

# **ARABIC STUDIES**

## **(DIV I, with some exceptions as noted in course descriptions)**

Coordinator: Professor GAIL NEWMAN

Assistant Professors: A. EQEIQ, L. NASSIF. Visiting Assistant Professor: K. BECK. Affiliated Faculty: Professors: M. BERNHARDSSON, D. EDWARDS, G. NEWMAN, L. ROUHI. Associate Professors: K. PIEPRZAK. Assistant Professors: M. APOSTOS, S. YACOOB. Senior Lecturer: H. EDWARDS. Teaching Associate: TBA.

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 areas.

### **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 228/COMP 228 Modern Arabic Literature in Translation  
ARAB 233/COMP 233 Introduction to Classical Arabic Literature  
ARAB 251/COMP 251 Popular Culture in the Arab World: Youth, Populism, and Politics  
ARAB 252/COMP 252/WGSS 251/HIST 309 Arab Women Memoirs: Writing Feminist History  
ARAB 256/COMP 256/ENGL 284 Arab and Anglophone: Narratives Beyond Nation and Diaspora  
ARAB 301 Advanced Arabic I  
ARAB 302 Advanced Arabic II  
ARAB 401 Topics in Advanced Arabic  
ARTH 212 Distant Encounters: East Meets West in the Art of the European Middle Ages  
ARTH 259/AFR 259/ARAB 259 Bilad al Sudan and Beyond: Arts of the Afro Islamic World  
ARTH 278/ARAB 278 The Golden Road to Samarqand  
COMP 253/ARAB 253 Narratives of Placement and "Dis placement" from the Global South  
COMP 261/ARAB 261 Comparative Postcolonial Narratives: Novels from the Arab World, Latin America and the Caribbean  
HIST 111/LEAD 150/ARAB 111 Movers and Shakers in the Middle East  
HIST 207/JWST 217/REL 239/ARAB 207/INST 101/LEAD 207 The Modern Middle East  
HIST 305/ARAB 305 Nation Building: The Making of the Modern Middle East  
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 409/ARAB 409/INST 409 Crescent, Cross, and Star. Religion and Politics in the Middle East  
HIST 480/ARAB 480 Interpretations of the Israeli Palestinian Conflict  
REL 201/COMP 201/JWST 201 The Hebrew Bible  
REL 202/JWST 202/COMP 214 Moses: Stranger in a Strange Land  
REL 207/COMP 250/JWST 207/CLAS 207 From Adam to Noah: Literary Imagination and the Primeval History in Genesis  
REL 231/HIST 209 The Origins of Islam: God, Empire and Apocalypse  
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

## Elective Courses

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

Students must earn 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.

### Timing

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 must submit to the Program Advisory Committee a one- to two-page proposal and a preliminary bibliography. The Advisory Committee will inform candidates by June 1 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 read the final thesis. 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 specially 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 at most 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.

## STUDY AWAY

You can find general study away guidelines for Arabic Studies [here](#).

### ARAB 101(F) Elementary Arabic

This is the first course in the year-long Beginning Arabic sequence. It will help you establish a foundation of communicative competence and understanding of the Arabic language and culture. The course adopts an integrated-skills approach with a focus on "formal Arabic" (or so-called Modern Standard Arabic), the language of formal writing and speech in Arab countries, while simultaneously familiarizing you with one variety of spoken Arabic. The course focuses on day-to-day situations and familiar topics.

**Class Format:** lectures, five hours a week

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation is based on tests, daily homework, and active class participation

**Extra Info:** students registered for ARAB 101 and 102 are required to attend and pass the sustaining program during the winter study period; credit is granted only if both semesters (ARAB 101 and 102) are taken

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** students considering a major in Arabic Studies

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Fall 2016

LEC Section: 01 M-F 10:00 AM 10:50 AM Instructor: Lama Nassif

### **ARAB 102(S) Elementary Arabic**

This is the second course in the Beginning Arabic sequence. It builds on the foundation of Arabic competence that you established in Arabic 101, and will continue to develop your competence in Modern Standard Arabic and one variety of spoken Arabic. The course will continue to focus on day-to-day situations and familiar topics from the immediate environment while expanding the range of topics and authentic materials, and broadening the scope of linguistically-based and culturally-based tasks and course expectations.

**Class Format:** lectures, five hours a week

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation is based on tests, daily homework, and active class participation

**Extra Info:** 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 (ARAB 101 and 102) are taken

**Prerequisites:** ARAB 101

**Enrollment Preferences:** students considering a major in Arabic Studies

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

*Spring 2017*

LEC Section: 01 M-F 10:00 AM 10:50 AM Instructor: Lama Nassif

### **ARAB 111 Movers and Shakers in the Middle East (D) (W)**

**Crosslistings:** HIST 111/LEAD 150/ARAB 111

*Secondary Crosslisting*

This course examines the careers, ideas, and impact of leading politicians, religious leaders, intellectuals, and artists in the Middle East in the twentieth century. Utilizing biographical studies and the general literature on the political and cultural history of the period, this course will analyze how these individuals achieved prominence in Middle Eastern society and how they addressed the pertinent problems of their day, such as war and peace, relations with Western powers, the role of religion in society, and the status of women. A range of significant individuals will be studied, including Gamal Abd al-Nasser, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, Ayatollah Khomeini, Muhammad Mussadiq, Umm Khulthum, Sayyid Qutb, Anwar Sadat, Naghuib Mahfouz, and Huda Shaarawi.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on class participation, short essays, and a final paper

**Prerequisites:** first-year or sophomore standing; juniors or seniors with permission of instructor

**Enrollment Preferences:** first-year students, and then sophomores who have not previously taken a 100-level seminar

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 15-19

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

Exploring Diversity

Writing Intensive

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

HIST Group E Electives - Middle East

JWST Elective Courses

LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

SEM Instructor: Magnus Bernhardsson

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

In this course we will continue to study the essential 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.

