Arabic

The Department of Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures offers a major and a minor in Arabic. As majors in Arabic, students can expect to gain proficiency in the language, study the area's literary and cultural landmarks, and gain familiarity with Near Eastern history and civilizations.

Language Placement: Placement tests are required for all students entering our language programs. Students may be eligible for up to 6 units of back credit based on advanced placement and successful completion of the recommended course. Native speakers are not eligible for back credit; evidence of secondary or post-secondary study of the language is required. Any units received from back credit cannot be counted toward the major or minor.

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Faculty

For a list of affiliated faculty, please visit the Department of Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures faculty page.

Majors

The Major in Arabic

Prerequisites

• Arabic language study: Beginning Arabic I (Arab 107D), Beginning Arabic II (Arab 108D), Intermediate Arabic I (Arab 207D), Intermediate Arabic II (Arab 208D) — whether by course work or placement

Required courses (30 Units)

• Introduction to Islamic Civilization (JINE 210C)
• History, Text and Identity: Introduction to Jewish Civilization (JINE 208F)
• 12 units from 300- or 400-level Arabic language courses
• 6 units from 300- or 400-level courses in Islamic studies and Arabic literature and culture
• 3 additional elective units at the 300 or 400 level in Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies
• Arab 4001 Capstone Seminar

Senior honors

• Arab 488, Arab 489 + thesis. (A student must take capstone even when writing a senior honors thesis).

Additional Information

Regulations for language and culture majors

• Two semesters of the field language must be taken at Washington University.
• 300- or 400-level courses of a language may be counted toward the major.
• A maximum of 12 units from 300- or 400-level language courses can be counted toward the major.
  • Note that 300- or 400-level courses that include the study of texts in the original language may be considered courses about history, literature or religious studies rather than language courses.
• Back credit granted for language courses does not count for the major.
• Students enrolled in WUSTL study abroad programs (during the regular academic semester) can earn a maximum of 9 units subject to review by adviser and DUS. Summer programs and transfer courses can be granted as much as 6 units subject to review by adviser and DUS. However, a limit of 9 units in total can be applied to the major, whether the units are earned in study abroad, summer programs, or transfer courses.
  • No credit will be given for courses taken outside the department other than those which are cross-listed.
  • A minimum of 27 units is required for the major; 21 of those must be from 300- or 400-level courses.
• Double counting courses: A maximum of 3 units used for the major can be counted toward another major or minor.
• To be eligible for Senior Honors a student must maintain a GPA of 3.65 through the sixth semester.
• A Capstone Seminar may be taken in junior or senior year.
• Students have to maintain an average of B in all courses for the major. A grade of B– must be earned in each language course in order to advance to the next level.
• No pass/fail course can count toward either prerequisites or major.

Study Abroad: Students majoring in Arabic are encouraged to participate in the Washington University Study Abroad program. The university currently sponsors preapproved programs of study at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the University of Haifa, Aalim Arabic Program in Morocco, Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, and the American University of Cairo. Students may enroll in summer programs anytime at their discretion; however, semester abroad is usually during the junior year and after a minimum of one year of language study at Washington University.

Senior Honors: Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies majors who have a cumulative GPA of 3.65 or higher after six semesters are eligible to apply for candidacy for departmental senior honors. Once they receive departmental approval,
candidates must satisfactorily complete a senior honors thesis in order to be considered for departmental honors. Please visit the department web page for further information and requirements at http://jinelc.wustl.edu/undergraduate/senior-honors-guidelines-and-evaluation-form.

Minors

The Minor in Arabic

Prerequisites

- Beginning Arabic I (JINE 107D), Beginning Arabic II (JINE 108D) — whether by course work or placement

Required courses (18 Credits)

- Introduction to Islamic Civilization (JINE 210C)
- 9 units from 200-, 300-, or 400-level courses in Arabic language
- 6 units from 300- or 400-level courses in Islamic studies and Arabic literature and culture.

Additional Information

Regulations for all language and culture minors

- Two semesters of the language must be taken at Washington University.
- No more than 12 credit units can be from language courses.
- Note that 300- or 400-level courses that include the study of texts in the original language may be considered courses about history, literature or religious studies rather than language courses.

- Preapproved WUSTL study abroad programs during the regular academic semester, summer programs, and transfer courses can earn a maximum of 3 credits subject to review by adviser and DUS.
- Back credit granted for language courses does not count for the minor.
- No credits will be given for courses taken outside the department other than those which are cross-listed.
- A minimum of 18 credits is required for the minor.
- Double counting courses: A maximum of 3 credits used for the minor can be counted for another major or minor.
- Students have to maintain an average of B for the minor.
- A grade of B– must be earned in each language course in order to advance to the next language course.
- No pass/fail course can count toward either prerequisites or the minor.

