

UMBC UGC New Course Request: Arabic 355: Introduction to Arabic Culture and CivilizationDate Submitted: March 3rd 2015

Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2015

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COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Number(s)	ARBC 355
Formal Title	Introduction to Arabic Culture and Civilization
Transcript Title (≤30c)	Intro to Arabic Culture and Civilization
Recommended Course Preparation	
Prerequisite NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a "D" or better.	ARBC 202 with a grade of C or better
Credits	3 credits <small>This should be equal to the number of credits for courses that cannot be repeated for credit. For courses that may be repeated for credit, enter the maximum total number of credits a student can receive from this course. E.g., enter 6 credits for a 3 credit course that may be taken a second time for credit, but not for a third time. Please note that this does NOT refer to how many times a class may be retaken for a higher grade.</small>
Repeatable?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Max. Total Credits	3 credits
Grading Method(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION (no longer than 75 words):

This course is an introductory survey of Arabic culture and civilization representing works from pre-Islamic to later thinkers and scholars. The course will trace the origins of the Arab people, their distinctive culture and their literature. Specific emphasis will be given to the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad and to the spread of Islamic civilization during and after his death. Attention will also be given to Islam's interactions with other cultures and its contributions to literature, art, music, and architecture.

RATIONALE FOR NEW COURSE:

Arabic language has been offered at UMBC since 2004. This course will serve as an addition to series of upper level Arabic courses already offered at UMBC in order to create a minor in Arabic at UMBC. Over the last several years, a considerable number of UMBC students and prospective students who have shown a strong interest in pursuing an Arabic minor at UMBC.

This course can serve as an elective for a certificate/minor of Arabic and an upper-level GEP culture course. This course is an upper level course because students need to have the general basic requirements gained through the two years in the Modern Standard Arabic courses to further broaden their knowledge in Arabic culture and civilization and enhance their comprehension and writing in higher level Arabic.

The Introduction to Arabic Culture and Civilization course can be offered as a regular grading method for students who desire to pursue a certificate or minor in Arabic and audit or P/F option for students who completed intermediate Arabic level and want to explore the Arabic culture and civilization and obtain an elective upper-level credit for their GEP.

ATTACH COURSE OUTLINE (mandatory):

Arabic 355: Introduction to Arabic Culture and Civilization (3 credits)

1.1 Prerequisite

Completion of intermediate Arabic (2years of Arabic) with a grade of C or better

1.2 Objectives and learning outcomes of the course

At the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate:

- An understanding of
 1. The relationship between the practices and perspectives of the Arabic cultural and civilization
 2. The relationship between the products and perspectives of the Arabic culture and civilization
 3. The general knowledge and realistic view of the linguistic, geographic, historical, social, cultural, political, and artistic aspects of the Arab world

The primary objectives of the course are:

1. To increase students' tolerance and understanding by providing them with a realistic view of the cultural contours of the Arabic/Islamic world and the richness of its civilization
2. To hone students' skill in presenting in Arabic
3. To enable students to independently acquire communicative competence in Arabic
4. To enhance students' ability to search and examine complex Arabic manuscripts

1.3 Scope and syllabus

The course material will be explored through lectures and videos supported by listening and viewing guides in addition to discussions based upon the assigned readings and lectures. There will be emphasis on developing effective outlining, writing, and oral presentation skills, as well as the responsible use of resources, including Internet researching.

Moreover, the course is accompanied by an interactive setting via Blackboard. All resources will be web-based, and students will post some of their assignments to the discussion board. Grades will be based upon class attendance and participation, biweekly short essays, and a final paper.

Generally, the meeting time will be divided equally between lecture, viewing, and discussion. One session will be spent in lecture with the second session devoted to discussion. The following session will demonstrate a video selection for the week's unit with further discussion. It is imperative that all students bring a copy of the unit to each class session. These documents are available on the Course Documents under Blackboard and should be printed out to be filled out by students in class.

Each week students will have the opportunity to develop the communicative skills associated with a particular everyday scenario.

