

**MEMO**

To: Dean of Humanities Neal Lester  
From: Robert Joe Cutter, Director *RJC*  
Date: October 18, 2010 Re: *Arabic* Slavic Studies Minor

The Faculty of Classics and Middle Eastern Letters & Cultures in this School is proposing a minor in Arabic Studies. Arabic is the fastest growing language area nationally, and it is one of the fastest growing at ASU. The proposal has been reviewed by our Undergraduate Studies Steering Committee and received its approval. It has my full support.

## **School of International Letters and Cultures (SILC)**

### **Proposal to establish a Minor in Arabic Studies**

Developed by Dr. Souad T. Ali

**. A statement concerning demand for the program (student/community/market).**

At our current rapid rate of growth in Arabic Studies (more than 600 students in the academic year 2009-2010), SILC firmly believes that this is the best time to make a significant step forward. The creation of a Minor in Arabic Studies at ASU would not only provide a premiere resource for its many thousands of students, but also serve as a vital public resource for the community in the city, state, and country at large, as basis for cross-cultural dialogue, intellectual pursuit, as well as academic research. The demand for a Minor in Arabic Studies has been equally demonstrated by the remarkable success of the establishment of our Certificate in Arabic Studies in 2006. Many of these students have been constantly expressing interest in and inquiring about the possibility of adding a Minor even a Major to their programs. Arabic is one of the fastest growing languages and a number of government officials and agencies have been citing a demand for Arabic speakers and linguists. On a broader front, a Pentagon advisory panel known as the Defense Science Board reported recently that, "the United States today is without a working channel of communications to the world of Muslims and Islam" based on a shortage of employees knowledgeable in Arabic language and culture. Many of our students have been awarded prestigious awards including Fulbright and NSEP to further their Arabic Studies. Several are currently pursuing graduate studies in Arabic at Georgetown, Duke, and George Washington, as well as other universities with established Arabic programs. ASU has the potential to be well grounded in such an important area of study as well.

**. A description of the requirements for this minor. Be specific in listing required courses and specify the total minimum number of hours required for the minor.**

**The Minor in Arabic Studies requires 26 credit hours of courses detailed below (a minimum grade of "C" or better is required in each course.):**

ARB 201 & ARB 202 Intermediate Arabic I&II	8 credit hours
ARB 311 Advanced Arabic Skills I	3 credit hours
ARB 411 Advanced Arabic Skills II	3 credit hours
ARB 351 Classical Arabic Literature	3 credit hours
ARB 331 Arabic Islamic Culture and Literature	3 credit hours

ARB 341 Quran Text and Women

3 credit hours

Any upper division course of the following:

3 credit hours

ARB 321; ARB 421; ARB 335; HST 372; REL 364; REL 366

Total

**26 credit hours**

Note:

- For advanced and Heritage speakers of Arabic, course substitutions are allowed.

Students need to consult with the Director of Arabic Studies as well as the Head of the SILC Faculty of Classics and Middle East Studies.

**. A description of advising procedures as well as measures for verification of completion of the minor.**

Students will be advised by Professor Souad Ali ([souad.ali@asu.edu](mailto:souad.ali@asu.edu)), Director of Arabic Studies and Head of the Classics and Middle East Studies Faculty, who will directly supervise the Minor in Arabic Studies; Dr. Abuhamid Abdul-Quadir ([abuhamid.abdul-quadir@asu.edu](mailto:abuhamid.abdul-quadir@asu.edu)), and Dr. Oraib Mango ([oraib.mango@asu.edu](mailto:oraib.mango@asu.edu)).

Arabic Instructors will work in close consultation with the SILC student advisor, Doug Spencer ([DougSpencer@asu.edu](mailto:DougSpencer@asu.edu)).

The director of the Arabic Program and the student advisor will follow clear measures for verification of completion of the Minor requirements

**. A minimum residency requirement: How many hours of the minor must be ASU credit?**

At least 15 credit hours of these hours must be ASU credits.

**. Attach other information that will be useful to the review committees and the office of the Provost.**

No additional documents are required at this point. All classes comprising the proposed Arabic Minor are regularized courses that have been successfully taught for five years or more. For any further inquiries please contact Dr. Souad Ali at ([souad.ali@asu.edu](mailto:souad.ali@asu.edu)).

