

# Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages

Chairperson:	Orfali, Bilal W. (Sheikh Zayed Chair for Arabic & Islamic Studies)
Professors:	Baalbaki, Ramzi M. (Margaret Weyerhaeuser Jewett Professor of Arabic); Al-Batal, Mahmoud; Jarrar, Maher Z.; Orfali, Bilal W.
Associate Professor:	Halabi, Zeina G.
Assistant Professors:	AbdelMegeed, Maha; Khansa, Enass
Adjunct Professor:	El Sayed, Radwan
Senior Lecturers:	<sup>P</sup> Bazzi, Tarif; <sup>P</sup> Fakhreddine, Jawdat
Lecturers:	Atiyyah, Najah; <sup>P</sup> El Daif, Rachid; Korangy, Alireza; Kozah, Mario; Moukaled, Sina
Instructors:	<sup>P</sup> El Hajj, Sandra; <sup>P</sup> El Mallah, Jihad; <sup>P</sup> Harb, Reem; Malti, Samir; Semaan, Rima; <sup>P</sup> Sultany, Kanawaty 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 students at AUB. ARAB 101 and ARAB 102 must be taken in the freshman year in addition to one more Arabic course (i.e., ARAB 201, ARAB 202, or any other course numbered ARAB 211 or above [ARAB 213, ARAB 214, ARAB 215, ARAB 216, ARAB 217, ARAB 219, and ARAB 220-222 excluded]).<sup>1</sup>

## 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.

<sup>P</sup>) Part-time

## Degree Requirements

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### 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).

Students choosing a minor in Arabic are required to take 15 credits of Arabic courses. 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.

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

The General Education requirements are 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

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**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 have limited pre-college formal study of the Arabic language in Lebanon or abroad. Open to students who are exempted from Arabic. *Every term.*

**ARAB 201      Issues in Contemporary Arab Culture      3.0, 3 cr.**  
This course aims to explore a number of themes related to contemporary Arab culture(s) and further develop students' communication skills and academic writing in Arabic. Themes which will be examined include: Arab culture(s) and change in a globalized world, tradition and modernity, the self and the other, dynamics of religion and society, women and gender in a changing world, Arab youth and artistic expression. *Every term.*

**ARAB 202      Arabic Technical Writing      3.0; 3 cr.**

The course 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. *Every term.*

**ARAB 203/204      Beginners' Arabic as a Foreign Language I and II      5.0; 3 cr. (each)**

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. *Prerequisite for ARAB 204 is ARAB 203 or placement by a placement exam. Every term.*

**ARAB 205/206      Intermediate Arabic as a Foreign Language III and IV      5.0; 3 cr. (each)**

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. *Prerequisites: ARAB 203 and ARAB 204, or placement by a placement examination. Every term.*

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

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: ARAB 205 and ARAB 206, or placement by a placement examination. Every term.*

**ARAB 209      Advanced Arabic as a Foreign Language III      3.0; 3 cr.**

This course aims to enable students to reach 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: ARAB 207/208 or placement by a placement examination. Every term.*

**ARAB 210A Writing Prose 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A course designed for students who wish to identify and pursue their own creative interests in writing fiction and creative non-fiction. Through discussions, assigned readings, writing exercises and critiques of student writing in a workshop mode, students will critically examine the elements of literary creation. *Every term.*

**ARAB 210B Writing Poetry 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A course designed for students who wish to identify and pursue their own creative interests in writing poetry. Through discussions, assigned readings, writing exercises and critiques of student writing in a workshop mode, students will critically examine the elements of poetic genres. *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`raab*. *Annually.*

**ARAB 213/214 Introductory Biblical Hebrew 3.0; 3 cr. (each)**  
 A class that teaches 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. *Prerequisite for ARAB 214 is ARAB 213 or permission of instructor. Annually.*

**ARAB 215 Introductory Syriac 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 The course provides students with 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 have 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: 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. *Students who receive credit for ARAB 217 cannot receive credit for MEST331. Annually.*

**ARAB 219 Turkish 3.0, 3 cr.**  
 A beginner to mid-level course in modern Turkish with initial emphasis on spoken Turkish and a gradual introduction to reading.

**ARAB 220 Introductory Persian I 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An elementary-level course designed to help students start learning Persian by introducing the Persian alphabet and building communicative skills. The emphasis is on speaking and using the language for communication but all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as well as pronunciation and vocabulary will be emphasized. *Every term.*

**ARAB 221                      Introductory Persian II                      3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An elementary-level course that helps students continue to expand upon what they have learned in Introductory Persian I. Like its prerequisite, this course also focuses on using the language for communication while teaching all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). *Annually.*

**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 of Semitic studies. *Annually.*

**ARAB 223                      Arabic for the Media                      3.0; 3 cr.**  
 This writing-intensive course seeks to familiarize students with Arabic journalism writing styles over a comprehensive range of story styles and regional news outlet house styles. Special attention is paid to the specialized vocabulary of news reporting. *Every term.*

**ARAB 224                      Arabic Stylistics and Metrics                      3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A detailed study of stylistics *balagha* and metrics *'arud*. This course surveys the contribution of the Arabs to stylistic studies and introduces their theory of versification. *Annually.*

**ARAB 225/226                      Translation                      3.0; 3 cr. (each)**  
 A year-long course divided into a brief introduction and an extended segment in applied translation. In the introduction, theoretical problems and issues of translation are discussed. The course is then transformed into an extended workshop where students will be preoccupied with their own translation exercises from and into both Arabic and English. *Every term.*