- **Class preparation and participation:** A substantial part of the grade for this class is determined by students' active participation and involvement in class. Additionally, students will be required to spend time weekly

watching documentaries in class and online before discussion and presentation, in addition to open discussions via weekly Forums.

- **Biweekly short essays:** Six Vocabulary quizzes will be given throughout the semester.
- **Midterm:** one midterm related to the cultural knowledge and readings from chapters/articles/documentaries and short essays of topics discussed in class and online
- **Presentations:** midterm & final presentations from students interest in a topic related to Arabic cultures and civilization.
- **Final Exam:** Final test related to the cultural knowledge and readings from chapters/articles/documentaries and short essays of topics discussed in class and online

Intercultural Communicative Competency

All Arabic courses at UMBC involve learning the Arabic language in the framework of intercultural communicative competency. Arabic, like all languages, is embedded in specific cultures, and you will learn culturally appropriate ways to communicate with native speakers, who come from a variety of regions, including, Maghreb, Middle East, or Arabian Peninsular communities. By emphasizing interconnections between diverse cultural zones, our program helps you build the intercultural communicative competency you need to interact effectively with speakers from the many Arab cultures.

Blackboard

Your supplement online activities, such Aswaat Arabbiya (Arabic voices), and Arab Academy will be directly accessible in Blackboard.

There will be an orientation to help you register in the International Media Center. Sherman Hall 219 area

Homework delivery

All activities are assigned deadlines that need to be respected to earn credit. Make sure to do your homework a bit ahead of time to allow for unforeseen delivery platform issues (BB is down, UMBC server has crashed, etc.)

The interactive Forum activity in Asswaat Arrabiya will have to be given to your instructor in a folder in class. Each unit and unit topic will have to be identified, stapled with the student's name on top.

All papers should conform to the following guidelines: typed in double-space with a 12 pt. font and 1" margins. You should include your name, class number, date, unit topic, and assignment number in the upper right-hand corner of the paper.

What makes an 'A' paper?

Generally, papers receiving a grade of 'A' display the following characteristics:

- Content:** The topic is appropriate for the assignment and all the important points of the material are covered. It is apparent that the writer has understood and assimilated the material.
- Structure and Organization:** It is clear that the topic is well thought out and carefully developed with effective and appropriate supporting detail. The paper fully anticipates reader needs in terms of organization and presentation of information, and the formal elements of introduction, body and conclusion are easily identifiable. A thesis statement is presented, developed, and supported with appropriate main and sub-points, and the flow of ideas is logical and fluid.
- Mechanics:** Correct grammatical structures are used throughout and there are no or very few faults with respect to spelling, punctuation or presentation. Sentences are clear and well constructed, and mastery of standard paragraphing technique is apparent. It is obvious that the writer has command of standard literary English as used in academic papers, and employs language that is appropriate for the topic, purpose and reader.
- Analysis:** The paper synthesizes and interprets important points, constructs new ideas or perspectives on the topic at hand, or creatively articulates ideas in a novel or synthetic interpretive context.

IMPORTANT

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE.

No laptop allowed in the classroom.

Cell phones, tablets, iPods or any other electronic devices must be turned off and kept inside your school bag. During quizzes and exams, all classroom materials must also be put in your school bag.

Disrespectful behavior, as well as any writing, homework, online communication in Forum that do not follow netiquette or social etiquette (insults, extreme statements, offensive comments to other people beliefs, etc.) will result in a zero for the exercise and will be reported to the MLLI department for further disciplinary action.

The use of any web translator or any other correction devices will be considered to be an act of plagiarism

"By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal. <http://www.umbc.edu/provost/integrity/faculty.html>)

TUTORING:

Sign up at LRC, Sherman Hall 345 if you need tutoring. It is a free service.