**Class Format:** lecture; the class meets four hours a week with the fourth hour a conversation section

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** ARAB 101-102 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

*Fall 2016*

LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 AM 11:50 AM Instructor: Amal Egeiq

### **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.*

**Class Format:** lecture; the class meets four hours a week with the fourth hour a conversation section

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation is based on quizzes, tests, homework and active class participation

**Prerequisites:** ARAB 201 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

*Spring 2017*

LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 AM 11:50 AM Instructor: Kirsten Beck

### **ARAB 207(F) The Modern Middle East (D)**

**Crosslistings:** HIST 207/JWST 217/REL 239/ARAB 207/GBST 101/L

*Secondary Crosslisting*

This survey course addresses the main economic, religious, political and cultural trends in the modern Middle East. Topics to be covered include the cultural diversity of the Middle East, relations with Great Powers, the impact of imperialism, the challenge of modernity, the creation of nation states and nationalist ideologies, the discovery of oil, radical religious groups, and war and peace. Throughout the course these significant changes will be evaluated in light of their impact on the lives of a variety of individuals in the region and especially how they have grappled differently with increasing Western political and economic domination. This course is part of the Exploring Diversity Initiative because it compares the differences and similarities between different cultures and societies in the Middle East and the various ways they have responded to one another in the past.

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on participation, 2 short papers, quizzes, midterm and final exam

**Prerequisites:** none; open to all

**Enrollment Preferences:** completion of course admission survey if overenrolled

**Enrollment Limit:** 40

**Expected Class Size:** 30-40

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

Exploring Diversity

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

HIST Group E Electives - Middle East

JWST Elective Courses

*Fall 2016*

LEC Section: 01 MR 01:10 PM 02:25 PM Instructor: Magnus Bernhardsson

### **ARAB 210(S) The Challenge of ISIS**

**Crosslistings:** ANTH 210/HIST 210/ARAB 210/REL 240/GBST 210

*Secondary Crosslisting*

What is ISIS and what does it want? Using historical and anthropological sources and perspectives, the course considers the origins, ideology and organization of the Islamic State. Beginning with an examination of early radical movements, including the Muslim Brotherhood, the Afghan mujahidin and Taliban, and al-Qaeda, the course will go on to investigate how ISIS derives important aspects of its ideology and organization from these earlier movements and how it deviates from them. We will look at unique aspects of the movement, such as its use of social media, its extensive destruction of ancient historical sites, its staging of spectacles of violence, and its recruitment of Muslims from Europe and North America. We will also examine the ideological constitution of the movement, including its attitude toward and treatment of non-Muslims, its conceptualization of itself as a modern incarnation of the original Islamic caliphate, the ways in which it justifies its use of violence, and its apocalyptic vision of the present-day as End Time. Finally, we will evaluate current responses to ISIS, in the West and among Muslims in the Middle East and elsewhere, in terms of their effectiveness and strategic coherence.

**Class Format:** lecture

**Requirements/Evaluation:** blogs (4 main blog posts, responses to at least 3-4 other blogs each week) (30%); analytic paper or class history paper (35%); 2 midterms (35%)

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 40

**Expected Class Size:** 40

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

**Other Attributes:**

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

HIST Group E Electives - Middle East

*Spring 2017*

LEC Section: 01 TF 01:10 PM 02:25 PM Instructors: David Edwards, Magnus Bernhardsson

## **ARAB 215T The Veil: History and Interpretations (D) (W)**

**Crosslistings:** HIST 110/ARAB 215/WGSS 110

### *Secondary Crosslisting*

This tutorial will consider the history and the changing meanings of the veil (hijab) and its many manifestations (e.g. burqa, chador, niqab), starting with the earliest religious traditions and the status of women in Islamic law. We will then proceed to examine imperialist and orientalist representations of gender in the Middle East, the rise of Islamic feminism and finally consider the emergence and return of the veil in recent years in the Middle East, North America, Asia and Europe.

The tutorial is part of the Exploring Diversity Initiative (EDI) because it considers the veil across different cultural areas.

**Class Format:** tutorial

**Requirements/Evaluation:** each week each student will either write a 5- to 7-page essay on assigned readings or offer a 2-page critique of their partner's paper; by semester's end each student will have written a minimum of 40 pages

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** first years, sophomores and those with demonstrated interest in the Middle East

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

### **Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

Exploring Diversity

Writing Intensive

### **Other Attributes:**

HIST Group E Electives - Middle East

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

TUT Instructor: Magnus Bernhardsson

## **ARAB 221(F) Humor in Classical Arabic Literature**

**Crosslistings:** ARAB 221/COMP 291

### *Primary Crosslisting*

In medieval Arabo-Islamic society, *littérateurs* and scholars were expected to relate knowledge at parties, literary salons, and banquets of the court as well as in their writings in ways that would entertain their audience. From elegant witticisms and irony to crude jokes and mockery, humor played an important role in winning audience approval; it abounds in literature from the classical period. In this class we will read selections from literary (adab) compilations including works such as al-Khattib al-Baghdadi's *Book of Party-Crashing and Party-Crashers*, al-Jahiz's *Book of Misers*, al-Ibshihî's *The Precious and Refined in Every Genre and Kind*, as well as from the poetry of Abu Nuwas and Abu-l-Qasim al-Zahî. All readings in English, although those with Arabic language competency are invited to make comparisons with the original where possible.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** class participation, 2 short papers, one long research paper, and weekly responses

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** Comparative Literature and Arabic Studies Students

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARAB

### **Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

*Fall 2016*

SEM Section: 01 TR 11:20 AM 12:35 PM Instructor: Kirsten Beck

## **ARAB 222 Photography in/of the Middle East (D)**

**Crosslistings:** ARTH 222/ARAB 222

### *Secondary Crosslisting*

Since its inception, photography has been globally disseminated but locally inflected, serving disparate documentary needs and expressive purposes in different cultural contexts. In the Middle East, the powers and pleasures of the medium have been valued by colonial forces, indigenous populations, photojournalists and artists; the resulting images merit aesthetic appreciation even as they grant visual access to the past and present in complicated places. The course will explore photographic practices in different zones of the Middle East—e.g., the Holy Land, Egypt or the Persian sphere—by attending to individual photographers and case studies. This tightly focused approach will support, in turn, a consideration of the burdens and risks of representation in particular circumstances—what work do photographs do? Who resists and who benefits? The general goal will be to appreciate the diversity of perspectives that underlie renderings of the Middle East.

