Arabic

Minor

The Arabic minor introduces students to the language, peoples, cultures, and histories of the Arabic-speaking world. The minor develops the student's command of reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension in the Arabic language and may complement the student's intended major study.

Students wishing to major in Arabic should see the major requirements in the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/middle-eastern-languages-cultures/) major.

Students minoring in Arabic must satisfy the lower division prerequisite requirements. Students may also take a language proficiency exam to waive the elementary and intermediate language courses. Please meet with the undergraduate major advisor to discuss course options or plan for study abroad.

Declaring the Minor

Students may declare the Arabic minor as soon as they begin their study at UC Berkeley. Please find the minor declaration form in the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures Department or email the undergraduate major advisor. Students must declare the minor no later than the semester before their Expected Graduation Term (EGT). Please see the L&S minor guidelines (https://ls.berkeley.edu/advising/planning/schedule-planning/minors/) for more information.

Other Majors and Minors offered by the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (MELC) Department

Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/middle-eastern-languages-cultures/) (Major and Minor)

Arabic (p. 1) (Minor)

Hebrew (http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/hebrew/) (Minor)

Persian (http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/persian/) (Minor)

Turkish (http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/turkish/) (Minor)

The Arabic minor program requires five upper-division courses in Arabic literature and culture or history.

General Guidelines

1. All minors must be declared no later than one semester before a student's Expected Graduation Term (EGT). If the semester before EGT is fall or spring, the deadline is the last day of RRR week. If the semester before EGT is summer, the deadline is the final Friday of Summer Sessions. To declare a minor, contact the department advisor for information on requirements, and the declaration process.

2. All courses taken to satisfy the minor requirement must be taken for a letter grade and be at least 3 units.

3. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 must be maintained in order to declare and complete the minor.

4. No more than one upper-division course may be used to simultaneously fulfill requirements for a student's major and minor program.

5. With the prior consent of the faculty major adviser, students may take courses across various disciplines to satisfy the Arabic culture and history requirement.

Minor Requirements

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**Only one colloquial course can be used to satisfy this requirement**

| ARABIC 115A Colloquial Arabic [4]         |       |
| ARABIC 115B Colloquial Arabic [4]         |       |

Arabic Culture and History

Select two courses in Arabic culture/history

| MELC 11 Middle Eastern Worlds: The Modern Middle East [4] |       |
| MELC 126 Silk Road Art and Archaeology [3] |       |
| MELC 129 Arts of Iran and Central Asia [4] |       |
| MELC 140 Topics in Islamic Thought and Institutions [3] |       |
| MELC 141 Modern and Contemporary Islamic Thought [3] |       |
| MELC 142 Shi'ite Islam [3] |       |
| MELC 144 Sufism: The Mysticism of Islam [3] |       |
| MELC 146 Islam [4] |       |
| MELC 147 The Rise of Islamic Civilization [4] |       |
| MELC 148 Emergence of the Modern Middle East [4] |       |
| MELC 149 The Modern Middle East from WWI to the Present [4] |       |
| MELC 150A Arabic Literature in Translation [3] |       |
| MELC 150B Arabic Literature in Translation [3] |       |
| MELC 151 Middle Eastern Women Writers [4] |       |
| MELC 152 Cultural Encounters in Modern Arabic Literature [3] |       |
| MELC 153 Synagogues, Cathedrals, and Mosques: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain [4] |       |
| MELC 154 Narratives of Identity in Israeli and Palestinian Fiction [4] |       |
MELC 155  Wonder and the Fantastic: The Thousand and One Nights in World Literary Imagination [3]
MELC 156  Sociolinguistics of the Middle East [4]
MELC 158AC Middle East: Post-Colonialism, Migration, and Diaspora [4]
MELC 159  Middle East, Empire, and Orientalism [4]
MELC 160  Religions of Ancient Iran [3]
MELC 161  Topics in Persian Art and Culture [4]
MELC 162A  Course Not Available [4]
MELC 162B  History of Persian Literature [4]
MELC 165  Film and Fiction of Iran [4]
MELC 170  Islamic History and Historiography (600-1050) [3]
MELC 170A  Course Not Available [3]
MELC 170B  Turkish Literature in Translation [3]
MELC 173  Topics in the History of Central Asia and the Turks [3]
MELC 174  Law and Society in the Early Modern Middle East [3]
MELC 175  History and Culture of Afghanistan [3]
MELC 180  The Quran and Its Interpretation [4]
MELC 190D  Special Topics in Fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: Islamic Studies [4]
MELC 190E  Special Topics in Fields of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures: Arabic [4]
MELC 192A  Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Ancient Middle Eastern Studies [2,4]
MELC 192E  Undergrad Seminar: Problems and Research in Middle Eastern Studies: Arabic [2,4]
MELC 193  Middle Eastern Archaeological Field School [6]
MELC 198  Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students [1-4]
MELC 199  Supervised Independent Study and Research [1-4]

Total Units  35-40

1  Texts must be in Arabic.
2  Students may select courses from other departments to satisfy the Arabic history and culture requirements. All courses must be approved by the faculty major adviser.

