The Department of Jewish, Islamic, and Middle Eastern Studies 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 Middle 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 postsecondary 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

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Professors

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Associate Professor of French and International and Area Studies
PhD, Harvard University

Majors

The Major in Arabic

Units required: 24 advanced, in addition to prerequisites

Prerequisites:

• 100- and 200-level Arabic, by course work or by placement.
  (A student who skips the first four semesters of language courses by placement must successfully complete the fifth semester.)

• JIMES 210C Introduction to Islamic Civilization and JIMES 208F Introduction to Jewish Civilization: History and Identity
  (Students with substantial prior course work may substitute an additional upper-level course with permission of their advisor and the director of undergraduate studies.)

Requirements:

• 12 credits in 300- and 400-level language courses
• 6 credits in 300- and 400-level other JIMES courses, distributed as the student wishes
• At least 3 credits in 300- and 400-level courses in a JIMES culture other than that of the selected language tradition
• 3 credits in a departmental capstone course to be taken during the senior year. (Students may take this course during their junior year with permission of their adviser and the director of undergraduate studies.)

Additional Information

Students enrolled in preapproved Washington University study abroad programs during the regular academic semester can earn a maximum of 9 credits subject to review by their adviser and the director of undergraduate studies. Summer programs and transfer courses can be granted as many as 6 credits subject to review by the student’s adviser and the director of undergraduate studies. A limit of 9 credits in total can be applied to the major, whether the credits are earned in study abroad or summer programs or via transfer credit. For more information about preapproved study abroad programs, please visit the Jewish, Islamic, and Middle Eastern Studies Study Abroad Program website (https://jimes.wustl.edu/studyabroad).

Students must maintain an average of B in all courses for the major. A grade of B- or higher must be earned in each language course in order to advance to the next level.

No course taken pass/fail can count toward the prerequisites or the major.

A student may request credit for courses taken outside of the department (other than those that are cross-listed) by seeking the permission of the director of undergraduate studies and the department chair.

To be eligible to write a senior thesis, a student must maintain a grade-point average of 3.65 through the sixth semester. Senior thesis writers should sign up for an appropriate 3-credit course during both the fall and spring semesters. (The 6 credits from these courses can be applied to the primary area of study.)

Minors

The Minor in Arabic

Units required: 18, in addition to prerequisites

Prerequisites:

• Both semesters of 100-level Arabic, by course work or by placement

Requirements:

• JIMES 210C Introduction to Islamic Civilization or JIMES 208F Introduction to Jewish Civilization: History and Identity
• 9 credits in 300- or 400-level JIMES courses in Arabic language
• 6 credits in 300- or 400-level other JIMES courses, distributed as the student wishes

Additional Information

Students enrolled in preapproved Washington University study abroad programs during the regular academic semester, in summer programs, and in transfer courses can earn a maximum
of 3 units subject to review by their adviser and the director of undergraduate study.

Students must maintain an average of B in all courses for the minor. A grade of B- or higher must be earned in each language course in order to advance to the next level.

No course taken pass/fail can count toward the prerequisites or the minor.

A student may request credit for courses taken outside of the department (other than those that are cross-listed) by seeking the permission of the director of undergraduate studies and the department chair.

Courses


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 IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

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 IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

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 IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

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 207DQ or placement by examination. Five class hours a week with additional drill or laboratory hours arranged by instructor.
Credit 5 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

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 Christianity; Islamic history in the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia as well as Africa; European colonialism; globalisation of Islam and contemporary Islam. Same as L75 JIMES 210C
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: HUM BU: ETH, IS EN: H

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 L90 AFAS 3062
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Art: SSC Art: SSC BU: IS EN: S UColl: CD

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 IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM 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 IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

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 L22 History 313C
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM, IS EN: H

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 L22 History 3149
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD BU: HUM, 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.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

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 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 IQ: HUM BU: IS EN: H

L49 Arab 355C The Flowering of Islamic Literature, 500-1200
Exploration of the multilingual (Arabic, Persian, Turkish) literary
cultures of a civilization that stretched from Spain to India.
Themes and genres include early court patronage, bedouin
odes, wine poetry, social satire, mystical poetry, national
epic, and the literature of love and romance. Comparisons to
contemporaneous Hebrew and ancient and medieval Western
literatures. Readings in English.
Same as L16 Comp Lit 355C
Credit 3 units. Art: HUM BU: HUM

L49 Arab 361 City of Peace: Baghdad in Medieval Times (ca.
762-1250)
The subject of this course is an exploration of the city of
Baghdad in medieval times from its foundation in the eighth
century to its sack by the Mongols in the 13th. Starting from
the background history of its location in Mesopotamia, we study
the reasons of its foundation in that location and examine its
topography, city planning and layout, institutions, citizens,
neighborhoods, markets, libraries and workshops to discuss
life in the city. Because Baghdad was the seat of the Abbasid
caliphate at the time, we examine its role as the hub of the
empire (in politics, administration, economy and literature), and
its links to and rivalries with other provincial cities.
Same as L75 JIMES 361
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L49 Arab 396 Islamic Philosophy, Mysticism, and Theology
How does an individual achieve access to knowledge and
access to God? To what extent is such access dependent
upon scripture? To what extent is such access dependent upon
reason? Are there forms of truth and experience that only reveal
themselves through mysticism? Questions of this sort are central
to the interrelated disciplines of Islamic philosophy, Islamic
theology, and Islamic mysticism (i.e., Sufism). This course
examines how these three disciplines have shaped various
aspects of social life within premodern Muslim communities.
Same as L23 Re St 396
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU:
ETH EN: H

L49 Arab 4001 Capstone Seminar
The capstone course for Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern
Studies majors, Arabic majors, and Hebrew majors. The course
content is subject to change.
Same as L75 JIMES 4001
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

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 L48 Anthro 4041
Credit 3 units. 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: Arabic 208D or instructor’s
permission.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD BU: IS EN: H

L49 Arab 407 Fourth-Level Arabic I
A continuation of the Arabic sequence for students who have
attained the requisite proficiency in reading, writing,
speaking, and listening to Modern Standard Arabic. Readings
and discussions of literary and cultural materials in Arabic.
Prerequisite: grade of B- or better in Arabic 308, placement by
examination, and/or permission of the instructor. This course is
not repeatable. Students who wish to study Arabic beyond this
level should contact Prof. McManus.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS Art: HUM BU: IS EN: H
L49 Arab 408 Fourth-Level Arabic II
Focused reading and discussion of texts written by modern Arab intellectuals. These texts will center on the interrelated topics of modernity, politics, and religion. The course will emphasize the following: (1) increasing reading speed; (2) increasing depth of reading comprehension; (3) strengthening grammar; and (4) building Arabic-to-English translation skills. Prerequisite: grade of B- or better in Arabic 407 or placement by examination. This course is not repeatable. Students who wish to study Arabic beyond this level should contact Prof. McManus. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

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. Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: IS

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

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 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. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L49 Arab 4675 Beyond the Harem: Women, Gender, and Revolution
This course examines the history and current situations of women in Middle Eastern societies. The first half of the course is devoted to studying historical changes in factors structuring women’s status and their sociopolitical roles. The second half of the course will focus on several case studies of women’s participation in broad anticolonial social revolutions and how these revolutions affected the position of women in those societies. Same as L22 History 4675 Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: BA, HUM EN: H

L49 Arab 470 Topics in Classical Arabic Literature in Translation
Various themes in Arabic religious literature and Belles-Lettres (Adab), e.g., the intertwining of religion and politics, court culture and fashions, social critiques, gender roles, etc., are read in English. Credit 3 units. Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH