Department of Modern Languages Arabic Courses

82-111 Elementary Arabic I (fall) 12 units
An introduction to Arabic for students with no previous background in the language. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills are developed in a context that introduces information on culture and life in the Arabic-speaking countries of today. The elementary level is designed to help students learn to reflect upon and draw upon strategies used by good language learners in their second language study. Four hours of in-class instruction per week.
Prerequisite: None.

82-112 Elementary Arabic II (spring) 12 units
This course is designed for students who have taken first-semester Arabic at Carnegie Mellon or its equivalent. The emphasis is on all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and on cultural information as it is presented in class and through homework assignments. Regular participation in class is mandatory (four in-class hours per week). In addition, students will be required to spend some time in the Modern Language Resource Center (MLRC) using different multimedia tools to complete assignments. Information on how to use these tools will be provided. The elementary level is designed to help students learn to reflect upon and draw upon strategies used by good language learners in their second language study.
Prerequisite or appropriate placement test score.

82-114 Arabic for Global Exchange Online (fall and spring) 6 units
Arabic for Global Exchange is a course in Arabic language and culture that utilizes cognitive learning technologies and computer-assisted language instruction to enhance educational, governmental, and business exchanges that are increasingly vital to public policy and economic development in the global economy. This is a mini-course for individuals with no proficiency or extremely limited knowledge of Arabic language and culture who are about to begin study or work in an Arabic-speaking context. The course introduces learners to basic concepts and information to facilitate entry and engagement in an Arabic-speaking environment. The Arabic for Global Exchange project aims to meet a need for high quality, communication-oriented instructional materials to introduce basic cultural knowledge and survival language. Arabic for Global Exchange is a six-week, six-lesson, half-semester course (equivalent of six weeks of university-level instruction), or roughly sixty hours of student effort. Each of the six lessons in the course includes texts and activities to promote acquisition of cultural content in English as well as basic introductory exposure to the Arabic language.
Prerequisites: None.

82-115 Arabic for Oral Communication (fall & spring) 6 units
Beginning Arabic for Oral Communication is designed for students who have either taken Arabic for Global Exchange or desire to learn how to orally communicate in Arabic. This course does not teach how to read or write Arabic. It offers students the opportunity to engage in conversation that expands on the linguistic topics offered in Arabic for Global Exchange, using a spoken Arabic that would be widely understood anywhere in the Arab World. The conversation topics include greetings, explaining one’s background, formal and informal meetings, eating out and ordering food, shopping and bargaining, using transportation, expressing feelings and opinions, describing things, people, and hobbies, and in addition, students will learn common expressions and their uses.
Prerequisites: None

82-211 Intermediate Arabic I (fall) 9 units
An integrated approach to the study of the Arabic language and culture by means of grammar review, literary and cultural readings and analysis, and intensive practice in written and spoken Arabic. This course explores definitions of culture and analyzes the dynamic role of language in culture and culture in language, with an aim to foster cross-cultural awareness and self-realization while developing proficiency in Arabic. This course is designed to strengthen listening, speaking, reading and writing, within the context of an evolving Arabic culture. Prerequisite or appropriate placement score.
82-212 Intermediate Arabic II (spring) 9 units
An integrated approach to the study of the Arabic language and culture by means of grammar review, literary and cultural readings and analysis, and intensive practice in written and spoken Arabic. This course explores definitions of culture and analyzes the dynamic role of language in culture and culture in language, with an aim to foster cross-cultural awareness and self-realization while developing proficiency in Arabic. This course is designed to strengthen listening, speaking, reading and writing, within the context of an evolving Arabic culture. Prerequisite: 82-112 or permission of the instructor.

82-215 Introduction to Modern Arabic Literature and Culture (fall or spring) 9 units
This course is designed to acquaint students with the literature and culture of the Arab world. Through lectures, discussions, and class presentations students will gain knowledge of Arabic fiction and poetry, and examine how these literary productions reflect the cultures, mentalities, and traditions of the Arabs. Students will learn about the religion, social structure, government, and the position of women in the Arab world through presentations of these topics in modern Arabic literature. The course will focus on literature since the beginning of the twentieth century, when the first Arabic novel was published, and also will include a brief survey of older narrative traditions, and how these contributed to modern works. Course grade will be based on a variable assessment method. Students will select from diverse options for writing, presenting, and creative production. With permission of the instructor, it may be possible to earn 3 additional units of credit for work done in Modern Standard Arabic. Prerequisite: None

82-300 Topics in Cross-Cultural Studies: Negotiating Arab Identities & Gender Roles in Film & Literature (9 units)
This course focuses on the processes of self-definition by Arab men and women in conflict zones in the Middle East and North Africa with relation to national and religious identities, social stratification, sexuality/homosexuality, and gender roles. Students will learn about the social, economic, and political contexts of the films and literary works representing the Maghreb, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the Gulf countries, and Yemen. This course fosters a better understanding of Arab societies and the hybrid identities that negotiate their presence and space within. Students will have the opportunity to engage in a video-conference dialogue with students in the American University in Cairo, Egypt, attend an Arab film during CMU’s International Film Festival, and interview native speakers of different Arab countries to further their learning of Arab culture. Prerequisite: None

82-311 Arabic Language and Culture I (fall) 9 units
This course aims to build students’ knowledge of the Arab world and at the same time promote the development of their linguistic abilities in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) through reading, writing, speaking and listening. A broad range of literary and nonliterary texts and topics relating to the Arab world and Arabic-speaking peoples are studied. Each iteration of this course focuses on a particular theme, such as Current Issues in the Arab World, Ethnic Groups in the Arab world, Arabic Poetry and Proverbs, Education, Economic and Social Development, etc. Students will be asked to write short essays and give brief oral presentations in class. Prerequisite: 82-212 or permission of the instructor.

82-312 Arabic Language and Culture II (spring) 9 units
This course is a sequel to 82-311 and also aims to build students’ knowledge of the Arab world and at the same time promote the development of their linguistic abilities in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) through reading, writing, speaking and listening. A broad range of literary and nonliterary texts and topics relating to the Arab world and Arabic-speaking peoples are studied. Each iteration of this course focuses on a particular theme, such as Current Issues in the Arab World, Ethnic Groups in the Arab world, Arabic Poetry and Proverbs, Education, Economic and Social Development, etc. Students will be asked to write somewhat longer essays and give more extensive oral presentations than in 82-311. Prerequisite: 82-311 or permission of the instructor.