

# Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages

Chairperson:	Baalbaki, Ramzi M.
Professors:	Agha, Saleh S.; Baalbaki, Ramzi M. (Margaret Weyerhaeuser Jewett Professor of Arabic); Jarrar, Maher Z.; Khairallah, Assaad I.; Makarem, Sami N.; Tuqan, Fawwaz A.
Visiting Associate Professor:	Wilmsem, David E.
Lecturers:	Abu-Jawdeh, Siham E.; <sup>P</sup> El-Zein, Abdulfattah H.; Jeha, George E.; <sup>P</sup> Kozah, Mario K.
Instructors:	<sup>P</sup> Hajjar, Olga A.; Chreih, Mahmoud M.; Soufan, Abdullah; <sup>P</sup> Zein, Raghida
Assistant Instructor:	Kanawati, Rima

## Graduate Programs

The Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages offers graduate programs leading to the MA and PhD degrees. The requirements for an MA are 21 credit hours and a thesis.

Students who are candidates for the MA program in the Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages, and who do not satisfy the AUB English Entrance Examination (EEE) requirements, may be accepted for graduate study provided they satisfy the university English entrance requirement before graduation.<sup>1</sup>

The PhD program in Arabic and Near Eastern Languages has been reactivated as of October 2007. For admission and graduation requirements, refer to the faculty and department web pages.

## MA in Arabic Language and Literature

ARAB 301	Graduate Seminar in Classical Arabic Literature (Poetry or Prose)	3.0; 3 cr.
ARAB 303	Graduate Seminar in an Epoch, a Trend, or a Book in Classical Arabic Literature	3.0; 3 cr.
ARAB 305	Graduate Seminar in Qur'anic Studies	3.0; 3 cr.
ARAB 307	Graduate Seminar in European Literary Criticism and Its Influence on Modern Arabic Literary Criticism	3.0; 3 cr.
ARAB 309	Graduate Seminar in Arabic Sources	3.0; 3 cr.
ARAB 311	Graduate Seminar in an Epoch, a Trend, or a Book in Modern Arab Literature	3.0; 3 cr.

<sup>P</sup> Part time

<sup>1</sup> These students may have to take one or more courses in English over and above their graduation requirements.

ARAB 313	Graduate Seminar in Folk Literature	3.0; 3 cr.
ARAB 315	Graduate Seminar in Comparative Literature	3.0; 3 cr.
ARAB 317	Graduate Seminar in Advanced Semitics or Linguistics	3.0; 3 cr.
ARAB 351	Special Topics	1–3 cr.
ARAB 395A/ 395B	Comprehensive Exam	0 cr.
<i>Prerequisite: Consent of adviser</i>		
ARAB 399	MA Thesis	9 cr.
ARAB 401	Tutorial in Classical Arabic Literature	3 cr.
ARAB 499	PhD Thesis	

For course description, see PhD section below.

## Doctor of Philosophy in Arabic Language and Literature

The Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages (DANEL) is steeped in the Arabic philological and literary tradition. Its faculty are also experienced in the use of contemporary western methods of teaching and approaches to language and literature. For this reason, the department is well-positioned to train future leaders in the field.

Academic governance of the department complies with the practices and procedures currently applied by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. The department seeks to augment its faculty as needed and this mainly through exchange and visiting programs as well as through highly selective and articulately defined recruitment.

## Goals and Objectives of the Doctoral Program

The program's objective is to train men and women to become technically competent in their preferred field of specialization and to train them to play a principal role in enhancing education in the region.

PhD candidates will acquire:

- Critical, interpretive and analytical skills,
- Benchmark methodologies leading to the conduct of advanced research, and
- Deeper, more sophisticated and more nuanced understanding of Arabic language and literature.

## Curriculum

The offerings of the department fall within three broadly defined fields:

- Arabic language and related fields (phonetics, morphology, syntax, history of grammar, lexicology, stylistics, etc.);
- Classical and pre-modern Arabic literature and thought (including poetry, prose, belles letters and other forms of literary expression);
- Modern Arabic literature and thought (including poetry, prose, literary theory, etc.).

## Admission

Admission requirements are in line with those set by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and may be found on pages 42, 43. The department requires the following three requirements:

- A master's degree in Arabic from a recognized university, or an equivalent considered acceptable by the department, plus three recommendations and an interview (when considered necessary by the department). Students of exceptional promise may be admitted after finishing their BA;
- Proven unimpaired Arabic; and
- English proficiency. See pages 36, 37 in this catalogue for the required level of proficiency.

## Financial Support

The department offers, on a selective basis, substantial support which fully covers tuition and includes a monthly stipend. At some point, depending on student abilities and departmental needs, the stipend could be replaced with monies to be earned through teaching. A PhD candidate is expected to begin teaching in the middle of his/her third year. Students may also apply for support to carry out research in archives and libraries outside of Lebanon and to attend international scholarly conferences.

For further details concerning student support, contact the Office of Admissions of the University.

## Requirements for the Completion of the PhD

- **Credits:** A minimum of 16 credits, beyond the MA. These are comprised of five three-credit graduate seminars, and one-credit tutorial, in the following fields: (a) Arabic language and linguistics, (b) classical Arabic literature, (c) modern Arabic literature, (d) Arab cultural history (Qur'an, Hadith, kalam, tasawwuf, heresiography etc.), (e) literary theory (comparative: Arab/Western), (f) a one-on-one exploratory tutorial, conducted by the candidate's adviser, and leading to the production of the candidate's doctoral proposal. The distribution of the above requirements over the said fields will be decided by the department in each case on its own merit. Students who are admitted directly after the BA are required to take 37 credits and write the equivalent of an MA thesis.