**ARAB 227/228                      Arabic Linguistics                      3.0; 3 cr. (each)**  
 These two courses deal with various topics of Arabic linguistic sciences, mainly phonetics, semantics, and lexicology. *Annually.*

**ARAB 229                      Background to the Study of Classical Arabic Literature                      3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A course dealing with the impact of Greek culture on classical Arabic literature and thought, and the rise and development of Arab intellectualism. *Annually.*

**ARAB 230                      Themes and Genres of Arabic Literature                      3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A broad overview of Arabic literature throughout the ages. This course primarily emphasizes the literary production embodied in the works that give Arabic literature its unique character in different periods, while concentrating on the major themes and genres around which this literature revolves. *Annually.*

**ARAB 231                      Arabic Poetry: The Heroic Age                      3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A course highlighting characteristic elements of Arabian life in its heroic age prior to Islam, while considering its individual, tribal, and mythical codes. Main problems, sources, and strains of the poetry of this age are surveyed. The substantial component of the course is comprised of critical analysis of representative poems. *Annually.*

**ARAB 232      Arabic Poetry: The Age of Conquest,  
Love, and Nostalgia      3.0; 3 cr.**

A survey of new genres of poetry that blossomed when desert Arabs were deployed outside their peninsula following the conquests. This is examined through a compact probe of the economic, social, and political factors that affected Arabian life, from the advent of Islam to the end of the Arabian (Umayyad) era. The substantial component of the course is comprised of critical analysis of representative poems. *Annually.*

**ARAB 233/234      Abbasid Poetry      3.0; 3 cr. (each)**

A survey of Arabic poetry during the Abbasid period that considers the historical, political, and social background. The first part of the course deals with the major poets of the early Abbasid era, which ends during the reign of al-Mu'tasim while the second part surveys the poetry of the latter Abbasid age up to the fall of Baghdad. *Annually.*

**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. *Annually.*

**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. *Annually.*

**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. *Annually.*

**ARAB 239      Modern Arabic Novel      3.0; 3 cr.**

Tackles landmark novels and examples of short fiction. Proceeding largely in chronological order, the sequence of readings addresses genres such as historical novels and autobiographies, as well as themes including war, exile, and gender. *Annually.*

**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. *Annually.*

**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. *Annually.*

**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. *Annually.*

- 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. *Annually.*
- 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. *Annually.*
- ARAB 248 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. Senior status and permission of instructor are required. *Students who receive credit for ARAB 248 cannot receive credit for ISLM 341. Annually.*
- ARAB 249 Sufi Literature 3.0; 3 cr.**  
A course aiming to acquaint students with Sufi literature as one of the major aspects in Arabic literature. *Annually.*
- 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. Annually.*
- ARAB 253 Contemporary Literature in Times of Change 3.0; 3 cr.**  
A course on 21st century prose and poetry. As it retraces the manifestation of canonical tropes in contemporary literature, the course focuses on the topics, writers, and genres that emerge in times of change and upheavals. *Annually.*
- ARAB 254 The City in Arabic Literature 3.0; 3 cr.**  
A course on how modern and/or classical writers imagined cities in poetry and prose. Special attention will be given to the concepts of loss, exile, and collective memory in the representation of urban spaces in prose and poetry. *Annually.*
- ARAB 256 JudeoArabic and the Arabic Writings of Maimonides (Ibn Maymun) 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An introduction to Judeo-Arabic (Middle Arabic) focusing on Ibn Maymun and his writings. The class emphasizes the influence of Arabic on medieval Hebrew. Through the reading of his texts, students will discover the Andalusian physician and philosopher from his childhood in Cordova to his position as the personal doctor of Salaheddine and the head of the Jewish community in Cairo. *Alternate years.*

**ARAB 257 The Maqamat 3.0; 3 cr.**

The course is devoted to the two major representatives of the maqamat genre, its precursor al-Hamadhani (d. 1008) and his more famous emulator al-Hariri (d. 1122). The course will include both close reading of selected passages and discussion of the entire texts of the maqamat. The readings are supplemented by additional texts from other genres in Arabic literature which share sources, literary features, or common discourse with the maqamat, such as faraj ba'd al-shidda stories, anecdotes, popular tales, letters, treatises, and ornate prose. *Alternate years.*

**ARAB 258 Arabic Language & Identity 3.0; 3 cr.**

A course that examines the interplay between language and identity in the contemporary Arb world. The course explores the definitions of “identity” and the various factors that shape it within individuals and communities. Special focus is placed on analyzing language and identity debates in Lebanon, the Maghreb, Iraq, and the Gulf region and framing them within their relevant historical, ethnic, and socio-economic contexts. *Annually.*

**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"> <li>Required Arabic course (3)</li> <li>Required English courses: ENGL 203 (3), 204(3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required credits in the humanities: 12 credits including 6 credits from CVSP</li> <li>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)</li> <li>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)</li> <li>Electives: 9 credits in other humanities departments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electives (6)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(6)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>course (3): (Recommended: a course in computer literacy)</li> </ul>
Seminar (0–6)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elective Arabic courses: ARAB 251(3), 252(3)</li> </ul>			
Laboratory (3)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer Lab (3)</li> </ul>	
Research project (63)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARAB 227–241, 243–247, 249</li> </ul>			