

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY TO ESTABLISH OR MODIFY AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

Title of the Proposed Minor: Arabic Studies Minor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Sponsoring Unit: Professor Abbas Benmamoun, The Department of Linguistics, benmamou@illinois.edu; 3-3563

College Sponsor: Associate Dean Ann Mester, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; mester@illinois.edu; 3-1350

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Brief Description of the Program of Study:

The Department of Linguistics proposes the creation of an undergraduate minor in Arabic Studies. The minor in Arabic Studies is designed for students interested in developing an expertise in one—or more— aspect of the Arab World, as complement to their disciplinary major.

Justification: Enrollments in the Arabic program have been steadily increasing, exceeding 250 students each year, and an increasing number of students have indicated interest in complementing their disciplinary majors with a minor in Arabic Studies. Adding a minor in Arabic will also help strengthen international studies on our campus by offering students the chance to deepen their knowledge of a language (and culture) that is considered a national priority by the US Department of Education and the federal government in general. The Linguistics Department, home department of the Arabic program, has been working closely with the Center of African Studies, the Center for Global Studies and the Program in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies to strengthen Arabic instruction on campus by funding the development of online Arabic instructional materials (www.linguistics.uiuc/arabic) and offering a section for heritage speakers. With the hiring of an Arabic lecturer (Dr. Albirini) and faculty in Comparative Literatures and Religious Studies to add to our strength in Islam (Profs. Hoffman and Khalil,), Middle Eastern History (Prof. Cuno) and Arabic Linguistics (Prof. Benmamoun), the Linguistics Department, the Arabic Program, and UIUC have the necessary staff and curricular program to develop a minor in Arabic studies.

Budgetary and Staff Implications:

- a. Additional staff and dollars needed- No additional funds are needed; the current staff are sufficient for this minor.
- b. Internal reallocations (e.g. change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)- current levels will be sufficient

- c. Effect on course enrollment in other departments and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments- No increase in course enrollment is expected. Letter of endorsement from units with courses listed as options for the 6 hour Interdisciplinary requirement are attached to this proposal.
- d. Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.- no increase expected on library or computer use.

Requirements:

The minor will require 18 hours of coursework:

- 6 hours of Arabic language instruction beyond the fourth semester.
- 6 hours of Arabic culture and linguistics, including LING 411.
- 6 hours of interdisciplinary courses related to the Minor and chosen from an approved list of courses.

Prerequisites for the Minor:

Knowledge or ability to enter ARAB 405.

Expected enrollment in the minor: We expect the number of students in the minor to reach 30, with proper advertising.

Admission to the Minor:

The Coordinator of the Arabic Program will monitor admission to the minor.

Minor Advisor:

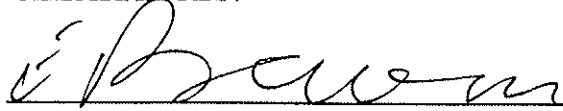
The Coordinator of the Arabic Program, with consultation with the Head of the Linguistics Department, will act as advisor to the students enrolled in the minor.

Certification of successful completion:


The college of the student will confirm whether the minor has been completed, based on the course work designated by LAS. If a Minor Modification Form is needed, LAS will review the course substitutions, in consultation with the department of Linguistics (the Coordinator of the Arabic Program) if needed, and approve completion of the minor with the college of the student.

Proposed Effective Date: upon approval

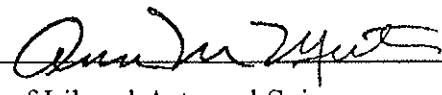
CLEARANCES:



Head, Department of Linguistics
Date 10/3/08



Director, School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
Date 10/3/08



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Date 2/11/09

Provost, UIUC
Date

Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee
Date

Statement for the Catalog:

Minor in Arabic Studies

The minor in Arabic Studies is designed for students interested in developing an expertise in one, or more, aspect of the Arab World, as complement to their disciplinary major. Completion of the minor requires at least 18 hours in applicable courses.

Hours	Requirements
6	Language requirement
	ARAB 405: Advanced Standard Arabic I
	ARAB 406: Advanced Standard Arabic II
6	Arabic Culture and Linguistics courses.
	3 hours: LING 411- Survey of Arabic Varieties (same as ARAB 411)
	3 hours: Choose one course from the following in consultation with the advisor: ARAB 150- Lang&Culture of Arab World OR ARAB 210: Colloquial Arabic I or a Study Abroad Equivalent (must be approved by the advisor)
6	Two Interdisciplinary courses related to the Arab World (To be chosen from the following list in consultation with the advisor)
	ARAB 407: Topics Stand Arabic Lang & Lit I ARAB 408: Topics Stand Arabic LangLit II ARAB 409: Adv Top Stand Arabic LangLit I ARAB 410: Adv Top Stand Arabic LangLit II HIST 135: History of Islamic Middle East HIST 437: Middle East in 20th Century HIST 438: Egypt since World War I PS 347: Gov and Pol of Middle East RLST 213 Intro to Islam-ACP RLST 214 Intro to Islam RLST 223 Qur'an: Structure and Exegesis RLST 260 Mystics and Saints in Islam RLST 403 Women in Muslim Societies RLST 408: Islam and Modern Society RLST 410 Islam in Egypt RLST 481. Muslim Ethics in Global Age RLST 482: Muslims-Christian Interactions
18	Total hours