement test (see section on Admissions).

BA in Arabic Mission Statement

The Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages has always possessed a leading role in its own field of learning in the Arab World, while being the only one maintaining a liberal tradition of education and research. The impressive number of diverse prominent scholars, writers and intellectuals who passed through the Department testifies to this remarkable historical achievement. The Department has always sought to train students in the basic tools of the discipline, namely language and research skills, while exposing them to the essentials of the field, and subjecting everything to the curiosity of the inquiring mind.

Degree Requirements

Major Requirements

Requirements for the BA degree in Arabic are as follows: ARAB 211, ARAB 212, ARAB 224, ARAB 231, ARAB 232, ARAB 233, ARAB 237, ARAB 239, ARAB 241, ARAB 243, and ARAB 245 (total 33 credits). In addition, the student must select one course from within the other courses in the department (36 total credit hours).¹

Students choosing a minor in Arabic are required to take 15 credits of Arabic courses (ARAB 201A does not count as one of them). These courses should include ARAB 211 or ARAB 212 (or an equivalent language course), one course in classical Arabic literature, one course in modern Arabic literature, and any two courses in the department.

^p part time

The minor in Semitic Studies requires 15 credits: ARAB 213/214 or Syriac 215/216; a second Semitic language other than Arabic (ARAB 213 or 215); ARAB 222; and one of the following: ARAB 211 or 212, ARAB 216, ARAB 227 or ARAB 228, AROL 293/294, AROL 217, AROL 218, AROL 219/220, AROL 226, AROL 227, AROL 228, AROL 231.

When a required course is not available, it may be replaced by another course within the department provided the student's advisor gives consent.

University General Education Requirements

English Communication Skills (6 credits), Arabic Communication Skills (3 credits), Humanities 12 credits (Required) + Electives (9 credits), Social Sciences (6 credits), Natural Sciences (6 credits), Quantitative Thought (3 credits).

Course Descriptions

ARAB 101/102 Readings in Arabic Heritage I and II 3.0; 3 cr. (each)

A freshman level survey that traces the intellectual, literary, and cultural development of the Arabs from pre-Islamic times up to the age of Ibn Khaldun. *Annually.*

ARAB 200 Special Arabic 3.0; 3 cr.

A course designed for native speakers of Arabic who had limited pre-college formal study of the Arabic language in Lebanon or abroad. Open to students who are exempted from Arabic. *Annually.*

ARAB 201A Basic Arabic Grammar and Syntax 3.0; 3 cr.

A training course in the basic elements of Arabic grammar, syntax, and morphology, with special emphasis on oral and writing skills. *Each semester.*

ARAB 201B Readings in Arabic Literature 3.0; 3 cr.

A close textual and analytical study of a wide variety of selections from modern Arabic literature and thought designed to evoke aesthetic and intellectual discussions of issues of Arab culture. *Each semester.*

ARAB 202 Arabic Technical Writing 3.0; 3 cr.

Provides guidance in the production of non-literary texts in modern written Arabic, with attention to structure, stylistics, and diction of letters, memos, emails, resumes, reports, proposals, descriptions, instructions, and various types of documentation. Emphasis is on the analysis and production of appropriate rhetorical styles in the various genres of technical communication used in the workplace. *Each semester.*

ARAB 203/204 Beginners' Arabic as a Foreign Language I and II 5.0; 5 cr. (each)

A thorough course in basic literary Arabic with emphasis on the vocabulary of modern literature, the press, and current affairs. This course teaches grammar and structure to enable students to read, understand, and translate, from and into Arabic, within a tightly controlled syntactical milieu. *Annually.*

ARAB 205/206 Intermediate Arabic as a Foreign Language III and IV 5.0; 5 cr. (each)

A continuation of the carefully graded approach begun in ARAB 203 and ARAB 204, and culminating with the exposition of the derivation system. This course empowers students to use lexica, and to read, understand, and translate, unhampered by any loopholes in their knowledge of basic Arabic syntax and morphology. *Prerequisites: ARAB 203 and ARAB 204, or equivalent. Annually.*

ARAB 207/208 Advanced Arabic as a Foreign Language I and II 3.0; 3 cr. (each)

The main goal for this level is to reach a superior level of proficiency. Reading texts that contain opinions, hypotheses, and intellectual discussions, in addition to selections from classical Arabic literature. Grammar consists largely of details, such as the full conjugation of irregular verb classes and fine points of complex sentence structure. Instruction is totally in Arabic. *Prerequisites: ARAB 205 and ARAB 206, or equivalent. Annually.*

ARAB 211/212 Survey of Arabic Grammar 3.0; 3 cr. (each)

A year-long course on Arabic morphology and grammar. It is comprised of readings from a classical grammatical text and training in sentence structure through i'rab. *Alternate years.*

ARAB 213/214 Introductory Biblical Hebrew 3.0; 3 cr. (each)

The class will teach Biblical Hebrew allowing students who have no background in the subject to read the Bible and discover one of the founding books of our society and a major source of inspiration to many authors throughout history. *ARAB 213 or permission of instructor is prerequisite for ARAB 214. Offered annually.*

ARAB 215 Introductory Syriac 3.0; 3 cr.