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE  
PRESIDENT AND PROVOST OF  
THE UNIVERSITY

### DEFINITION

*These are the minimum requirements for approval. Individual undergraduate minors may have additional requirements.*

A minor is an approved, coherent focus of academic study in a single discipline, other than the student's major, involving substantially fewer hours of credit than a corresponding major. Certain major and minor combinations may be deemed inappropriate either by the college or department of the major or minor. Inappropriate combinations include (but would not be limited to) ones in which an excessive number of courses in the minor are simultaneously being used to fulfill requirements of the student's major. (2002-03 General Catalog)

A minor:

- Requires a minimum of 15 semester hours of which at least 9 semester hours must be upper division
- Is not intended for students pursuing a major in the department which offers the minor

### PROPOSAL PROCEDURES CHECKLIST

Before academic units can advertise minors or include them in their offerings as described in the university catalogs, they must be recommended for approval by the Curriculum and Academic Programs Committee and approved by the appropriate Vice Provost.

A complete proposal should include:

- ☐ 1. A supporting letter from the chair of the academic units verifying that:
  - A. The proposed minor has been reviewed and has received faculty approval through appropriate governance procedures in the unit.
  - B. The unit has the resources to support the minor as presented in the proposal, without impacting core course resources.
- ☐ 2. A supporting letter from the office of the supervising dean verifying that the minor has been reviewed and has received approval through appropriate governance procedures in the college.
- ☐ 3. A statement concerning demand for the program (student/community/market).
- ☐ 4. A description of the requirements for this minor. Be specific in listing required courses and specify the total minimum number of hours required for the minor.
  - Are any new courses required? If so, provide course syllabi and Proposal for Curriculum Action forms.
- ☐ 5. A description of advising procedures as well as measures for verification of completion of the minor.
- ☐ 6. A minimum residency requirement: How many hours of the minor must be ASU credit?
- ☐ 7. A completed Appendix document. This information is to be used during the implementation phase to ensure this program appears correctly and completely on Degree Search.
- ☐ 8. Attach other information that will be useful to the review committees and the Office of the Provost.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE  
PRESIDENT AND PROVOST OF  
THE UNIVERSITY

## **APPENDIX - PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW UNDERGRADUATE MINOR**

(This information is used to populate the [Degree Search](#)/catalog website.  
Please consider the student audience in creating your text.)

### **1. Program Description (150 word maximum)**

The Minor in Arabic Studies at Arizona State University provides students with instruction in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), as well as Arabic culture and literature. Students who successfully complete the prescribed course work of the Arabic Minor (26 hours) are expected to be able to communicate effectively in Arabic and interact with native speakers of Arabic in MSA. Students will further be able to communicate in Arabic in the other two areas of language acquisition: reading and writing through reading authentic material in Arabic and write paragraph lengths documents in MSA. Literature courses expand students' knowledge in Arabic, Middle East, and Islamic culture and civilization. Students of all academic disciplines doing research on, or seeking employment in areas related to the Middle East or parts of the Arab world will find the Minor in Arabic highly beneficial. Students should work with their undergraduate advisor as well as Arabic advisors in declaring the Minor in Arabic Studies by their junior year.

### **2. Contact and Support Information**

Office Location (Building & Room): LL 440  
[G. Homer Durham Languages & Literatures Building](#)

Campus Telephone Number: 480-965-6281

Program email address: silc@asu.edu

Program website address: <http://silc.asu.edu/>

### **3. Program Requirements** Provide applicable information regarding the degree such as curricular restrictions or requirements, specific course lists, or academic retention requirements. (450 word maximum)

The Minor in Arabic Studies requires 26 credit hours of courses detailed below (a minimum grade of "C" or better is required in each course.):

ARB 201 & ARB 202 Intermediate Arabic I&II	8 credit hours
ARB 311 Advanced Arabic Skills I	3 credit hours
ARB 411 Advanced Arabic Skills II	3 credit hours
ARB 351 Classical Arabic Literature	3 credit hours
ARB 331 Arabic Islamic Culture and Literature	3 credit hours
ARB 341 Quran Text and Women	3 credit hours
Any upper division course of the following:	3 credit hours
ARB 321; ARB 421; ARB 335; HST 372; REL 364; REL 366	

### **4. Additional Enrollment Requirements** If applicable list any additional enrollment students must complete

**Students must complete the sequence of elementary Arabic: ARB 101 and ARB 102 as prerequisite courses.**