Courses

Visit https://courses.wustl.edu to view semester offerings for L49 Arab.

L49 Arab 107D Beginning Arabic I
Introduction to modern Arabic; concentrates on rapidly developing basic skills in reading, writing, speaking and understanding. Five class hours, including one culture hour and additional drill or laboratory hours. Students with previous Arabic language background must take a placement examination.
Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L49 Arab 108D Beginning Arabic II
Continuation of Arab 107D. Emphasis on enhancing skills in reading, writing, speaking and aural comprehension of modern Arabic. Prerequisite: grade of B– or better in Arab 107DQ or placement by examination. Five class hours a week with additional drill or laboratory hours arranged by instructor.
Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L49 Arab 207D Intermediate Arabic I
Study of grammar of literary Arabic and reading of annotated classical and modern prose texts; elementary composition; practice in speaking and comprehending modern Arabic. Prerequisite: grade of B– or better in Arab 108DQ or placement by examination. Five class hours a week with additional drill or laboratory hours set by instructor.
Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L49 Arab 208D Intermediate Arabic II
Continuation of Arab 207D. Study of grammar of literary Arabic and reading of annotated classical and modern prose texts; elementary composition; practice in speaking and comprehending modern Arabic. Prerequisite: grade of B– or better in Arab 207D or placement by examination. Five class hours a week with additional drill or laboratory hours arranged by instructor.
Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L49 Arab 210F Introduction to Islamic Civilization
A historical survey of Islamic civilization in global perspective. Chronological coverage of social, political, economic and cultural history are balanced with focused attention to special topics, which include: aspects of Islam as religion; science, medicine and technology in Islamic societies; art and architecture; philosophy and theology; interaction between Islam and Christendom; Islamic history in the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia as well as Africa; European colonialism; globalization of Islam and contemporary Islam.
Same as JINE 210C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: HUM BU: ETH, IS

L49 Arab 3062 Islam, Culture and Society in West Africa
This course explores the introduction of Islam into West Africa beginning in the 10th Century and explores its expansion and development in the region, placing emphasis on the 19th century to present day. It focuses on the development of West African Muslim cultural, social, religious and political life, to understand not only how the religion affected societies, but also how West African local societies shaped Islam. The course also aims to introduce students to a critical understanding of Islamic writing in West Africa. It also examines the organization of Muslim Sufi orders in West Africa through time and space. The course is organized around a series of lectures, readings, as well as print and visual media.
Same as AFAS 3062
L49 Arab 307D Advanced Arabic I
Continuation of Arab 208D. Competence in reading, writing, speaking, listening and culture is developed through intensive exposure to classical and modern standard Arabic in its written and audiovisual forms. Prerequisite: grade of B– or better in Arab 208D or placement by examination. Three class hours a week with one additional laboratory hour as assigned by instructor. Credit 4 units. A&S: LA &S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS EN: H

L49 Arab 308D Advanced Arabic II
A continuation of Arab 307D. Continued integration of language development through reading, writing, speaking and listening activities centered on advanced authentic material. This semester proves critical for making the transition from Modern Arabic to Classical Arabic, including Qur’anic Arabic. Continued development of colloquial Arabic. Prerequisite: Arab 307D or equivalent. Credit 4 units. A&S: LA &S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L49 Arab 313C Islamic History: 600-1200
The cultural, intellectual, and political history of the Islamic Middle East, beginning with the prophetic mission of Muhammad and concluding with the Mongol conquests. Topics covered include: the life of Muhammad; the early Muslim conquests; the institution of the caliphate; the translation movement from Greek into Arabic and the emergence of Arabic as a language of learning and artistic expression; the development of new educational, legal and pietistic institutions; changes in agriculture, crafts, commerce and the growth of urban culture; multiculturalism and inter-confessional interaction; and large-scale movements of nomadic peoples. Same as History 313C Credit 3 units. A&S: TH &S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: IS

L49 Arab 3149 The Late Ottoman Middle East
This course surveys the Middle East in the late Ottoman period (essentially the 18th and 19th centuries, up to the First World War). It examines the central Ottoman state and the Ottoman provinces as they were incorporated into the world economy, and how they responded to their peripheralization in that process. Students focus on how everyday people’s lived experiences were affected by the increased monetarization of social and economic relations; changes in patterns of land tenure and agriculture; the rise of colonialism; state efforts at modernization and reform; shifts in gender relations; and debates over the relationship of religion to community and political identity. Same as History 3149 Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD &S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD BU: IS EN: H

L49 Arab 325 Introduction to Arabic Literature
A survey of the major genres and themes in Arabic literature from the pre-Islamic era to the modern period. Texts include pre-Islamic, classical and Sufi poetry, as well as popular tales and critical prose from the Umayyad and Abbasid empires and Andalusia. The modern sections of the course interrogate political commitment in Arabic literature and introduce students to feminist and magical realist novels from North Africa and the Levant. All readings are in English translation.

