

DEPARTMENT OF ARABIC & TRANSLATION STUDIES NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023 • Issue 03 • English Edition

أهلاً وسهلاً
AHLAN WA SAHLANOUR SECTIONS

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Arabesque detail from the tomb of I'timād-ud-Daulah, a vizier of the Mughal Empire (17th century), Agra, India.

Edited by: Dr.Mai Zaki

نراقظ

Department News

LAST SEMESTER AT A GLANCE:

38 Sections in a variety of areas were offered in Spring 2023 to suit all interests.

1082 Students is the total number of students who took our courses last semester.

2 Minors are offered in the department, each one is 12 credits only (= 4 courses):

- Minor in Arabic Language and Literature
- Minor in Translation

Did You know?

This semester, Fall 2023, there are currently 1560 students taking our many courses. Join us next semester!



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Course Highlights

These are some of our course offerings for new and returning courses you don't want to miss in the Spring.



SPRING 2024

ARA 29416
Reason and Revelation in Arab-Islamic Thought

In this discussion-based course, you will explore the interplay between reason and revelation in Arab-Islamic thought, and examine concepts and doctrines of contemporary significance, such as the problem of evil, free will or predestination and the source and foundations of moral values.

GER Attribute: Culture in a Critical Perspective
Pre-requisites: ARA 101 or ARA 102 or WRI 102
ats@aus.edu

Dr. Mariam AlAttar



Department of Arabic & Translation Studies


SPRING 2024

Learn about the intellectual history of Islam in English

ARA 385
ISLAMIC TEXTS IN TRANSLATION

This course presents the intellectual history of Islam through the study of primary Arabic texts translated into English. It introduces various Islamic sciences, like Quran, Tafsir, Hadith, Law, Theology, Philosophy, and Sufism.

Dr. Usman Ghani



GER ATTRIBUTE: HISTORY & CULTURE OF THE ARAB WORLD
ARABIC MINOR ELECTIVE

Email: ats@aus.edu

ARA 306
Arabic Travel Writings
(in English)

Are you looking for a course that satisfies the Arts and Literature attribute?

Look No Further!

This course explores different themes in the genre of Arabic travel writing and examines the journey as a metaphor, a venue for self-expression, a quest for identity, and a site for cultural encounter. This is a module based course with NO comprehensive exams and NO final exam.

Dr. Mely AlKaid



Reserve a place NOW
Email: ats@aus.edu

ARA 306 is an Arabic Language Minor Elective
A Minor is 12 credits only = 4 courses

Fall 2023

INTRODUCTION TO ARABIC DIGITAL HUMANITIES

ARA 250

TEXTS, TOOLS AND MAPS.. ARABIC TEXTS AS DATA ON YOUR COMPUTER!

SPRING 2024

What happens when you have digital Arabic texts and computer software for text analysis? Lots of cool things! Join the class of future skills and learn how to treat digital Arabic texts as data for analysis and visualisation. Work with different types of data (newspapers, novels, the Quran, social media, etc) and look at them from a new angle.

Dr. Mai Zaki



GER attribute:
Arts and Literature
Pre-req:
WRI 101

ats@aus.edu

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Spring '24 Courses

The coming Spring semester, we will offer a range of courses to suit various attributes, levels and areas.

History and Culture of the Arab world

ARA 101-Introduction to Arabic Heritage I

ARA 102-Introduction to Arabic Heritage II

ARA 181-The life of Muhammad (Seerah)

ARA 280- Introduction to Hadith

ARA 281- The Art of Quranic Recitation

ARA 240- Arab-Islamic Culture and civilisation

ARA 385- Islamic Texts in Translation

Arts and Literature

ARA 250 - Introduction to Arabic Digital Humanities

Arabic Language Courses

Our department regularly offers Arabic language courses for non-native speakers. This Spring, you can (start your Arabic language journey if you are a complete beginner with ARA 105, or you could continue learning Arabic if you already know the basics with ARA 106.