**Class Format:** lecture

**Requirements/Evaluation:** class participation, short papers, term project

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Exploring Diversity

**Other Attributes:**

ARTH post-1600 Courses

FMST Related Courses

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

LEC Instructor: Holly Edwards

**ARAB 224(S) Second Language Learning: The Learner, the Classroom, and the Social World**

Learning a second language is one of the most exhilarating, rewarding, and eye-opening experiences of a life-time. Millions of people around the globe embark on a journey of exploration of target languages and cultures while reflecting on the self and home culture(s) in the process. This course introduces you to core issues related to the learning of a second language. What are the processes involved in learning a second language? What does it mean to know another language? Is second language learning similar to first language learning? Why are some language learners more successful than others? What individual variables do learners bring to the learning process? How can classrooms facilitate second language learning? How do learners perceive teachers' feedback? How does the specific socio-cultural context impact language learning? How does learning about the target culture feed into language learning? How does the learner's identity evolve in the process of second language learning? These are some key second language learning questions that we will examine in this class. Readings are drawn from studies on the learning of different languages.

**Class Format:** lecture**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, assignments, article presentation and leading a class discussion, language learner interview, a research paper**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option**Prerequisites:** none**Enrollment Limit:** none**Expected Class Size:** 20**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

*Spring 2017*

LEC Section: 01 TR 11:20 AM 12:35 PM Instructor: Lama Nassif

**ARAB 228 Modern Arabic Literature in Translation (D) (W)****Crosslistings:** ARAB 228/COMP 228**Primary Crosslisting**

In this course we will study prominent texts and authors of the modern Arab world. The range of genres and themes of this literature is vast. In particular, we will analyze the debates around modernity and the importance given to social engagement in these texts. Our readings may include works by authors that have received some 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 women's literature by Hanan al-Sheikh, Huda Barakat and Nawal Sadawi. All readings are in English. 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 course is to engage the diversity of approaches to sexuality, religion, gender and politics that are so prominent in contemporary literature from the Arab world.

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion**Requirements/Evaluation:** active and consistent class participation, two short paper (3-5 pages) and a final paper (5-7 pages)**Prerequisites:** none**Enrollment Limit:** 19**Expected Class Size:** 19**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Exploring Diversity

Writing Intensive

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

LEC

**ARAB 230(F) Who was Muhammad? (D)****Crosslistings:** REL 230/ARAB 230/GBST 230**Secondary Crosslisting**

Considered the Messenger of God, Muhammad is a central character of the Islamic tradition and has been the object of love and devotion for centuries. Recent outbursts sparked by controversial cartoons depicting Muhammad have made clear that he remains a revered and controversial figure even today. This course takes a critical historical perspective to the biographies of Muhammad, the founder of Islam. Rather than focus on the "facts" of his life, we will think about the ways in which historical context, political interests, and shifting conceptions of religion have influenced the way in which Muhammad has been imagined and remembered. We will also

consider the ways in which Muslim and non-Muslims biographies of Muhammad are intertwined and interdependent, often developing in tandem with one another. By exploring Muslim and non-Muslim, pre-modern and modern accounts of Muhammad's life, we will think about the many ways in which Muhammad's life has been told and re-told over the centuries. In this course we will consider some of the following depictions of Muhammad: Muhammad as the object of ritual devotion; Muhammad as statesman and military leader; Muhammad's polygynous marriages and his young wife, Aisha; Muhammad as social reformer and revolutionary. Course readings will include pre-modern biographies (in translation) as well as contemporary Muslim and non-Muslim biographies.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** reading responses, 3 short essays (3-4 pages double-spaced), and final exam

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** Religion majors

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

Exploring Diversity

Fall 2016

SEM Section: 01 W 01:10 PM 03:50 PM Instructor: Saadia Yacoub

### **ARAB 233 Introduction to Classical Arabic Literature (W)**

**Crosslistings:** ARAB 233/COMP 233

*Primary Crosslisting*

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 Imru al-Qays, al-Jahiz, al-Ma'arri, Abu Nuwas, al-Hallaj, al-Ghazali and al-Mutannabi. Women's literature in this course includes works by al-Khansa', known for her elegies, and by Wallada 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 queries, erotica, 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.*

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 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

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** Comparative Literature majors and students with a background in Middle Eastern Studies

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Writing Intensive

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

LEC

### **ARAB 235(F) The Qur'an and Literature**

**Crosslistings:** COMP 235/ARAB 235/REL 235

*Secondary Crosslisting*

This course explores the rich and multifaceted relationship between the Qur'an and literature from several different perspectives. The first part of the course will examine Qur'anic stylistics through primary readings in translation and scholarship on the question of whether the Qur'an is literature. Readings will consider how the Qur'an sheds light on the category of literature through attention to such features as sound, figurative language, and genre. Students will also discover what the Qur'an has to say about poets and stories. We will then turn to the classical discourse on Qur'anic inimitability (*i'jaz al-Qur'an*), with an emphasis on stylistic/rhetorical inimitability and its relationship to Arabic literary theory. We will make use of recent translations of *i'jaz* treatises, manuals of literary criticism, and historical readings on the status of the Qur'an in early Islamic history. Finally, we will read a selection of later literature that takes up Qur'anic themes and language in Islamic history, in order to explore questions of intertextuality, rewriting, and the guises that commentary can take.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 2 papers (5-7 pp., 8-10 pp.), short response papers, class participation

**Enrollment Preferences:** Comparative Literature majors, Arabic Studies majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 40

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under COMP or ARAB; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under REL

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Fall 2016

SEM Section: 01 TF 01:10 PM 02:25 PM Instructor: Rachel Friedman

**ARAB 237(S) Love, Desire, and Longing in Classical Arabic Poetry**

**Crosslistings:** COMP 237/ARAB 237

*Secondary Crosslisting*

The genre of *ghazal*, or love poetry, has a long and fascinating history in classical Arabic literature. In its various guises, it has been a vehicle for expressing many forms of desire, including erotic passion, "platonic" yearning from a distance, and mystical love for the Divine. This course will explore the development of *ghazal*, beginning with pre-Islamic odes, continuing through the rise of the *ghazal* as an independent genre, and then taking up its adaptations across the classical and pre-modern Arabic-speaking world. We will pay close attention to aesthetics, tone, emotional effect, and features particular to certain sub-genres of *ghazal*. Background readings about historical, cultural, and literary contexts will shed further interpretive light on the poetry. Through these sources, which come from lands as diverse as Iberia, North Africa, the Levant, and the Arabian Peninsula, we will investigate how classical Arabic-language love poets expressed issues of gender, class, sexuality, existential despair, hope and loss, and living in relationship to God.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 2 papers (5-7 pp., 8-10 pp.), short response papers, class participation

