

## UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Minor in Arabic Language and Culture

Date Submitted: December 2, 2015

Proposed Effective Date: August 23, 2016

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### Specifics (see instructions):

#### Minor in Arabic Language and Culture (18 credits)

3 credits: one MLLI core course (MLLI 190, 191, 230, 301)

- MLLI 190 The World of Language I
- MLLI 191 The World of Language II
- MLLI 230 World Language Communities
- MLLI 301 Textual Analysis

6 credits: two upper level Arabic language courses:

- Arabic 301 Advanced Arabic I
- Arabic 302 Advanced Arabic II

9 credits: three Arabic electives:

- Arabic 325 Introduction to Arabic Dialects
- Arabic 350 Arabic Media
- Arabic 355 Introduction to Arabic Culture and Civilization
- An MLL elective course (or a course in a related discipline), relevant to Arabic language and culture, may replace any one of the Arabic electives with the approval of the MLLI department.

### Rationale (see instructions):

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, the subsequent war in Iraq, and the current conflicts in the Middle East have affected the field of Arabic studies and the way we think about Arabic language learning, in particular. It is not a surprise that demand for learning Arabic in the United States has increased since then, as evidenced by the surge in student enrollments in Arabic classes at UMBC since 2004 when we first launched Arabic classes. This increase in interest has led to the development or expansion of Arabic courses at UMBC reaching upper level courses, including an Arabic study abroad program in one of the Arab countries. Our students are yearning for a genuine understanding of Arab cultures and the ability to speak to citizens of the Arab world. Many of them want to dig deeper into the realities surrounding current global conflicts and to learn about and understand the rich history and cultures of the Arab world.

Our Arabic program at UMBC has now sufficient courses to not only introduce students to advanced levels of Modern Standard Arabic, but also, for those students, to gain knowledge in various Arabic dialects, Arabic civilization, Arabic media, and Arabic cultures.

Students at UMBC have shown a strong interest in minoring in Arabic, especially students who are majoring in Global Studies and Political Science (International Relations track). Those students are required to complete a 3-year foreign language program and are encouraged to minor in Arabic because they will be at an advantage in a job market that values global awareness and a cross-cultural perspective.

