The information presented here is as of 10/24/2012.

**ARAB STUDIES (Div. I, with some exceptions as noted in course descriptions)**

Coordinator, Associate Professor CHRISTOPHER BOLTON

Assistant Professors NAAMAN, VARGAS. Affiliated Faculty: Professors: DARROW, D. EDWARDS, ROUHI. Associate Professors: BERNHARDS-SON, PIEPRZAK. Visiting Assistant Professor: EL-ANWAR. Senior Lecturer: H. EDWARDS.

Middle Eastern Studies is a vibrant and growing discipline in the United States and around the world. Students wishing to enter this rich and varied discipline can begin with a major in Arabic Studies at Williams. The major is designed to give students a foundation in the Arabic language and to provide the opportunity for the interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary study of the Arab, Islamic, and Middle Eastern arenas.

The Major in Arabic Studies

Students wishing to major in Arabic Studies must complete nine courses, including the following four courses:

- **ARAB 101-102** Elementary Arabic
- **ARAB 201** Intermediate Arabic I
- **ARAB 202** Intermediate Arabic II

Students must also take five courses in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies in affiliated departments. At least two of these courses should be from the arenas of language and the arts (DIV I) and at least two from politics, religion, economics, and history (DIV II). At least two of these courses must be at an advanced level (300 or 400 level). These might include:

- **ARAB 216/COMP 216** Protest Literature: Arab Writing Across Three Continents
- **ARAB 245/COMP 245** Revolution in Arab Cinema
- **ARAB 262/COMP 262** Outlaws and Underworlds: Arabic Literature of the Margins
- **ARAB 301** Advanced Arabic
- **ARAB 302** Topics in Advanced Arabic
- **ARAB 353/COMP 353** Writing the City: Beirut and Cairo in Contemporary Arabic Literature
- **ARAB 402** Topics in Translation
- **ARTH 212** Distant Encounters: East Meets West in the Art of the European Middle Ages
- **ARTH 220** The Mosque
- **ARTH 278** The Golden Road to Samarqand
- **ARTH 472** Forbidden Images?
- **HIST 111/LEAD 150/ARAB 111** Movers and Shakers in the Middle East
- **HIST 207/JWST 217/REL 239/ARAB 207/INST 101** The Modern Middle East
- **HIST 305/ARAB 305** Nation Building: The Making of the Modern Middle East
- **HIST 307** Islam and Modernity
- **HIST 310/ARAB 310** Iraq and Iran in the Twentieth Century
- **HIST 311/ARAB 311** The United States and the Middle East
- **HIST 396** Muslims and Europe: From the Conquest of Algeria to the Present
- **HIST 480/ARAB 480** Dangerous Narratives: Interpretations of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- **REL 201/COMP 201/JWST 201** The Hebrew Bible
- **REL 322/ARAB 322** The Texting of the Divine: Language and Imagination in Islamic Thought
- **REL 323** Islamic Mysticism: The Sufis
- **REL 324/ARAB 324** Shi'ism: Ascendant?
- **REL 389/COMP 389/JWST 491** Exile, Homecoming and the Promised Land
- **RLFR 309/AFR 307** Contemporary Short Stories from North Africa: Fast Cars, Movies, Money, Love and War

Students who place into more advanced language courses may substitute additional courses for 101-102, but they must still take a total of nine courses.

Up to four courses from approved study abroad programs may be counted toward the major.

The Certificate in Arabic

The Certificate in Arabic demonstrates that a student has acquired a working foundation in the language. The sequence of eight language and culture courses is designed to supplement a student’s major at Williams by enabling the student to expand his or her knowledge in a related field.

**Required Courses**

- **ARAB 101**
- **ARAB 102**
- **ARAB 201**
- **ARAB 202**
- **ARAB 301**
- **ARAB 302**

**Electives**

- at least one course in Arabic literature, arts, or culture
- at least one course in Arabic history, religion, politics, or economics

Students must maintain a cumulative grade average of B or higher in the sequence of eight courses. In addition, they must receive a score of at least 85% on a language proficiency test administered by the Arabic faculty. The test is administered once a year during the month of April to all students who wish to obtain the Certificate. Those interested should express their intent to the Arabic faculty by March 1st or earlier.