ARA 105- Elementary Arabic I

ARA 106- Elementary Arabic II

Translation Courses

TRA 210- Introduction to Translation

TRA 301- Modern Media Translation

Culture in a Critical Perspective

ARA29416- Reason and Revelation

ARA 320- The Andalusian Symbiosis

ARA 380- Sufism: Readings in Islamic Mysticism

Conference & Research Corner

HERE IS A SELECTION OF RESEARCH AND CONFERENCES OUR FACULTY CONTRIBUTED TO:



January 2023 - Boutheina Khaldi

"An Ecocentric Reading of al-Dīwān Group's Poetry and Criticism,"
Modern Language Association (MLA), San Francisco, USA

October 2023 - Sattar Izwaini

"Rewind and Fast Forward: Past, present and future scenarios in audiovisual translation"
Organizer: Foscari University of Venice, Italy.

November 2023 - Mai Zaki

"Digital Technologies and the Transition in Arab Media and Arab Cultural Debates."
MESA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

Invited lecture - Ahmed Ali

30 September 2023 - Louvre Abu Dhabi

In honour of the new exhibition at the museum on the Power of Language, Prof. Ahmed Ali was invited to give a public talk on the language of the Quran. He discussed the Arabic language at the time of revelation, providing a historical overview of the compilation and preservation of the Quran. He also addressed the Rhetoric of the Quran, some of the key rhetorical devices used in the Quran, such as synonymy and parallelism, and provided examples of how these features enhance the text's beauty and power.

Husni, R. & Lanteigne, B. (2022).
Teaching Implied Meaning Using Written Texts in Public Spaces: Social, Societal, and International Factors in English, Arabic, and Lithuanian.

In Engaging in Critical Language Studies. Edited by John W. Schwieter and elt. Published by IPA, pp. 107-127.

Khaldi, Boutheina (2023), "Elegy,"

The Routledge Medieval Encyclopedia Online (RMEO), edited by Hannele Klemettilä & J. Van Steenberg. London: Routledge.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780415791182-RMEO310-1>

Ghani, Usman. (2023). The Depiction of Al-Bukhari's travels in classical Islamic literature.

In Journal of Quran and Hadith studies, Vol. 12, No. 1, Siyarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University (UIN) Jakarta, Indonesia, pp. 21-40.

Tijani, I. and Nsiri, I (2023), "A heterotopic reading of Kuwait as a land of migration in Riḡāl fī l-Šams, al-Ḥabl and Zill al-Šams", Poetics of the fictional place in the novel of the Arab Peninsula LiCARC ((Contemporary Arab Literature and Culture)). 2023. n° 11. Classiques Garnier, Paris, 111-128.

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Meet the Faculty



THIS SEMESTER, OUR DEPARTMENT WELCOMED TWO NEW MEMBERS.. LET'S MEET THEM!

Said Hassan's life started from the heart of old Cairo. He was born a few minutes away from Fatimid Cairo near by al-Azhar, al-Husain and Khan al-Khalili. His educational journey started in a public school, but he soon joined al-Azhar Institute at the tender age of 10, making him the youngest student in the middle school stage. By the time he turned 17, he had enrolled in the Faculty of Languages and Translation.

A year after his graduation in 1995, Said was offered a scholarship to pursue a Master of Arts degree at Leiden University in the Netherlands, renowned for its excellence in Islamic studies in Europe. Within two years, he earned a scholarship to further his studies, obtaining an MPhil degree from the same institution. In 2005, he embarked on his doctoral journey at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). With the advent of the Arab Spring, Said returned to Egypt to serve at Al-Azhar and 5 years later, he joined Taibah University in Saudi Arabia.



Beyond his academic pursuits, Said's love for travel has led him to explore at least 12 countries spanning three continents. He enjoys reading novels and playing football, and definitely cheering for Muhammad Salah 😊 Moreover, his extensive travels in the early years of his career have made him a good cook, especially Egyptian food 🍴

Meet the Faculty



THIS SEMESTER, OUR DEPARTMENT WELCOMED TWO NEW MEMBERS.. LET'S MEET THEM!