L49 Arab 329C Middle Eastern Islamic Literatures in Translation
This course studies, in English translation, several great works of Islamic literature that still influence or reflect the ways in which we perceive Islamic culture today. We critically consider great and disparate literary works, originally written in a variety of languages including Arabic, Turkish and Persian and stretched from Spain to India, that share the common backdrop of an urban and educated milieu in which they were produced, widely read and circulated. The course aims at exploring the literary cultures in their historical and social context. Possible themes include court literature, politics, Sufi literature, history, theology and literature of romance. All readings are in English. Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD &S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L49 Arab 352 Iraqi Literature
This course introduces students to major works in Iraqi literature in the 20th and 21st centuries, with a focus on the post-World War Two period up to the present day. Credit 3 units. A&S: TH &S IQ: HUM BU: IS EN: H

L49 Arab 355C The Flowering of Islamic Literature, 500–1200
Same as Comp Lit 355C
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD Art: HUM BU: HUM

L49 Arab 361 City of Peace: Baghdad in Medieval Times (ca. 762–1250)
Same as JINE 361
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH &S IQ: HUM EN: H

L49 Arab 395 Topics in Religion and Politics: Islam and Muslims in the United States
This course examines the history of Islam and Muslims in the United States, from the earliest days of the country’s founding to the contemporary everyday life of Muslims in the U.S. From the arrival of West African Muslims to the Americas during the Atlantic slave trade and the Founding Fathers’ discussion of a Muslim president to Malcolm X, the Nation of Islam, Muslim Students Associations, and grocery stores, the course traces individual, communal, and institutional histories of American Muslim encounters and experiences. Studies of religion, history and anthropology are examined with literature, music, films and new media toward an interdisciplinary investigation of how Islam as a religion and worldview is represented, practiced and lived, intersecting with race, gender, class, sexuality, diaspora, politics and citizenship in an American and global landscape. Same as RelPol 395
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH &S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L49 Arab 4001 Capstone Seminar
The capstone course for Jewish, Islamic, & Near Eastern Studies majors, Arabic majors, and Hebrew majors. The course content is subject to change. Same as JINE 4001
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM
L49 Arab 4041 Islam and Politics
Blending history and ethnography, this course covers politics in the Islamic world in historical and contemporary times. Topics include history of Islam, uniformity and diversity in belief and practice (global patterns, local realities), revolution and social change, women and veiling, and the international dimensions of resurgent Islam. Geographical focus extends from Morocco to Indonesia; discussion of other Muslim communities is included (Bosnia, Chechnya, sub-Saharan Africa, U.S.).
Same as Anthro 4041
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, CD A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Art: SSC BU: IS

L49 Arab 405 Colloquial Arabic
The aim of this course is to introduce the students to colloquial Arabic through their knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). We focus on the main differences between colloquial and MSA so that the students can use the colloquial form for practical purposes in everyday life. Prerequisite: Arab 208D or instructor's permission.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA A&S IQ: LCD BU: IS EN: H

L49 Arab 407 Fourth-Level Arabic I
Focused reading and discussion of classical and modern texts centered on selected topics in Arabic literature, poetry and media. Continued development of oral, aural and writing skills. Students' interests are taken into consideration before finalizing the selection of texts. Practice in writing and grammar. Prerequisite: grade of B– or better in Arab 308D or placement by examination.

L49 Arab 408 Fourth-Level Arabic II
Readings and discussion in Arabic of selected classical texts. Students' interests are taken into consideration before finalizing the selection of texts. Practice in writing and grammar. Continued development of colloquial Arabic.

L49 Arab 450 Topics in Classical Arabic Literature and Culture
Exploration of medieval Arabic Belles-Lettres (Adab). All texts read in Arabic. Prerequisite: senior standing.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH Art: HUM Art: HUM BU: IS

L49 Arab 451 Topics in Modern Arabic Literature and Culture
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L49 Arab 464 Arabic Textual Analysis
This course introduces the advanced student of Arabic to a variety of prose narratives in the modern language. Readings, which include literary texts and topical essays on aspects of Arabic society and culture, reflect the needs and interests of the enrolled students.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS Art: HUM EN: H

L49 Arab 465 Topics in Arabic
This course is an in-depth study of a particular segment of Arabic literature and/or culture.