Students who enter Williams with previous training in Arabic may be exempted from up to three of the required eight courses. Thus, in order to earn a certificate, a student must take no fewer than five courses (including three language courses) after enrolling at Williams.

The Degree with Honors in Arabic Studies

**Prerequisites**

Honors candidates in Arabic are required to have maintained a GPA of 3.5 in the major to qualify for submitting a thesis proposal. In addition, candidates must demonstrate a strong interest in a specific topic for which an appropriate faculty advisor will be available in the senior year.
Students wishing to pursue a thesis in Arabic are strongly urged to secure an advisor by the end of the week after Spring Break in their junior year. By May 15th of their junior year, candidates who submit to the Program Advisory Committee a one- to two-page proposal and preliminary summary of the project, the advisor will inform candidates by June whether they may proceed with the thesis and advise them about any changes that should be made in the focus or scope of the project. The summer before the senior year will be spent compiling a more detailed bibliography and preparing for the process of writing the thesis.

In their senior year, candidates will devote two semesters and the winter study period to their theses (ARAB 493-W31-ARAB 494). By the end of the Fall semester, students will normally have undertaken substantial research and produced the draft of at least the first half of the project. At this point students should also have a clear sense of the work remaining for completion of the thesis. In the course of the Fall semester, students will also have chosen and met with a second reader for the project, who will provide additional guidance and feedback. By the end of Winter Study, students should have completed a draft of the entire project. At that time, the Comparative Literature Advisory Committee, together with the advisor, will determine whether the project may continue as an Honors Thesis, or whether its first portions (ARAB 493-W) will be graded as Independent Studies.

The second semester of independent thesis work will be spent revising as necessary. The completed thesis in its final form will be due one week before the last day of classes. At the end of the Spring term, the student will make a public presentation of the final project, to which members of the Advisory Committee will be especially invited.

**Characteristics of the Thesis, Evaluation, and Major Credit**

The topic of the thesis must have to do with some aspect of Arabic language, culture, history, politics, etc. and will be worked out between the thesis writer and her/his advisor. It is also possible to write a thesis that consists of an original translation of a significant text or texts; in this case, a theoretical apparatus must accompany the translation. The complete thesis must be at least 50 and most at 75 pages in length, excluding the bibliography.

The advisor will assign the grades for the thesis courses (ARAB 493-W-494); the Advisory Committee will determine whether a candidate will receive Honors, Highest Honors, or no honors.

For students who pursue an honors thesis, the total number of courses required for the major-including the thesis course (ARAB 493-W-494) is 10, i.e., one of the thesis courses may substitute for one elective.

**ARAB 101(F)-W102(S) Elementary Arabic**

This is a year-long course in which students will learn to read, write and converse in Arabic while becoming familiar with the basic grammar of Modern Standard Arabic. Students will also be exposed to the Egyptian variety of colloquial Arabic. This is a communicative-oriented course which revolves around the daily practice of vocabulary, conversations, and grammatical structures in class. You will be expected to speak Modern Standard Arabic in class from an early stage. Students will also be expected to take advantage of the technological resources available for the study of Arabic on the internet, as well as the technological aids available as part of our textbooks for this course, Al'F Baa and Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya from Georgetown University Press.

Format: lectures, five hours a week. Evaluation is based on tests, daily homework, and active class participation.

No prerequisites. Enrollment limit (expected: 15). Preference given to students considering a major in Arabic Studies. Students registered for Arabic 101 and 102 are required to attend and pass the sustaining program during the winter study period. Credit is granted only if both semesters of this course are taken.

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**ARAB 111(S) Movers and Shakers in the Middle East (Same as HIST 111 and LEAD 150) (W) (D)**

(See under HIST 111 for full description.)

BERNHARDSSON

Satisfies one semester of the Division II requirement.