Lahouari Ramzi Taleb was born and raised in the beautiful coastal city of Oran, Algeria. In his teenage years, he migrated with his family to Montreal and then Toronto (Canada) where he lived there for the past 25 years. Before joining AUS, he taught courses in Islamic studies at the University of Toronto and University of Western Ontario. His main interest lies with the mystical teachings of the Qur'an, the Hadith, and the Sufi philosophical tradition. He finished his PhD at the University of Toronto on the Sufi mystical thought of Amir Abd al-Qadir al-Jaza'iri (d. 1883), the renowned Algerian freedom fighter and philosopher.

While he loved much the natural beauty of Canada, Lahouari has never gotten used to the cold and long Canadian winters, so he hopes to find a daily dose of UAE sunshine quite healing. Apart from his vocation for Islamic wisdom, he loves to ponder the divine splendor of nature, the healing presence of the ocean, hiking, kayaking, traditional Islamic architecture, music, and especially the burst of joys and laughter he shares with his son, Husayn. His favorite moments of the day are the early breeze of Sunrise and Sunset. He is thinking of writing a novel on this (just kidding 😊). He is grateful to begin this new chapter in the UAE and to be part of the wonderful AUS community. He looks forward to sharing his passion for teaching Islamic thought with students and learning about their own passions and aspirations.

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Seminars

HAVE YOU HAD THE CHANCE TO ATTENED OUR SEMINARS?

Professor Sattar Izwaini

Arabic in a Computer-mediated Communication Context

Tuesday, October 24, 2023



This presentation outlines how Arabic is used in a digital environment where communication is carried out using computerized devices. It provides an overview of the factors that play a role in shaping the language variety used in computer-based communication. Here all digital communication devices such as computers, iPads, tablets, mobiles, smart or otherwise, are considered channels of Computer-mediated Communication (CMC).

The presentation attempts to answer the following questions:

- What effects have the internet and digital communication devices had on the use of Arabic in terms of form and register?
- What prospects do speakers of Arabic have in communicating in Arabic in a computer-mediated communication context?
- What restrictions do speakers of Arabic face in communicating in Arabic in a computer-mediated communication context?
- What are the outcomes with regard to the status of Arabic and its spoken varieties?

Professor Sattar Izwaini earned his PhD from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST). He has taught languages, linguistics and translation for undergraduate and graduate students in Britain and the Arab World. He has a long professional experience in translation and editing. His research interests include corpus-based translation studies, audiovisual translation, localization, terminology, machine translation, and contrastive linguistics and translation. He has published and presented research papers at different local, regional and international venues and journals.

Yalla Arabic

DATES TO REMEMBER

30 SEPTEMBER

INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY



The British writer Anthony Burgess once said, ***“Translation is not a matter of words only. It is a matter of making intelligible a whole culture”***.

Every year, the world celebrates International Translation Day on the 30th of September. The Arab/Islamic world is no stranger to the field of translation. In fact, the history of translation in the Arab world is rich and extensive, dating back to the early centuries of the Islamic Golden Age. During this period, Arab scholars played a pivotal role in preserving and translating the works of ancient Greek, Roman, and Persian philosophers and scientists. The House of Wisdom in Baghdad emerged as a center of intellectual exchange, fostering the translation of texts from various languages into Arabic. Translation continued to flourish during the medieval era, contributing to the Arab world's intellectual heritage.

In the modern context, the 19th and 20th centuries witnessed a resurgence of translation efforts, particularly in Egypt and the Levant, as part of broader cultural and literary movements. Today, with the global interconnectedness, translation in the Arab world has evolved to encompass a diverse range of genres, including literature, science, and technology, facilitating cross-cultural communication and contributing to the dissemination of knowledge.

Translation skills are increasingly indispensable across various professional domains in today's globalized workforce. Proficiency in translation is a valuable asset for international businesses, international diplomacy and any kind of cross-cultural collaboration. In the digital age, where information flows rapidly, translation is key for navigating global content. Beyond practical uses, translation preserves cultural heritage and literature, contributing to a more inclusive global society.