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** Comparative Literature majors, Arabic Studies majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 40

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Spring 2017

SEM Section: 01 TF 02:35 PM 03:50 PM Instructor: Rachel Friedman

**ARAB 242(S) Women, Gender, and Sexuality in Islam**

**Crosslistings:** REL 242/ARAB 242/WGSS 242

*Secondary Crosslisting*

The figure of the Muslim woman is an object of intense scrutiny in Western society. Claims that Muslim women are oppressed and the incompatibility of Islam and feminism abound. This course will consider women and gender roles in the Islamic tradition and how Muslim women have interpreted and negotiated these discourses. We will explore questions of masculinity, femininity, and sexuality across various historical periods as well as through contemporary Muslim feminist scholarship and literature (including film and novels). We will begin with insights into the politics of representing Muslim women, exploring how Muslim women are depicted in popular culture and media and ask the crucial question: do Muslim women need saving? We will then explore: how Muslim women have claimed religious authority through scriptural interpretation; how they have negotiated their position in Islamic law both historically and in contemporary Muslim societies; and the lives of pious women in Sufism—the mystical tradition of Islam. We will conclude with Muslim feminist scholarship and recent works on Islamic masculinities. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on the diversity of interpretations in Islam around women, gender, and sexuality and on Muslim women's own articulations about their religious identity and experiences. Some of the topics covered in this course include: marriage and divorce, slavery, modesty and veiling, and homosexuality.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation (including a presentation on the reading materials), short weekly reflections, and one final research paper (10-15 pages)

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** Religion, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Arabic majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

Spring 2017

SEM Section: 01 M 07:00 PM 09:40 PM Instructor: Saadia Yacoob

**ARAB 243(F) Islamic Law: Past and Present**

**Crosslistings:** REL 243/ARAB 243/HIST 302/WGSS 243

*Secondary Crosslisting*

From fear of the Shari'a to its implementation in so called "Islamic countries," Islamic law is perhaps best associated with draconian punishments and the oppression of women. Islamic law is ever present in our public discourse today and yet little is known about it. This course is designed to give students a foundation in the substantive teachings of Islamic law. Islamic law stretches back over 1400 years and is grounded in the Quran, the life example of the Prophet Muhammad, and juridical discourse. Teetering between legal and ethical discourse, the Shari'a moves between what we normally consider law as well as ethics and etiquette.

The course will explore four key aspects of the law: its historical development, its ethical and legal content, the law in practice, and the transformation of Islamic law through colonialism and into the contemporary. Specific areas we will cover include: ritual piety, family and personal status law, criminal law, and dietary rules.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** weekly responses, four 2- to 3-page essays

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

**Other Attributes:**

HIST Group B Electives - Asia

HIST Group E Electives - Middle East

HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

JLST Interdepartmental Electives

*Fall 2016*

SEM Section: 01 TR 11:20 AM 12:35 PM Instructor: Saadia Yacoob

### **ARAB 251 Popular Culture in the Arab World: Youth, Populism, and Politics**

**Crosslistings:** ARAB 251/COMP 251

*Primary Crosslisting*

Since the uprisings in the Arab world in 2011, much attention has been paid to the significant role of the "popular" in creating social and political transformations. The voice of the youth and "the street," in particular, emerged as massive sources and sites for political mobilization. But, are these categories identical? Does youth culture equal popular culture? This survey course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the different layers that constitute popular culture in the Arab world since the decolonization of Arab states in the 1950s. Questions that we will ask include: What constitutes "popular culture" in the Arab world? How is it different than folk culture, mass culture, or "high" culture? Who are the key players in the creation and dissemination of "popular" culture? Besides globalization, for example, what other social, political and economic dynamics engulf the definition of the "popular"? What are modes of self-fashioning and representation of Arab identity that characterize this culture? To answer these questions we will watch several documentaries about music, politics and youth in the Arab world. We will also read a selection of essays from anthropology, Arab culture studies, political science, and journalism to provide historical and critical context for the material discussed in class. Required graphic texts include Naji Al-Ali's *A Child in Palestine* and Majdi Shafi's *Metro: A Story of Cairo*.

**Class Format:** lecture

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, several short response assignments (2-3 pages each), and final paper (5-7 pages)

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** students majoring in or considering a major in Arabic Studies

**Enrollment Limit:** 40

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

LEC Instructor: Amal Equeiq

### **ARAB 252 Arab Women Memoirs: Writing Feminist History**

**Crosslistings:** ARAB 252/COMP 252/WGSS 251/HIST 309

*Primary Crosslisting*

This course reviews selected autobiographical writings by Arab women writers from the wave of independence in the 20th century to the contemporary Arab uprisings, passing through all the transformations that globalization and the technosphere have instigated. We will examine the role that first-voice narrative plays in shaping literature, history and thought, while providing a space to reclaim cultural, social and political agency. Focusing on the different articulations of self-representation, our discussion will address how these women reflect on the shifting discourses of identities, gender, nationalism, religion, feminism, sexuality, politics, borders and their histories. Questions we will address include: How did these memoirs contribute to the development of Arab feminist consciousness? In addition to the memoirs, we will look at women's blogs and watch films that focus on first-person narrative to discuss related topics, such as, visual testimonies, virtual political participation and feminist resistance in the technosphere. Required texts may include: Fadwa Tuqan (*A Mountainous Journey: An Autobiography*), Fatima Mernissi (*Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood*), Leila Ahmed (*A Border Passage: From Cairo to America—a Woman's Journey*), Fadia Faqir and Shirley Eber (*In the House of Silence: Autobiographical Essays by Arab Women Writers*), and Jumanah Haddad (*I Killed Scheherazade: Confessions of an Angry Arab Woman*), as well as critical essays and selections from autobiographical writings that reflect the diversity of Arab women in the Middle East and the diaspora.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, several short response papers, three short papers (3-5 pages), and a final paper (7-10 pages)

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARAB or COMP; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under HIST or WGSS