- **Language Requirements:** A working reading knowledge of a second European language, preferably French or German, must be shown before candidacy status is achieved.
- **Residency Requirements:** These are in line with the requirements set by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.
- **Supervision:** During the first semester of graduate study, the department will appoint an academic committee to draw up a program of study for the student and to follow up his/her progress. At a later stage, the department, in consultation with the student, will assign an academic adviser for him/her.
- **Candidacy Status:** The student must achieve candidacy status not later than three years from the date of admission, and at least one year before graduation. Achieving candidacy is conditional upon completion of 16 credits, i.e. five courses plus the required tutorial for students with a Masters degree, or 37 credits and the equivalent of an MA thesis for students with a BA; and satisfying the proposal and the language requirements. To achieve candidacy, a student must sit for a written comprehensive examination comprising at least three different papers. The proto-examining committee will be in charge of putting the questions and correcting the answers. Within two weeks from the date of the written comprehensive, the student shall appear before the proto-committee to defend his/her answers.
- **Doctoral Proposal:** A detailed proposal defining the thesis problem, describing the pertinent literature, and suggesting the proposed approach to solving it, must be presented to, defended before, and approved by a proto-examining committee from the department. The proposal must also be approved by the Graduate Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Board of Graduate Studies.
- **Dissertation:** Six copies of the pre-defense final manuscript must be submitted to the adviser at least eight weeks prior to the date of the defense session. This session shall be public. Candidates may, if they so elect, write their dissertations in English, provided members of the proto-examining committee expressly state their satisfaction with the candidate's capacity for acquisition of knowledge in Arabic.
- **Examining Committee:** A proto-examining committee of four AUB members of professorial rank must be appointed prior to the submission of the student's proposal. This proto-committee shall be composed of the candidate's adviser, two other members from the department, and a fourth member from another department relevant to the subject. In addition to the above, the final official examining committee shall include an 'external examiner' from another institution in Lebanon or elsewhere.
- **Awarding/Withholding the Degree:** The decision of the examining committee may be one of the following four:
  - a. Award: with or without demanding minor corrections
  - b. Award: provided certain specific and restricted alterations are implemented within three months, and approved by the proto-committee
  - c. Suspend: major alterations are required and must be implemented within 6-12 months, after which the whole committee shall reconvene.
  - d. Withhold without further recourse

## Course Requirements

The minimum course requirements (a total of five courses, plus a one-credit tutorial) are distributed as follows:

- One course in Arabic language
- One course in classical Arabic literature and thought
- One course in modern Arabic literature and thought
- The two remaining courses must be distributed according to one of the following two options, subject to the approval of the adviser:

Both courses in the same broad field to which the student's dissertation belongs

OR

At least one course in the same broad field to which the student's dissertation belongs; the remaining course can be determined only subject to the approval of the student's adviser.

## Course Offerings

**ARAB 301 Seminar in Classical Arabic Literature (Poetry or Prose) 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An overview of the formative elements (geographic, linguistic, ethnic, religious, and cultural) and defining issues (identity, nature, and economic drives), with selective focuses on major trends and figures in Classical Arabic Literature before 1258/657.

**ARAB 303 Graduate Seminar in an Epoch, a Trend or a Book in Classical Arabic Literature 3.0; 3 cr.**  
Negotiating Classical Arabic Literature through the historical method, the thematic approach, or direct textual engagement, the selective focuses of this course cover a wide spectrum of Arabic literary production before 1258/657.

**ARAB 305 Graduate Seminar in Qur'anic Studies 3.0; 3 cr.**  
A survey of the different problems in Qur'anic studies, such as compilation of the Qur'an, al-nasikh wal-mansukh, al-muhkam wal-mutashabih, the secret letters, and the different schools of tafsir.

**ARAB 307 Graduate Seminar in European Literary Criticism and Its Influence on Modern Arabic Literary Criticism 3.0; 3 cr.**  
The course studies the rise of the Arabic Romantic Movement, the modern and post-modern trends, structuralism, intertextuality, deconstruction, as well as postcolonial, feminine and cultural studies.

**ARAB 309 Graduate Seminar in Arabic Sources 3.0; 3 cr.**  
A systematic survey of the major sources of Arabic literary and linguistic study. The different genres represented by these sources are emphasized.

**ARAB 311 Graduate Seminar in an Epoch, a Trend or a Book in Modern Arab Literature 3.0; 3 cr.**  
Focusing on a period, a trend, a particular author, or book, this course is an in-depth study using modern, critical and comparative approaches to literature.

**ARAB 313 Graduate Seminar in Folk Literature 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An analytic study of Arabic folk literature and its development. Study includes the different influences on folk literature and its impact on Arabic literature during later centuries.

**ARAB 315 Graduate Seminar in Comparative Literature 3.0; 3 cr.**  
This course deals with the theories and methods current in comparative literature in Arabic and worldwide, encouraging research on trans cultural aspects of literary production, theory and criticism.

**ARAB 317 Graduate Seminar in Advanced Semitics or Linguistics 3.0; 3 cr.**  
A study of the Arabic grammatical tradition, with special emphasis on the development of the grammarians' analytic methods. Alternatively, and according to need, the course could offer a survey of comparative Semitic philology.

**ARAB 351 Special Topics in Arabic Language and Literature 1-3 cr.**  
A course that varies in content and focuses on selected topics in language and literature.

**ARAB 395A/395B Comprehensive Exam 0 cr.**  
*Prerequisite: Consent of adviser*

**ARAB 399 MA Thesis 9 cr.**

**ARAB 401 Tutorial in Classical Arabic Literature 1 cr.**

**ARAB 499 PhD Thesis**