Suggested Key TEXT

- Online reading & listening materials will be provided to all students by instructor
- Aswaat Arrabiyya (text analysis and comprehension)
- Arab Academy (username and password will be provided the second week)
- Video selection for the week's unit
- Arabic/English Dictionary

Further Reading

Source of Renaissance (John Hayes, ed., New York University Press, 1975)

History of the Arabs (Philip K. Hitti, St. Martin's Press, tenth edition 1970)

The Legacy of Islam (Sir Thomas Arnold and Alfred Guillaume, eds., Oxford University Press (1968)

Ali Abdullah Al-Daffa. *The Muslim Contribution to Mathematics*. Croom Helm Ltd.: London, 1977.

Life Science Library. *Mathematics*. Time-Life International, 1963, 1965.

Florence A. Yeldham. *The Story of Reckoning in the Middle Ages* George C. Harrop and Company, 1948.

B. Lynn Bodner. "Constructing and Classifying Designs of Al-Andalus," Mathematics Department, Monmouth University, retrieved at

<http://mathematics.monmouth.edu/coursenotes/bodner/papers/2003/ISAMA03.htm>

Julie J. Rehmyer. Ancient Islamic Penrose Tiles. *Science News Online*, 171:8 (2/24/07), retrieved at <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/ancient-islamic-penrose-tiles-0>

Charles Burnett. "Leonard of Pisa (Fibonacci) and Arabic Arithmetic," Warburg Institute, retrieved at <http://www.muslimheritage.com/topics/default.cfm?ArticleID=472>

Grade distribution:

Online assignment (Aswaat Arrabiyya & Arab Academy) (%15)

5 Biweekly short essays, minimum two pages (%25)

Attendance and participation (%10)

Presentation (%10)

Midterm (%20)

Final Exam (20%)

This schedule is tentative and subject to change if necessary

Note:

To ensure you will benefit from the most effective learning environment, you will need to read ahead and make sure you have done all your homework on time.

Week 1.

Lecture: The Arabs – A History Survey

Video: Arabic and Islamic Civilization

Discussion: Answering the comprehension question sheet

Week 2.

Lecture: The Revelation of the Qur'an & Spread of Islam

Video: Empire of Faith

Discussion: Answering the comprehension question sheet

Week 3.

Lecture: Geography of the Diverse Arab Countries

Video: العربي للوطن الجغرافي الموقع

Discussion: Answering the comprehension question sheet

Paper#1 Due

Week 4.

Lecture: Islamic Architecture and Art, part1

Video: Paradise Found & العمارة الاسلامية (Sharjah)

Discussion: Answering the comprehension question sheet

Student Geography Presentations

Week 5.

Lecture: Islamic Architecture and Art, part2

Video: لامية الحقائق الاس

Discussion: Answering the comprehension question sheet

Paper#2 Due

Week 6.

Lecture: Science and Islam, Part1

Video: Islamic Golden Age

Discussion: Answering the comprehension question sheet

Student Presentations, Art & Architecture

Week7.

Lecture: Science and Islam, Part2

Video: العلماء المسلمون

Discussion: Answering the comprehension question sheet

Student Presentations, موناالعلماء المسلم

Week 8.

Lecture: Arab-Islamic Civilization (Influence on West)
Video: فيلم عن الحضارة الاسلامية بمنظور غربي
Discussion: Answering the comprehension question sheet
Paper #3 Due & Midterm

Week 9.

Lecture: Andalusia, part1
Video: الموارسكيون في الاندلس
Discussion: Answering the comprehension question sheet
Student Presentations, الاندلس

Week 10.

Lecture: Andalusia, part2
Video: زرياب : قنارة الحضارة / موشح اندلسي نادر
Discussion: Answering the comprehension question sheet
Paper #4 Due

Week 11.

Lecture: Arab Art and Music (Arab conceptions of Arab & Music)
Video: Musical Instruments of the Arab World
Discussion: Answering the comprehension question sheet
Student Presentations, Music & Instruments

Week 12.

Lecture: Arab Family and Customs (Diverse ethnic practices)
Video: Holidays/Weeding & food
Discussion: Answering the comprehension question sheet
Paper #5 Due

Week 13.

Arabic mint tea ceremony (Sample sweets and recipes)
Students' presentations about Arabic gastronomy
Preparation for the final

Week 14.

Final