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

SEM Instructor: Amal Egeiq

### **ARAB 253 Narratives of Placement and "Dis-placement" from the Global South (W)**

**Crosslistings:** COMP 253/ARAB 253

*Secondary Crosslisting*

This seminar deals with the theme of placement and "dis-placement" in literature from different sites in the Global South in the late 20th century. Situating the question of placement and uprootedness within multiple historical and cultural contexts in different sites in the Southern hemisphere, the location of much of the "developing world," including the Middle East and North-Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the African Diaspora and the US-Mexico borderland, we will address the following questions: What distinguishes exile from Diaspora? What constitutes "dis-placement"? How do the experiences of up-rootedness and forced migration among Palestinian refugees and Mexican migrant workers (within Mexico and the US; with or without documents) inform our notion of home and belonging? How do the legacy of French colonialism in North Africa and the rise of globalization in Latin America, for example, shed light on the ongoing massive immigration of subjects from the Global South to the North? Our emphasis will be on working together to find avenues for expressing yourselves in writing and other media, such as creating your own blog entries about these topics. In addition to a course reader with selected stories, poems, and critical essays, readings will include: Benyamin's *Goat Days*, Aimé Césaire's *Return to My Native Land*, Ghassan Kanafani's *Men in the Sun*, Mamud Darwish's *Journal of an Ordinary Grief*, and Laila Lalami's *Hope & Other Dangerous Pursuits*.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, several short response assignments (1-2 pages), one midterm paper (5-6 pages), and final paper (7- 10 pages)

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** students majoring in Comparative Literature

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Writing Intensive

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

SEM Instructor: Amal Egeiq

### **ARAB 256 Arab and Anglophone: Narratives Beyond Nation and Diaspora**

**Crosslistings:** ARAB 256/COMP 256/ENGL 284

*Primary Crosslisting*

This course takes a close look at contemporary Anglophone Arab writings. The objective is to familiarize students with major Arab writers, and/or writers of Arab descent who live in the Anglo-Saxon diaspora, especially the UK, North America and Australia. We will investigate the work of these writers with special attention to the history of Arab migration to these geographies, and the emergence of hyphenated Arab identities and literatures. At the heart of this course is a desire to not only shed light on what it means to be an Arab or an immigrant producing English literature, but also to understand the multiple ways in which we conceptualize and seek to define what transnational literature means. Texts for this course may include novels by the following writers: Rabih Alameddine (Lebanon/USA), Mohja Kahf (Syria/USA), Leila Aboulela (Sudan/UK), Hisham Matar (Libya/UK), and Randa Abdel-Fattah (Palestine-Egypt/Australia). There will also be a course reader that includes critical essays, poems, as well as a number of films and selections of music that shed light on the different articulations of being Arab and Anglophone.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, 4 short response assignments (2-3 pages), and final paper (5-7 pages)

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** majors or prospective majors in Comparative Literature or Arabic Studies

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

Not Offered Academic Year 2017  
SEM Instructor: Amal Egeiq

### **ARAB 259(S) Bilad al-Sudan and Beyond: Arts of the Afro-Islamic World (D)**

**Crosslistings:** ARTH 259/AFR 259/ARAB 259

*Secondary Crosslisting*

From the Swahili stone houses of East Africa to the massive earth and timber mosques of the Sahel, the story of Islam in Africa is one of cultural and spiritual hybridity expressed through material form. In this course, students will explore how artistic forms and traditions in Africa have functioned as vehicles of access and integration for Islam, enabling it to assimilate itself with numerous African contexts towards becoming the dominant religious force on the continent. In addition, students will investigate how the forms, functions, and meanings of Afro-Islamic objects across the continent reflect not just one African Islam, but many different iterations, each shaped by the specific frameworks of its cultural context. The contemporary component of the course will examine how modernity in the form of globalization, technology, and Westernization has affected Afro-Islamic artistic traditions, and how these shifts reflect larger evolutions within understandings of Islam in Africa in the contemporary period.

This course fulfills EDI requirements through its exploration of the cross-cultural strategies used by Islam to interact with, respond to, and manifest itself within established African expressive traditions.

**Class Format:** lecture

**Requirements/Evaluation:** three reading response papers (2 pages each), class journal, a mid-term exam, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** none, although an introductory course in art history or Islamic studies would be useful

**Enrollment Preferences:** if the course is oversubscribed, preference will be given to students who have declared a major in Art History or Africana Studies

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARTH or ARAB; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under AFR

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Exploring Diversity

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST African Studies Electives

*Spring 2017*

LEC Section: 01 MR 01:10 PM 02:25 PM Instructor: Michelle Apotsos

### **ARAB 261 Comparative Postcolonial Narratives: Novels from the Arab World, Latin-America and the Caribbean (W)**

**Crosslistings:** COMP 261/ARAB 261

*Secondary Crosslisting*

In this introductory course to the global postcolonial novel, we will examine novels in translation from the Arab world, Latin America and the Caribbean that are in conversation with each other. Through textual and formal analysis of selected novels in translation, we will ask questions concerning the legacy of the different forms of European colonialism in these distinct geographies. This course has two goals: First, to familiarize students with classical, canonical and popular Arabic, Latin American and Caribbean novels that deal with the history of European colonialism and/or its aftermath. Second, to introduce student to some of the critical trends and theoretical debates concerning the potential and limits of reading these novels as resistance and/or postcolonial literature. In addition to selected critical essays, the readings for this course may include novels by the following writers: Assia Djebar (Algeria), Gamal al-Ghitani (Egypt), Sahar Khalifah (Palestine), Tayyib Saleh (Sudan), Alejo Carpentier (Cuba), Rosario Castellanos (Mexico), Jamaica Kincaid (Antigua), and Gabriel García Marquez (Colombia).

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, three short papers (3-5 pages) and a final 7- to 10-page expansion and rewrite

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** majors or prospective majors in Comparative Literature or Arabic Studies

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Writing Intensive

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

SEM Instructor: Amal Egeiq

### **ARAB 278(F) The Golden Road to Samarqand (D)**

**Crosslistings:** ARTH 278/ARAB 278

*Secondary Crosslisting*

The region stretching from present day Iran to India figures prominently in contemporary global culture but it also has a rich and complex history—an amalgamation of Persian, Turkish and Islamic influences. Home to Genghis Khan and Timur (Tamerlane), Akbar

the Great and Shah Jahanit has generated some of the most renowned monuments (e.g. the Taj Mahal and the blue tiled mosques of Isfahan) and refined manuscript painting ever known. We will cover a broad swath of time—from the 10th to the 20th century—concentrating on important centers of artistic production such as Timurid Central Asia and Mughal India. Students will have the opportunity to study original works of art in the college museum collections.