**ARAB 201(F) Intermediate Arabic I**

This course will continue to study the grammar of Modern Standard Arabic while working to improve the linguistic skills obtained in Elementary Arabic. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to hold conversations in Arabic with some fluency on a variety of topics while developing an increased vocabulary and cultural appreciation of Arabic-speaking countries.

Format: lecture. The class meets four hours a week with the fourth hour a conversation section, time to be arranged. Evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm and a final exam.

Prerequisites: ARAB 101-102 or permission of instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 10).

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**ARAB 202(S) Intermediate Arabic II**

As a continuation of ARAB 201, this course will expose students to more of the essential grammar of Modern Standard Arabic while increasing their cultural literacy in Arab civilization. Our main textbook will be Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya Part II but outside materials from diverse media such as television and newspapers will also be included. Class will be conducted in Arabic.

Format: lecture. The class meets four hours a week with the fourth hour a conversation section, time to be arranged. Evaluation is based on quizzes, tests, homework and active class participation.

Prerequisites: ARAB 201 or permission from instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 10).

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**ARAB 206 Muhammad and the Rise of Islam (Same as HIST 206 and REL 235) (Not offered 2012-2013) (D)**

(See under HIST 206 for full description.)

BERNHARDSSON

Satisfies one semester of the Division II requirement.

**ARAB 207(F) The Modern Middle East (Same as HIST 207, INST 101, JWST 217 and REL 239) (D)**

(See under HIST 207 for full description.)

BERNHARDSSON

Satisfies one semester of the Division II requirement.

**ARAB 216 Protest Literature: Arab Writing Across Three Continents (Same as COMP 216) (Not offered 2012-2013)**

This course will begin with an analysis of the idea of protest literature as it emerged in an American cultural context in the early twentieth century through the civil rights movement of the 1960s. We will then seek to revisit the meaning of this term today, particularly as it resonates in the cultural production of Arabs and Arab youth across three very different countries: specifically Egypt and the Middle East (specifically Egypt and the United States) France, and the United States. How are these Arab youth subcultures constituted? In what ways has the globalization of hip-hop influenced the literary, musical, and cinematic production of Arab artists? In what way do rap and the spoken word in these specific social contexts provide a vocabulary for expressing the violence, lack, and frustration pervasive in these 4th World locations? In short, how has the contemporary American construction of "blackness" been exported and appropriated by young Arabs today? From Paris to Cairo, from the West Bank to Detroit, we will examine the varied strands of this new movement for social justice, observing how different forms of literature and music have been used as a vehicle for resisting war-time circumstances, poverty, racism and social disenfranchisement across diverse national spaces. Texts for this course will include novels and poems, as well as a number of films and selections of music. All of these works will be available in translation, although students may read the originals in French and/or Arabic. Possible novels include those of Charaf, Sebbar, Smail, Begag, Chraibi, Ayadil, Goleiyl, Latif, Kanafani, Darwish, Youssif, Hammouda, and Kahn.

Format: discussions/seminar. Requirements: active participation, two shorter papers, a presentation, and final paper or project.


NAAMAN

**ARAB 219(S) Arabs in America: A Survey (Same as AMST 219 and COMP 219)**

Arabs have a presence in the United States since the early 19th century. As immigrants to the new world, the identity of this community has largely been defined by changing American understandings of race, ethnicity, and religion. The in-betweeness of this minority group—not exactly white or black, claiming Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths—and the often contradictory nature of U.S. involvement in the region, has only further confounded Americans in their understanding of this diverse community. This course will use an interdisciplinary approach to explore the rich histories, representations, and cultural production of this American minority group. For the purposes of this survey, we will consider the narratives of the other Muslim minority groups (i.e., Iranians, Pakistanis, Indians, and African American Muslims) within the scope of the Arab American experience. We will continue to think about how changing U.S. geopolitical interests in the region alter perceptions of Arabs and Muslims in our midst (considering, for example, the 1979 Revolu-
tion in Iran and the subsequent hostage crisis, the two Gulf Wars, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, 9/11, Afghanistan, the War on Terror, and Guantanamato. In addition, we will examine representations of this minority and Islam more generally in the media and popular culture (print and broadcast journalism, films, cartoons, popular songs, and videos), as well as Arab cultural forms that seek to self-narrate the Arab experience for an American viewer. At the heart of this course is a desire to not only shed light on what it means to be an Arab, and to reflect on how these cultural forms would produce or contest the ways of thinking, but also to understand and to seek to define what it means to be American. Format: seminar. Requirements: active participation, two shorter papers, occasional responses, a presentation, and a final paper.