At AUS, the Department of Arabic and Translation Studies offers a variety of translation courses, as well as a minor in Translation (12 credits only!).

Have you taken a translation course yet?

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Yalla Arabic

DATES TO REMEMBER

30 NOVEMBER - 12 DECEMBER



COP28, held this year in the UAE, is inspiring many students and faculty at AUS to engage in various initiatives and activities related to sustainability. This year, AUS continues for the second year its involvement in the **Transformative Sustainability Project (TSP)**, which is funded by The Steven's Initiative. The TSP is a collaborative virtual exchange educational program between faculty and students at AUS in the UAE and a group of universities in the USA. The goal is to fuse together the local and global contexts into more sustainable communities, starting from the classroom.

At our department, two faculty members are participating in this initiative through their courses this semester. Dr. Said Faiq and Dr. Mai Zaki have both embarked with their students on a journey of exploration and deeper understanding of what sustainability means in the context of humanities.

Dr. Said Faiq and his students in the course **TRA 210 Introduction to Translation** collaborated with American students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute studying a course on Arabic as a Foreign Language.

Their common objective was to explore how and why sustainability is perceived and represented in the cultural contexts of both AUS and WPI. They were particularly interested in understanding cultural differences in the concept of sustainability as expressed in two different languages.

This experience has allowed me to delve into the intricacies of sustainability through a cultural lens, while developing a sense of responsibility for the global community.

Zeina Shurbaji, Psychology major

Dr. Mai Zaki and her students in the course **ARA 250 Introduction to Arabic Digital Humanities** collaborated with American students at Dickinson College (based in Bologna, Italy) studying a course on Cultural Ecologies and Sustainable Development in the Italian Context.

Their common objective was to explore how can the study of cultural products in the broadest sense (through both digital and environmental humanities) help in preserving and maintaining sustainable communities.

Working within the TSP Project opened my eyes to alternative perspectives on cultural sustainability and its perception in various contexts.

Leen Al-Otaibi, senior, Biology major

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Events

Arab/ic-Islamic Heritage Trivia Night

The Arabic Heritage Club, in collaboration with the Department of Arabic and Translation Studies, held its first Arabic/Islamic Heritage Trivia Night on November 14, 2023. There was overwhelming student participation in this event, even though final exams are just around the corner, with a total of 10 teams with 42 contestants. Despite all the academic pressures, a substantial number of students enthusiastically engaged in the event, demonstrating a profound interest in and commitment to celebrating and preserving our Arabic and Islamic heritage. The success of this event emphasised the importance of providing students with a platform to actively participate in cultural and educational endeavors beyond the traditional classroom setting, not to mention creating a sense of cultural identity and pride.

Thanks to all the students who participated and well done to the Arabic Heritage Club for organising this event, which highlights the club's position as a dynamic cultural force within the university community.



Future Events

ATS Spring Symposium

The Praxis of Digital Humanities: Expanding Horizons and Transforming Scholarship in the Arab/Islamic world

March 6-7, 2024



The symposium aims to bring together scholars and practitioners from diverse disciplines to explore the ways in which digital humanities approaches and technologies are revolutionizing the study, interpretation and dissemination of literary texts and cultural production in the Arab/Islamic world. It also aims to emphasize the importance of digital humanities and its transformative impact on the study of Arabic/Islamic literature and media in the present and the future. By focusing on an array of topics, including digital archives, computational analysis, close and distant reading methods, digital editions, spatial analysis, translation, storytelling, cultural heritage preservation, lexicography and dialects, this symposium seeks to illuminate the multifaceted ways in which digital technologies are reshaping our understanding and interpretation of the Arab/Islamic literary and cultural traditions.

With an international keynote speaker, and a variety of presentations from scholars in the field, we invite you to come, engage and enjoy the vigorous research that will be presented.

For more information, pls visit the website <https://info.aus.edu/ara-2024>

Stay Tuned for Upcoming Events!!

CONTACT US

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