**Arabic**

Expand all course descriptions [+]
Collapse all course descriptions [-]
ARABIC 10 Intensive Elementary Arabic 10 Units
Terms offered: Summer 2021 8 Week Session, Summer 2020 8 Week Session, Summer 2019 8 Week Session
An eight-week intensive course intended to teach skills in oral comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing Arabic. Using up-to-date language teaching and proficiency-oriented methodologies, the course also covers the basics of Arabic morphology, syntax, and grammar. While the course’s vocabulary is designed to serve the needs of daily conversation in any part of the Arabic speaking world, its simultaneous attention to the rules of morphology, syntax, and grammar serves the needs of the prospective scholar.

Intensive Elementary Arabic: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for ARABIC 10 after completing ARABIC 1B.

Hours & Format
Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Intensive Elementary Arabic: Read Less [-]

ARABIC 11 Arabic for Reading Knowledge 4 Units
Terms offered: Summer 2003 10 Week Session
The course is designed to guide students through Arabic grammar with a systematic treatment of the subject and the use of classical Arabic texts.

Arabic for Reading Knowledge: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Summer: 6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Instructor: Bazian

Arabic for Reading Knowledge: Read Less [-]

ARABIC 15 Spoken Arabic 6 Units
Terms offered: Summer 2003 10 Week Session, Summer 1997 10 Week Session
Practice in speaking an Arabic dialect.

Spoken Arabic: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Summer: 8 weeks - 12 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Spoken Arabic: Read Less [-]

ARABIC 15B Spoken Arabic 3 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2009, Spring 2003
Practice in speaking an Arabic dialect.

Spoken Arabic: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: 15A
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 101B
Spoken Arabic: Read Less [-]

ARABIC 20A Intermediate Arabic 5 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019
This course is proficiency oriented. Authentic reading in modern standard and classical Arabic and the understanding and application of grammatical and stylistic rules are emphasized. Students deliver oral presentations and write academic papers in Arabic.

Intermediate Arabic: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: ARABIC 1B or ARABIC 10 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor
Credit Restrictions: A deficient grade in ARABIC 20A may be removed by taking ARABIC 30.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Intermediate Arabic: Read Less [-]
ARABIC 20B Intermediate Arabic 5 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020
This course is proficiency oriented. Authentic reading in modern standard and classical Arabic and the understanding and application of grammatical and stylistic rules are emphasized. Students deliver oral presentations and write academic papers in Arabic.
Intermediate Arabic: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: ARABIC 20A with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor
Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for ARABIC 20B after completing ARABIC 30. A deficient grade in ARABIC 20B may be removed by taking ARABIC 30.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of recitation per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Intermediate Arabic: Read Less [-]

ARABIC 30 Intermediate Arabic 10 Units
Terms offered: Summer 2021 8 Week Session, Summer 2020 8 Week Session, Summer 2019 8 Week Session
This course is equivalent to a full year of intermediate level Arabic. It will deepen skills in speaking, comprehending, reading, and writing Modern Standard Arabic.
Intermediate Arabic: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: ARABIC 1B or ARABIC 10 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor
Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for ARABIC 30 after completing ARABIC 20B.

Hours & Format
Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Intermediate Arabic: Read Less [-]

ARABIC 50 Advanced Arabic 10 Units
Terms offered: Summer 1997 10 Week Session, Summer 1995 10 Week Session
This course will include grammatical and stylistic analysis of Arabic texts from both the classical and the modern periods. Class will be conducted entirely in Arabic.
Advanced Arabic: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Two years of college level Arabic
Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for 50 after taking 100A-100B.

Hours & Format
Summer: 8 weeks - 20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Advanced Arabic: Read Less [-]

ARABIC 100A Advanced Arabic 3 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 1999
Intensive reading and analysis of texts of different genres. Guest lectures, films, documentaries, oral presentations, research papers. Formal and informal styles of writing and correspondence. Extensive vocabulary building.
Advanced Arabic: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Advanced Arabic: Read Less [-]
**ARABIC 100B Advanced Arabic 3 Units**
Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020
Intensive reading and analysis of texts of different genres. Guest lectures, films, documentary oral presentations, research papers. Formal and informal styles of writing and correspondence. Extensive vocabulary building.
Advanced Arabic: Read More [+]

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** ARABIC 100A with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

**Hours & Format**

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Advanced Arabic: Read Less [-]

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**ARABIC 104A Modern Arabic Prose 3 Units**

Terms offered: Spring 2021
This course is designed for students who wish to concentrate on contemporary prose. Reading and analysis of modern Arabic fiction, including short stories, drama, the novel, and expository prose.
Modern Arabic Prose: Read More [+]

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Modern Arabic Prose: Read Less [-]

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**ARABIC 104B Classical Arabic Prose 3 Units**

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018
This course is designed for students who wish to concentrate on Arabic of the classical periods of Arab and Islamic civilization. Reading and analysis of literary texts of various genres, including essays, biography, and travel literature.
Classical Arabic Prose: Read More [+]