ARAB 222 Photography in/of the Middle East (Same as ArtH 222) (Not offered 2012-2013) (D)

See under ARTH 222 for full description.)

H. EDWARDS

ARAB 223(S) Migrants at the Borders: Comparative Middle Eastern and Latin American Cultural Studies (Same as COMP 223)

Why do the peoples and cultures of Latin America and the Middle East often elicit such passionate responses in the United States and Europe? Some feel threatened, while others are intrigued, but responses to these world regions are seldom neutral. Often seen as exotic and erotic, or as a danger to the way of life of Americans and Europeans, Islam, Arabs and Latin Americans are at the forefront of socio-political debates in the United States and Europe. The origins of this world-view are historical, but are also heavily influenced by contemporary immigration and international affairs. After characterizing Islam as the greatest contemporary threat to “Western” civilization in his infamous essay titled “The Clash of Civilizations,” Samuel Huntington subsequently found it necessary to focus on Latinos as the most significant threat to American civilization. By examining literature and film from the Middle East and Latin America, and from these immigrant communities in the United States and Europe, we will go beyond superficial images and inflammatory rhetoric to explore the cultures behind the stereotypes. The texts of this course examine the ties between the Arab world and Latin America, and between these two regions and their neighbors to the north. At the heart of this course are the ideas of borders and margins. What does it mean to cross borders or to live on the margins of society? The borders we will discuss will be geographic, cultural, and, from the perspective of the Middle East, economic, social, religious and political. Is it possible to cross borders and be “of” both worlds? Our texts include works by writers such as Alurista, Victor Hernandez Cruz, Gloria Anzaldua, Juan Rulfo, Clarice Lispector, Taher Ben Jelloun, Mohammad Chouchi, Mahmoud Darwish, Laila Lalami and Tayyib Saleh that treat the human condition at the borders/margins of society. Films may include El Norte, La Missión, Picture, Muda Alley, City of God, Battle of Algiers, My Beautiful Launderette, Crash, Hate and Head On. There will also be a course reader that includes material on music, film, literature, art and culture of the Middle East and Latin America. All readings are in English translation and films have English subtitles.

Format: lecture/discussion. Requirements: active class participation, two 3- to 5-page papers and a final research paper (7–10 pages) or half hour oral exam.


VARAS

ARAB 228(F) Modern Arabic Literature in Translation (Same as COMP 228) (W) (D)

In this course we will examine the rich, complex and diverse texts of Classical Arabic Literature. The readings include works that have achieved notoriety outside of the Arab world such as Naguib Mahfouz, winner of the Nobel Prize for literature in 1988. We will also read the Iraqi poets Nazik al-Malaika and Badr Shakir al-Sayyab, the Palestinians Ghassan Kanafani and Mahmoud Darwish, and Tayyib Salih from the Sudan. Included in our readings are the famous autobiography by the Moroccan Muhammad Shukri as well as the women’s literature by Hana al-Shbair and Nawal Sadawi. This literature course fulfills the requirements of the Exploring Diversity Initiative (EDI), as it engages the Arab world from a humanistic perspective that aims to promote cultural awareness. A fundamental goal of the Arab world is to engage the diversity of approaches to sexuality, religion, gender and politics that are so prominent in contemporary literature from the Arab world. All readings are in English. Format: lecture/discussion. Requirements: consistent class participation, two short papers (3-5 pages) and a final paper (5-7 pages). No prerequisites. Enrollment limit: 19 students (19 expected). Hour: 11:20–12:35 TR

NAAMAN

ARAB 231 The Origins of Islam: God, Empire and Apocalyptic (Same as HIST 209 and REL 231) (Not offered 2012-2013)

See under REL 231 for full description.)

Satisfies one semester of the Division II requirement.