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on class participation, a short paper, a midterm and a final

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Exploring Diversity

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

*Fall 2016*

LEC Section: 01 TF 01:10 PM 02:25 PM Instructor: Holly Edwards

### **ARAB 280 Islam and Anthropology**

**Crosslistings:** ANTH 346/REL 346/ARAB 280/ASST 346

*Secondary Crosslisting*

If anthropology has helped to define Islam in global thought, Islam has returned the favor, holding a critical mirror to the anthropological endeavor perhaps more than any other traditional "object" of study. This course examines anthropological studies of Islamic societies for what they teach us both about Islam and about anthropology. We begin with foundational social theorists whose studies of religious phenomena helped give rise to the field of anthropology of religion. We then survey influential efforts to construct "ideal-type" models of Muslim society based on anthropological and historical knowledge, alongside efforts to critique, historicize, and redirect the model-building project (notably by Talal Asad and Edward Said). The second half of the course is devoted to ethnographies that explore, from a variety of perspectives and in several regions (Morocco, India, Egypt, Syria), questions of human agency, hierarchy and resistance, and Islam as discursive resource, ethical project, and embodied community.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** weekly postings, one 5-page paper, one 10-page paper, discussion leading

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** juniors and seniors, Anthropology, Sociology or Religion majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

SEM Instructor: Joel Lee

### **ARAB 292(S) Revolutions and Counter-Revolutions: Narratives from the Arab World, Latin America and the Caribbean (D) (W)**

**Crosslistings:** COMP 292/ARAB 292

*Secondary Crosslisting*

This course offers a South-South comparative reading of revolutions and counter-revolutions in the second half of the 20th century in the Arab World, Latin America and the Caribbean. Focusing mostly on novels that depict histories of social movements, post-independence revolutions, indigenous autonomies, dictatorship, and counter-revolutions, our aim is to investigate narratives of people power vs. absolute power, insurgency vs. neocolonialism, utopias and dystopias. To familiarize students with an alternative, yet foundational, canon of modern Arabic, Latin American and Caribbean literatures, we will focus on novels from the post-Sixties generation in the Arab world and the post-Boom Latin American generation. Questions that we will ask: How do these novels configure narratives of the nation and its fragments? What can we learn about the rise and fall of Communist rebellions in Oman and Cuba? How memories of traumatic lives under dictatorship in Syria and Chile shaped the genre of the political novel? How did novels about the 'revolution' contribute to the rise of realist experimental literary movements Arabic and Latin American literatures? In addition to selected films and critical essays, the readings for this course may include novels by the following writers: Sahar Khalifeh, (Palestine), Sonallah, Ibrahim (Egypt), Dima Wannous (Syria), Sinan Antoon (Iraq), Zoé Valdés (Cuba), Subcomandante Marcos and Paco Ignacio Taibo III (México), Roberto Bolaño (Chile), and Luisa Valenzuela (Argentina).

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, three short papers (3-5 pages), and a final 7- to 10-page expansion and rewrite

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under COMP; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Exploring Diversity

Writing Intensive

*Spring 2017*

SEM Section: 01 MR 01:10 PM 02:25 PM Instructor: Amal Egeiq

**ARAB 301(F) Advanced Arabic I**

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.*

**Class Format:** meets four hours a week with the fourth hour a conversation section, time to be arranged

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, completion of all written assignments, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** two semesters of Intermediate Arabic or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 8

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

*Fall 2016*

LEC Section: 01 TR 08:30 AM 09:45 AM Instructor: Kirsten Beck

**ARAB 302(S) Advanced Arabic II**

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.

**Class Format:** lecture

**Prerequisites:** ARAB 301 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

*Spring 2017*

LEC Section: 01 MWF 10:00 AM 10:50 AM Instructor: Amal Egeiq

**ARAB 303(F) A History of Islam in Africa (D)**

**Crosslistings:** HIST 303/REL 303/AFR 303/ARAB 303/GBST 303

*Secondary Crosslisting*

This course examines the history of Islam in Africa from the seventh century to the present. We will start off by looking at the spread of Islam in different parts of Africa. We will then analyze the social, political, economic, and cultural impact of Islam on African societies, the interaction between Islam and indigenous African institutions, the Islamic revolutions in the nineteenth century, the impact of European colonial rule on Muslim societies, and the development of Islam in the post-independence period. We will also examine how African Muslims reconstructed and asserted their religious identities by localizing Islamic intellectual traditions, healing practices, music, arts, cultural norms, and formal and informal religious festivals. By the end of the semester students should be able to appreciate Islam's common framework as well as its diversity and dynamics within that larger framework and over time. This EDI course explores the experiences and expressions of the culturally diverse peoples of African descent in the New World (and the Old), as well as the myriad ways in which they confront, negotiate, and at times challenge dominant U.S. and/or European hierarchies of race, culture, gender and class.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two 7-page papers and one 12- to 15-page paper

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** lottery

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

Exploring Diversity

**Other Attributes:**

GBST African Studies Electives

HIST Group A Electives - Africa

*Fall 2016*

SEM Section: 01 TF 01:10 PM 02:25 PM Instructor: Kenda Mutongi

**ARAB 305 Nationalism and Nation Building in the Middle East (D)**

**Crosslistings:** HIST 305/ARAB 305

### *Secondary Crosslisting*

In 1932, or twelve years into his rule and twelve years after the establishment of Iraq, King Faysal I lamented that there were "no Iraqi people but only unimaginable masses of human beings, devoid of any patriotic idea, imbued with religious traditions and absurdities, connected by no common tie." This course will consider how true the King's statement still holds by evaluating the various attempts at state and nation building in the modern Middle East and the challenges of statecraft. After assessing some of the more influential theories of nationalism, we will explore the historical experience of nationalism and national identity in Iraq, Israel, Turkey, Palestine, Iran, and Egypt. What has been at the basis of nationhood? How did European concepts of nation translate into the Middle Eastern context? What was the role of religion in these modern societies? How did traditional notions of gender effect concepts of citizenship? We will also explore some of the unresolved issues facing the various nations of the Middle East, such as unfulfilled nationalist aspirations, disputes over land and borders, and challenges to sovereignty. Finally, we will evaluate the role of foreign powers in nation building in the Middle East and consider whether the modern concept of the nation has any validity in the Middle Eastern context. Because this course is comparative in nature that utilizes theoretical frameworks to better understand cross-cultural interaction and because it focuses on the ways in which governments in the Middle East have used their power to legitimate their actions in the name of nationalism, this course fulfills the requirements of the Exploring Diversity Initiative (EDI).