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

ARAB 216 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 semester. *Prerequisite ARAB 215 or permission of instructor. Annually.*

ARAB 217 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. *Alternate years.*

ARAB 220/221 Introductory Persian 3.0; 3 cr. (each)

A year-long course introducing students to the Persian language. After surveying the grammar, students are given intensive training in reading Persian texts. *Alternate years.*

ARAB 222 Introduction to Semitic Studies 3.0; 3 cr.

This class places the Semitic languages of the Levant (Arabic, Hebrew, Phoenician, and Syriac) in their historical perspective by introducing the discipline of Semitic studies, especially in its comparative orientation. Especial emphasis is placed on Arabic dialectology, an often-overlooked aspect to Semitic studies. *Every semester.*

- ARAB 235** **Andalusian Literature** **3.0; 3 cr.**
An introduction to Arabic literature in Islamic Spain. Students read and analyze Andalusian poetry and prose, with special emphasis on the new literary forms that appeared in al-Andalus. *Alternate years.*
- ARAB 236** **Qur'anic Studies** **3.0; 3 cr.**
An introduction to major Qur'anic issues, such as the collection of the Qur'an, Qur'anic imagery, and the various trends in Qur'anic exegesis. *Alternate years.*
- ARAB 237/238** **Modern Arabic Poetry** **3.0; 3 cr. (each)**
A year-long course studying the factors that shaped modern Arabic poetry, tracing the phases of its development, and analyzing in detail its various characteristics. *Alternate years.*
- ARAB 239** **Modern Arabic Novel** **3.0; 3 cr.**
A course on the development of the Arabic novel, along with a survey focusing on the main factors that led to the rise of the novel. Students will thoroughly analyze a number of works by prominent Arab novelists. *Alternate years.*
- ARAB 240** **Modern Arabic Drama** **3.0; 3 cr.**
A survey of the rise and development of the dramatic literary genre in modern Arabic, with a focus on the main factors that led to the rise of drama. Students will thoroughly analyze a number of selected works by prominent Arab playwrights. *Alternate years.*
- ARAB 241** **Literary Theory and Criticism** **3.0; 3 cr.**
A course on the development of Arab literary theory and criticism from the classical period to the present. This course is structured according to the main themes that concerned Arab critics throughout the ages, as well as the major critical trends and their prominent representatives. *Alternate years.*
- ARAB 243** **Classical Arabic Prose** **3.0; 3 cr.**
A course in which students read and analyze extracts from the works of major prose writers representing the main trends in classical Arabic prose, beginning with pre-Islamic times up to the age of al-Ma'arri. *Alternate years.*
- ARAB 244** **Muslim Schools of Theology** **3.0; 3 cr.**
A survey of the main doctrines, terms, and modes of expression that are peculiar to the major Muslim sects (firaq) in the medieval age, and the impact they had on literature. Mu'tazila, Ash'ariyya, and Imamiyya, constitute the focal point of the course, which includes readings in selected representative texts. *Alternate years.*
- ARAB 245/246** **Background to the Study of Modern Arabic Literature** **3.0; 3 cr. (each)**
A two-semester course dealing with the Arab cultural renaissance of 1800–1940. Special emphasis is placed on the impact of the West on the making of the modern Arab literary culture. *Annually.*

ARAB 247 Arabic Classical Folk Literature 3.0; 3 cr.

A course covering the following topics: folktales, the novella in *The Arabian Nights*, and the hero sagas such as *Sirat Bani Hilal*. This course aims at studying the textual history of this special genre, its language, motives, and structures. Students are also exposed to various methodological approaches to folk literature. *Alternate years.*

ARAB 249 Sufi Literature 3.0; 3 cr.

A course aiming to acquaint the student with Sufi literature as one of the major aspects in Arabic literature. *Alternate years.*

ARAB 251/252 Special Topics in Arabic Language and Literature 3.0; 3 cr. (each)

A course that varies in content and focuses on selected topics in language and literature. May be repeated for credit. *Occasionally.*

ARAB 290 Undergraduate Seminar on al-Mutanabbi 3.0; 3 cr.

A seminar on the times, life, and poetry of this major Arab poet. It combines the historical and the literary analytical-critical methodologies. Its substantial component comprises close textual analysis of poetry from the different phases of the poet's intertwined private and public life. *Alternate years.*

33 + 3 Credits in Arabic

Modes of Analysis	English and Arabic (9)	Humanities (12 + 33 + 3 + 9)	Social Sciences (6)	Natural Sciences	Quantitative Thought
Lecture courses (9+12+33+3+9+6+3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required Arabic course: ARAB 201A or any General Education Arabic communication skills (3) Required English courses: ENGL 203 (3), 204(3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required credits in the humanities: 12 credits including 6 credits from CVSP Required Arabic courses (33): ARAB 211(3), 212(3), 224(3), 231(3), 232(3), 233(3), 237(3), 239(3), 241(3), 243(3), 245(3) One elective course from the following or a seminar course (3): ARAB 213(3), 214(3), 218(3), 221(3), 225(3), 226(3), 227(3), 228(3), 229(3), 230(3), 234(3), 235(3), 236(3), 238(3), 240(3), 244(3), 246(3), 247(3), 249(3) Electives: 9 credits in other humanities departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electives (6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 (Recommended: a course in computer literacy)
Seminar (0–6)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elective Arabic courses: ARAB 251(3), 252(3) 			
Laboratory (3)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Lab (3) 	
Research project (63)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ARAB 227–241, 243–247, 249 			