DARROW

ARAB 232(S) The Texting of the Divine: Language and Imagination in Islamic Thought (Same as REL 232) (W)

See under REL 232 for full description.)

Satisfies one semester of the Division II requirement.

DARROW

ARAB 233 Introduction to Classical Arabic Literature (Same as COMP 233) (W) (Not offered 2012-2013)

In this course we will examine the rich, complex and diverse texts of Classical Arabic literature. The readings include works that have achieved notoriety outside of the Arab world (such as the Quran and One Thousand and One Nights), as well as works by authors largely unknown outside of the Arab world but canonical in Arabic-language culture such as Intra al-Qays, al-Jahiz, al-Ma‘ari, Abu Nuwas, the Hallaj, al-Ghazali and al-Mutanabbi. Women’s literature in this course includes works by al-Khansa’, known for her elegies, and by Qawla al-bint al-Mustakfi of Cordoba, who contributed to the courtly love poetry of both Europe and the Arab world. Topics for discussion include theological and philosophical questions, eroticism, wine, bibliomania and avarice. Our primary texts represent such varied regions as the Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, Abbasid Baghdad, North Africa and Islamic Spain. Chronologically, the texts range from the sixth century CE to the fourteenth century. All readings are in English.

Format: lecture/discussion. Requirements: consistent and pro-active class participation, two 3- to 5-page papers, a final 8- to 10-page paper, one short presentation and weekly 1- to 2-page reaction papers.

No prerequisites. Enrollment limit: 19 students (expected: 19). Preference given to Comparative Literature or Literary Studies majors and students with a background in Middle Eastern Studies.

VARGAS

ARAB 234 Shi‘ism Ascendant? (Same as REL 234) (Not offered 2012-2013) (See under REL 234 for full description.)

Satisfies one semester of the Division II requirement.

DARROW

ARAB 245 Revolution in Arab Cinema (Same as COMP 245) (Not offered 2012-2013)

This course examines the cinematic portrayal of revolution, civil war, and nationalist struggles in the Middle East. We will look at how Arab directors have interpreted liberation struggles and nationalist revolutions to include broader cinematic discourses on culture, gender, social conflict, and national identity. In addition, we will consider whether Arab films wrestling with recent history may be viewed as harbingers of the upheaval and optimism brought on by the Arab Spring. In covering such rich ground, this course seeks to provide students with a critical introduction to the language of film while presenting a social and historical context to the major conflicts in the region in the past half-century. We will cover feature film production, documentaries, short films, and digital media. While students will view films from across the region, special emphasis will be given to films pertaining to the Egyptian Revolution. Filmmakers include Youssef Nazarrallah, Ibrahim El Batout (Egypt); Moufida Tlatli (Tunisia); Ziad Douiret and Nadine Labaki (Lebanon); Elia Suleiman and Mohammad Al-Daradji (Palestine). The course will highlight many of the trends that have been instrumental in exposing both the brutalities of the repressive regimes and the triumphs of the mass mobilizations against them. Class will be conducted in English.

Format: lecture/Requirements: Active class participation, weekly readings in film criticism, a few film reviews and short reading responses, one presentation, a midterm, and a final paper.

Prerequisites: None. Enrollment limit: 20 (expected 17). Preference: Students majoring in Arabic Studies

EL–ANWAR

ARAB 257 Baghdad (Same as COMP 257) (Not offered 2012-2013)