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week
Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Classical Arabic Prose: Read Less [-]

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**ARABIC 105A Modern Arabic Poetry 3 Units**

Terms offered: Prior to 2007
Readings and analysis of 20th-century Arabic poetry.
Modern Arabic Poetry: Read More [+]

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Modern Arabic Poetry: Read Less [-]
ARABIC 105B Classical Arabic Poetry 3 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2008, Fall 2006
Readings and analysis of poetry from the pre-Islamic through the classical periods.
Classical Arabic Poetry: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 107 Arabic Historical and Geographical Texts 3 Units
Readings from the classical historians and geographers and from contemporary scholarship. Development of historiography.
Arabic Historical and Geographical Texts: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 108 Islamic Religious and Philosophical Texts in Arabic 3 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2017, Fall 2016
Readings in the basic texts of Islam (Qur’an, Hural, Hadith, Sira, commentary) and in theological, mystical, and philosophical texts.
Islamic Religious and Philosophical Texts in Arabic: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ARABIC 111A Survey of Arabic Literature (in Arabic) 3 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013
This course is designed primarily for majors and prospective majors in Arabic studies. The Classical Periods: A literary-historical survey of Arabic literature from pre-Islamic times to the middle of the thirteenth century, with emphasis on the more important achievements of major Arab authors.
Survey of Arabic Literature (in Arabic): Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Survey of Arabic Literature (in Arabic): Read Less [-]
ARABIC 111B Survey of Arabic Literature (in Arabic) 3 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Spring 2020
This course is designed primarily for majors and prospective majors in Arabic studies. The Post-Abbasid and Modern Periods: A literary-historical survey of Arabic literature from the middle of the thirteenth century to the present.
Survey of Arabic Literature (in Arabic): Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: ARABIC 20B or ARABIC 30 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Survey of Arabic Literature (in Arabic): Read Less [-]

ARABIC 115A Colloquial Arabic 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2019, Fall 2017
This course introduces students to a standard colloquial Arabic and the cultures of the region in which it spoken. The colloquial will change based on availability. The focus of the course is on speaking and listening, but also includes readings from printed materials. The course draws on various media including advertisements, theater, and film composed in colloquial style. This course will also expose students to literature composed in colloquial. Moreover, students will study the social stratification in the society along with an analysis of the speech of each social level. Students use their knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic as a platform for learning to communicate in colloquial.
Colloquial Arabic: Read More [+]
Objectives & Outcomes
Course Objectives: By the completion of this course students should be able to:
1. Understand what they hear and what they read in ECA
2. Hold conversation in ECA with native speakers
3. Read and comprehend literature written in ECA
4. Gain an understanding of the Egyptian culture
5. Be aware of cultural references in context
6. Recognize the language level of the speaker to avoid misunderstandings
7. Respond to any speaker according to his/her language level.
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: ARABIC 1B or ARABIC 10 with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Colloquial Arabic: Read Less [-]
ARABIC 115B Colloquial Arabic 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2018
This course introduces students to Egyptian Colloquial Arabic and the cultures of the region in which it is spoken. The focus of the course is on speaking and listening, but also includes readings from printed materials. The course draws on various media including advertisements, theater, and film composed in colloquial style. This course will also expose students to literature composed in colloquial. Moreover, students will study the social stratification in the Egyptian society along with an analysis of the speech of each social level. Students use their knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic as a platform for learning to communicate in Egyptian colloquial.

Objectives & Outcomes
Course Objectives: By the completion of ECA course students should be able to:
1. Read and comprehend literature written in ECA
2. Hold longer conversations with native speakers on different topics.
3. Understand the sociolinguistic aspects of Egyptian culture.
4. Understand and engage in the Egyptian humor which forms a big part of the culture.
5. Understand and engage in social occasions such as greetings giving condolences, etc.
6. Recognize the language level of the speaker to avoid misunderstandings.
7. Respond to any speaker according to his/her language level.

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: ARABIC 115A with a minimum grade of C- or with the consent of the instructor
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

ARABIC H195 Senior Honors 2 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2003
Directed study centered upon preparation of an honors thesis.
Senior Honors: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Limited to senior honors candidates
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 4 units.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

ARABIC 198 Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students 1 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Summer 2000 10 Week Session
Instruction in areas not covered by regularly scheduled courses.
Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Credit Restrictions: Enrollment is restricted; see the section on Academic Policies-Course Number Guide in the Berkeley Bulletin.
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week
Summer: 8 weeks - 2-8 hours of directed group study per week

Directed Group Study for Upper Division Students: Read Less [-]
ARABIC 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 1998
Enrollment restrictions apply; see the Introduction to Courses and Curricula section of this catalog.
Supervised Independent Study and Research: Read More [+]  

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Enrollment is restricted; see the section on Academic Policies-Course Number Guide in the Berkeley Bulletin.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:
6 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week
8 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Arabic/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Supervised Independent Study and Research: Read Less [-]