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on several short papers and a "Magnus" Opus (a.k.a. final research paper)

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** History majors and students with a background in Middle Eastern studies

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Expected Class Size:** 20-25

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

Exploring Diversity

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

HIST Group E Electives - Middle East

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

LEC Instructor: Magnus Bernhardsson

### **ARAB 310(S) Iraq and Iran in the Twentieth Century (D)**

**Crosslistings:** HIST 310/ARAB 310

### *Secondary Crosslisting*

Despite being neighbors, the historical experience of Iran and Iraq has been drastically different. In this course we will begin by exploring the creation of Iraq in 1921 and the Pahlavi government in Iran. We will evaluate the revolutions of 1958 and 1978-9 and compare the lives and careers of Saddam Hussein and Ayatollah Khomeini. The tragic Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88 will also be discussed. Finally, the political future of these countries will be assessed.

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on class participation, short essays, and a final paper

**Prerequisites:** none; open to first-year students with instructors permission

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

Exploring Diversity

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

HIST Group E Electives - Middle East

*Spring 2017*

LEC Section: 01 MR 01:10 PM 02:25 PM Instructor: Magnus Bernhardsson

### **ARAB 311 The United States and the Middle East**

**Crosslistings:** HIST 311/ARAB 311

### *Secondary Crosslisting*

At the turn of the twentieth century, the United States was considered a benign superpower in the Middle East. Americans were known as "innocents abroad" for their educational and philanthropic work. From a distance, American society was admired for its affluence and freedom, and Middle Eastern politicians eagerly sought American advice and assistance. Today, however, the situation could hardly be more different. This course will examine the remarkable transformation of American involvement in the Middle East. Significant cultural and political encounters of the latter half of the twentieth century will be assessed in order to identify how the United States has approached the region and consider the multifaceted and sometimes ambivalent reactions of people in the Middle East to increasing U.S. presence. It will also explore the difficulty the United States has experienced in balancing diverse, and sometimes conflicting, foreign policy interests, and will evaluate what may account for the increasing level of antagonism and mistrust on both sides.

**Class Format:** discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on class participation, short papers and a final research paper

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** History and Arabic Studies majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

HIST Group E Electives - Middle East

HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

JWST Elective Courses

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

SEM Instructor: Magnus Bernhardsson

### **ARAB 322(S) Islam in Spain (D)**

**Crosslistings:** RLSP 322/ARAB 322

*Secondary Crosslisting*

The presence of Islam—in all its diverse manifestations—is not new to Europe, least of all to Spain. In this course we will focus for the most part on the medieval and early modern periods, and study several works—primarily of literature, though we will supplement with other texts—in which Muslims and Islam have been portrayed in the Iberian Peninsula. We will cover a wide range of perspectives that include Christian and Muslim writers as well as converts on both sides. While the bulk of the course is focused on the period prior to 1700 CE, we will devote the final few weeks of class to the study of Islam in contemporary Spain using fiction, legal debates, and issues related to immigration.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two short papers, oral presentations, one final project

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** any RLSP 200-level class, or results of the Williams College Placement Exam, or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Preferences:** Spanish majors, Arabic Studies majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Exploring Diversity

*Spring 2017*

SEM Section: 01 MWF 09:00 AM 09:50 AM Instructor: Leyla Rouhi

### **ARAB 330(F) Thinking Critically: Major Debates in Modern Arab Thought (W)**

**Crosslistings:** ARAB 330/COMP 363

*Primary Crosslisting*

The aim of this course is to introduce students to some of the major debates in Arab intellectual history in the 20th century and the ways in which they have shaped Arabic Studies as a discipline. We will read a range of texts from History, Religion, Politics, Anthropology, Cultural Studies, Literature, Gender, Sexualities and Women Studies, in order to gain a deeper insight into critical debates about nationhood, modernity, post-coloniality, democracy, feminism, social, political and religious movements, Orientalism and post-Orientalism, and the making of modern Arab subjectivities. In addition to a course packet with selected texts and essays, students are required to read the following books: Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', *Contemporary Arab Thought: Studies in Post-1967 Arab Intellectual History* (2004), Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab, *Contemporary Arab Thought: Cultural Critique in Comparative Perspective* (2010) & Tarik Sabry, *Arab Cultural Studies: Mapping the Field* (2012).

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, three short papers (3-5 pages), and a final 7- to 10-page expansion and rewrite

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** majors or prospective majors in Arabic Studies and Comparative Literature

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

Writing Intensive

*Fall 2016*

SEM Section: 01 MR 01:10 PM 02:25 PM Instructor: Amal Egeiq

### **ARAB 332 Islamic Feminism**

**Crosslistings:** REL 332/WGSS 334/ARAB 332

*Secondary Crosslisting*

This course examines the relationship between feminism and Islam, focusing particularly on Islamic feminist scholarship. We will take a genealogical approach to our study of Islamic feminism tracing the different discourses that have informed and shaped the field. The first part of the course will begin with a critical examination of orientalist and colonial representations of Muslim women as oppressed and in need of liberation. We will then explore Muslim responses to such critiques that were entwined with nationalist and independence movements. This historical backdrop is critical to understanding why the question of women and their rights and roles become crucial to Muslim self-understanding and Islamic reform. The second part of the course will focus on major intellectuals and thinkers who have influenced Islamic feminism. Finally, the last part of our course will explore the breadth of Islamic feminist literature, covering the following themes: 1) feminist readings of scripture; 2) feminist critiques of Islamic law; and 3) feminist theology.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** weekly responses, four 2- to 3-page essays

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** Religion, Arabic Studies, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, History majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