Some consider Baghdad to be a specter of civil–war Beirut, but behind the deluge of grim news is a rich, complex heritage. Baghdad has a long history as an intellectual, literary and muse. This city became a major cultural center when the Islamic Caliphate was moved there in the eighth century CE. The multiplicity of intellectual and artistic currents, as well as Baghdad’s role as a bridge in Baghdad modernist movements in poetry, a challenge to the early Islamic tradition, a wealth of translation activity and a general cultural vibrancy in a multicultural, multilingual context. The texts of the Golden Age of Baghdad would become fundamental to the Arab and Islamic cultural heritage while the city itself would continue to exert a strong creative influence in both the Middle Eastern and European artistic traditions. This influence continues to this day as Arab and Muslims look to Baghdad as a fundamental part of their cultural heritage while Westerners continue to be intrigued and haunted by this city. In this course we will read early texts written in or about Baghdad including examples from 1,001 Nights and from works written by al-Ma‘arri, al-Mutanabbi, Abu Nuwas, al-Ghazali and al-Hallaj. We will also read more recent texts that engage this city including works by Jabra Ibrahim Jabra and Buthaina Al Nasiri. In addition to these texts, we will also view films including Sindbad movies, The Thief of Baghdad and Aladdin. The texts for this course include examples from both “high” and popular culture. These works are by both natives of Baghdad and by outsiders including the producers of Hollywood orientalist fantasies.

Requirements: Active class participation, two short–answer quizzes, two 4– to 6-page papers and a final 6– to 8-page paper.

No prerequisites. No enrollment limit (expected: 20).

VARGAS
ARAB 262 Outlaws and Underworlds: Arabic Literature of the Margins (Same as COMP 262) (Not offered 2012-2013) (W)
The idea of the rogue or the outlaw is a theme that may be traced in Arabic literature from the classical poetry of the pre-Islamic period through to the present. In considering a range of works from the 6th century onward, this course will explore the way in which the outlaw has historically been used as a literary motif in Arabic literature to reflect and critique, not just society, but the official literary establishment as well. How does a writer’s language—the decision to write in the vernacular, for example—serve as a way of challenging the cultural establishment in an effort to speak to a more popular audience? In examining characters who live by thievery or begging—who embrace the ethos of outsiders—we will return repeatedly to consider the concept of freedom as a driving question in these works. Between conformity and deviance, decadence and lack, how do we define what makes a person truly free? The rich underworlds that these outlaws inhabit are sketched for readers as counter-cultures whose alternative way of life and set of values continually challenges the conventions and mores of the mainstream. Readings will include selections from early Arabic (Suluk) poems, Abu Nuwas’ wine poetry, the maqam tradition of rhymed prose, as well as a number of contemporary Arabic novels.
Format: seminar. Requirements: active participation, multiple reading responses, two short papers (5-7 pages) including revisions, and one longer paper (8-10 pages).
NAAMAN

ARAB 301(F) Advanced Arabic
This course is a continuation of Intermediate Arabic. It focuses on expanding the students’ knowledge of vocabulary and grammar while stressing the development of reading, spoken, and written skills in Modern Standard Arabic. The material covered in class will include lessons from the Al-Kitaab series, as well as literary and multi-media works.
Emphasis will be placed on increasing cultural literacy. Class is conducted in Arabic.
Format: The class meets four hours a week with the fourth hour a conversation section, time to be arranged. Requirements: active class participation, completion of all written assignments, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam.
Prerequisites: two semesters of Intermediate Arabic or permission of the instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 8).
Hour: 12:00-12:50 MWF
EL-ANWAR

ARAB 302(S) Topics in Advanced Arabic
This course is a continuation of Intermediate Arabic. It focuses on expanding the students’ knowledge of vocabulary and grammar while stressing the development of reading, spoken, and written skills in Modern Standard Arabic. The material covered in class will include lessons from the Al-Kitaab series, as well as literary and multi-media works.
Emphasis will be placed on increasing cultural literacy. Class is conducted in Arabic.
Format: The class meets four hours a week with the fourth hour a conversation section, time to be arranged. Requirements: active class participation, completion of all written assignments, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam.
Prerequisites: two semesters of Intermediate Arabic or permission of the instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 8).
Hour: 2:35–3:50 MR
EL-ANWAR

ARAB 305 Nation Building: The Making of the Modern Middle East (Same as HIST 305) (Not offered 2012-2013) (D)
(See under HIST 305 for full description.) Satisfies one semester of the Division II requirement.
BERNHARDSSON

ARAB 309 An introduction to Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (Not offered 2012-2013)
This course will serve as an introduction to Egyptian colloquial Arabic, one of the most widely spoken and understood dialects across the Arab world. We will focus primarily on enhancing students’ speaking and listening skills in the dialect, as well as on major grammatical structures and essential vocabulary. Learning activities include task–based conversations, listening comprehension drills, as well as oral presentations. In addition to the textbook, supplementary materials will also be used, drawn primarily from Arab print and non-print media.
Format: lecture. Requirements: active participation in class, regular class and homework assignments, written and oral quizzes, presentations, midterm and final.
Prerequisites: two years of Modern Standard Arabic or permission of instructor. Enrollment limit: 15 (expected: 10). If overenrolled, preference will be given to Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies majors.
EL–ANWAR

ARAB 310 Iraq and Iran in the Twentieth Century (Same as HIST 310) (Not offered 2012-2013) (D)
(See under HIST 310 for full description.)
BERNHARDSSON

ARAB 311 The United States and the Middle East (Same as HIST 311) (Not offered 2012-2013)
(See under HIST 311 for full description.)
BERNHARDSSON

ARAB 353 Writing the City: Beirut and Cairo in Contemporary Arabic Literature (Same as COMP 353) (Not offered 2012-2013)
The Lebanese novelist Elias Khoury has written that understanding contemporary Lebanese literature requires us to understand “how literature both creates myth and then seeks to destroy it.” This class will consider this statement in relation to the development of the Arabic novel emerging out of Beirut and Cairo in the latter part of the twentieth century. We will consider the ways in which Lebanese and Egyptian novelists use the motif of the city as a way to take up the prevailing social and political issues of the day. In so doing we will discuss how some works actively mythologize and celebrate the city as an extension of national identity, while others portray it as the root cause of the country’s ills. We will also consider how the history of each of these cities was intertwined with the rise and fall of certain ideological movements in the Arab world whereby the novel, as a relatively new form in the region, served as an alternative medium for theorizing and considering the efficacy of such movements. In taking up these questions, we will discuss the extent to which the trajectory of the Arabic novel may be understood as a reflection of the changing urban milieu and reciprocally the way these two cities are, and continue to be, produced by these fictions. Throughout the semester we will read a range of works by Lebanese and Egyptian novelists as well as a selection of critical material that theorizes the city in relation to literature.
Format: lecture/discussion. Requirements: active participation, presentation, two short papers (5-6 pages), and one longer paper (8-10 pages).
NAAMAN

ARAB 397(F), 398(S) Independent Study

ARAB 402 Topics in Translation (Not offered 2012-2013) (W)
This is an Arabic language course focusing on translation as a means to help students achieve a more advanced level of proficiency in the language. We will be engaged in translating texts from Arabic into English, and vice versa, addressing translation challenges between the two languages as well as translation strategies that can be used to overcome such challenges. Texts are primarily drawn from modern Arabic literature in the form of short stories by Naguib Mahfouz, Youssef Idris, Hanan Al-Shaikh, among others, and equal attention is given to the translation task, linguistic and literary characteristics of Arabic texts, as well as aspects of Arab culture as revealed in these works. The language of instruction in this class is Arabic.
Format: seminar. Requirements: active participation in class, presentations, short essays and/or translation projects (weekly), one midterm writing project and one final writing project.
Prerequisites: ARAB 302 or permission of instructor. Enrollment limit: 15 (expected: 10). If overenrolled, preference will be given to Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies majors.
EL–ANWAR

ARAB 410 Kings, Heroes, Gods, and Monsters: Historical Texts and Modern Identities in the Middle East (Same as HIST 410, JWST 410 and REL 405) (Not offered 2012-2013) (D) (W) (See under HIST 410 for full description.) Satisfies one semester of the Division II requirement.
BERNHARDSSON

ARAB 480(T) Dangerous Narratives: Interpretations of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Same as HIST 480) (W) (D) (See under HIST 480 for full description.) Satisfies one semester of the Division II requirement.
BERNHARDSSON

ARAB 491T Political Islam: Past, Present, Future (Same as HIST 491) (Not offered 2012-2013) (D) (W) (See under HIST 491 for full description.) Satisfies one semester of the Division II requirement.
BERNHARDSSON

ARAB 493(F)-W31-494(S) Senior Thesis