SEM Instructor: Saadia Yacoob

### **ARAB 397(F) Independent Study: Arabic**

**Class Format:** independent study

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

*Fall 2016*

IND Section: 01 Cancelled

### **ARAB 398(S) Independent Study: Arabic**

**Class Format:** independent study

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

*Spring 2017*

IND Section: 01 Cancelled

### **ARAB 401(F) Topics in Advanced Arabic I: Contemporary Arab Cinema**

**Crosslistings:** ARAB 401/COMP 403

*Primary Crosslisting*

The Arab world is a fascinating region with rich traditions and vibrant societies. Through an exploration of contemporary Arab cinema, this course will introduce you to issues in modern Arab societies that represent the diversity of the region as well as the shared concerns and challenges. We will analyze select movies and texts, exploring how Arab filmmakers represent social, political, and economic change and realities in their societies. Some topics include nationalism and national identity, gender identities, civil wars, religion, social justice, and the recent revolts. The course will be conducted in Arabic, and we will employ linguistic and paralinguistic analyses of the movies as a means to explore modern Arab thought and cultures.

**Class Format:** lecture

**Requirements/Evaluation:** essays, presentations, final paper, exam

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** ARAB 302

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 5

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

**Other Attributes:**

FMST Core Courses

*Fall 2016*

LEC Section: 01 TR 11:20 AM 12:35 PM Instructor: Lama Nassif

### **ARAB 402(S) Topics in Advanced Arabic II: Cultural Representations of Political Islam in the Arab World**

How are political Islam, often referred to as Islamism, and the groups that engage this framework represented in the Arab World? This course will examine the satirical and critical cultural representations of political Islam in Arabic film, music, and literature over the last half century alongside the cultural output of these groups themselves. Conducted in Arabic, this course will engage these materials in the original language to broaden students' cultural and linguistic competence.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** class participation, 3 short papers (maximum 5 pages), and oral presentations

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** ARAB 302  
**Enrollment Preferences:** Arabic Studies majors  
**Enrollment Limit:** 12  
**Expected Class Size:** 8  
**Distributional Requirements:**  
Division 1

Spring 2017

SEM Section: 01 M 07:00 PM 09:40 PM Instructor: Kirsten Beck

**ARAB 409 Crescent, Cross, and Star. Religion and Politics in the Middle East (D) (W)**

**Crosslistings:** HIST 409/ARAB 409/GBST 409

*Secondary Crosslisting*

Is religion the most powerful force in the Middle East? Is religion becoming more prominent in the political sphere and what impact will that have on religious minorities and the status of women in the Middle East? Using a case study and historical approach, this course will consider the development of religiously inspired political ideologies in the Middle East in the 19th and 20th century. We will explore the experience of Iran, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Jordan and evaluate role of religious actors, institutions, and ideologies in constructing national identities, policymaking, state-building, regime change, conflict, and war.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** class participation and a 25-page research paper

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

**Prerequisites:** none; preference will be given to History, Jewish Studies and Arabic Studies Majors and to those who have taken History 207

**Enrollment Preferences:** History majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

Exploring Diversity

Writing Intensive

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

JWST Elective Courses

*Not Offered Academic Year 2017*

SEM Instructor: Magnus Bernhardsson

**ARAB 410 Kings, Heroes, Gods, & Monsters: Historical Texts and Modern Identities in the Middle East (D) (W)**

**Crosslistings:** HIST 410/ARAB 410/JWST 410/REL 405

*Secondary Crosslisting*

What role does ancient history play in modern societies? What is the role of myths and fables in the creation of national identities? This course will address the use and abuse of ancient history and archaeology in the modern Middle East. The first part will focus on some of the primary ancient texts, with special focus on Ferdowsi's epic *Shahnameh (Book of Kings)*; we will compare its themes and world view with those of the Icelandic sagas that share many similarities with the Iranian canon. In the second part of the course we will explore how ancient history, archaeology, and epic texts helped forge national identities in the modern Middle East. Our primary attention will be Iran and its relationship with the *Shahnameh*. But we will also consider the relationship of Biblical history to the establishment of modern Israel and Israeli nationalism, how contemporary Egypt relates to its Pharaonic past, the obsession with pre-Islamic history in modern Turkey, and the relationship between archaeological artifacts and ancient Mesopotamian history and 20th century Iraqi politics. Because of its comparative focus, this course is part of the Exploring Diversity Initiative.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** a final, 25-page research paper on the relationship between ancient history and a modern Middle Eastern country, shorter papers, and group work

**Prerequisites:** previous upper division work in HIST or courses on the Middle East

**Enrollment Preferences:** History majors, Jewish Studies concentrators, Arabic Studies majors, and other students with a strong background in Middle East studies

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

Exploring Diversity

Writing Intensive

**Other Attributes:**

HIST Group E Electives - Middle East

HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

JWST Elective Courses

Not Offered Academic Year 2017

SEM Instructor: Magnus Bernhardsson

**ARAB 480T(F) Interpretations of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (D) (W)**

**Crosslistings:** HIST 480/ARAB 480/JWST 480

*Secondary Crosslisting*

This tutorial addresses the powerful, competing, and bitterly contested historical narratives that underpin the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Both Israelis and Palestinians appeal to history to legitimize their territorial claims and to justify contemporary action. Special attention will be paid to the interpretations of key historical moments, especially the 1948 and 1967 wars, and on the contrasting views of some of the core issues of the conflict (Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, terrorism).

**Class Format:** tutorial

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 5- to 7-page essays or 2-page critiques due each week and a final report (3-4 pages) at the end of the semester

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** History majors as well as Arabic Studies majors and Jewish Studies concentrators

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 2

Exploring Diversity

Writing Intensive

**Other Attributes:**

ARAB Arabic Studies Electives

GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives

HIST Group E Electives - Middle East

JWST Core Electives

*Fall 2016*

TUT Section: T1 TBA Instructor: Magnus Bernhardsson

**ARAB 493(F) Senior Thesis: Arabic Studies**

Senior Thesis: Arabic Studies

**Class Format:** Independent thesis

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

*Fall 2016*

HON Section: 01 Cancelled

**ARAB 494(S) Senior Thesis: Arabic Studies**

Senior Thesis: Arabic Studies

**Class Format:** Independent thesis

**Distributional Requirements:**

Division 1

*Spring 2017*

HON Section: 01 Cancelled