




**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Donna E. Shalala, President  
**From:** Richard L. Williamson   
Chair, Faculty Senate  
**Date:** January 27, 2011  
**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2010-06(B) – Minor in Arabic Studies within the  
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

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At its January 26, 2011 meeting, the Faculty Senate approved the proposal to add a minor in Arabic Studies within the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

The proposal is enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

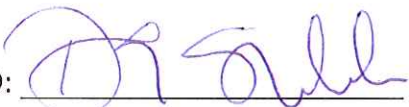
RW/rh

Enclosure (Proposal as presented to the Faculty Senate)

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost  
Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
David Ellison, Chair and Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures  
Christina Civantos, Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages and  
Literatures  
Scott Ingold, Associate Vice President and University Registrar

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2010-06(B) – Minor in Arabic Studies within the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

**PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE**

APPROVED:  DATE: 2/1/11  
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: DEAN BACHAS

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY  
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal for  
A MINOR IN ARABIC STUDIES  
within  
the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**

**Prepared by Dr. Christina Civantos**

**Updated January 21, 2011**

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## I. OVERVIEW

- The purpose of an Arabic Studies Minor is to enhance and give coherence to the Arabic language program that already exists within the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (MLL). This interdisciplinary minor will build on current course offerings and the expertise of current UM faculty in different departments and programs in order to meet student interest in learning more about the Arabic language and the cultures and religions of the Arabic-speaking world. The Middle East and North Africa is a region of major cultural and political importance and we should meet our students' interest (see **Appendix E**) by providing them with the opportunity to further their knowledge of the region and to receive a degree that reflects this linguistic and cultural proficiency.
- The program, by offering a Minor based on existing courses plus one new course, will provide coherence and structure to the educational experience of students already taking courses in Arabic in MLL and on Middle Eastern and North African topics in a variety of departments (e.g. Political Science, International Studies, Geography and Regional Studies, Religious Studies, and Art History).
- The program will follow the movement toward programs of study that are not focused solely on language and literature, but rather include cultural studies and cross-disciplinary work focused on a particularly language community (e.g., Hispanic Studies, Italian Studies, etc.).
- The program, over time, will enhance the course offerings in Arabic Studies at UM and thus provide all UM students with more opportunities to learn about this key region. These enhanced course offerings will include:
  - An interdisciplinary Topics in Arabic Studies course that will offer students the opportunity to engage in more in-depth inquiry and research about rotating linguistic, literary, and cultural topics.
    - This course will appeal to Arabic Studies minors as well as other UM students.
      - It will be a particular asset to students of French given the significance of North Africa within Francophone studies.
      - It will benefit Judaic Studies students with an interest in Arab/Israeli relations.
      - Certain topics (e.g., Muslim Spain and Its Cultural Legacy) will appeal to Spanish majors and can count toward their requirements as a cognate field course.
      - Topics focused on North Africa may be of interest to students in Africana Studies
  - Improvement of the current four-course sequence of Arabic language instruction, taught by a part-time lecturer. Over time, through training and outside resources, as well as a possible full-time Arabic lecturer position, the existing 4-course sequence in Arabic language can be enhanced so as to raise the level of linguistic proficiency that students are able to achieve

- The Arabic Studies Minor will bring the University of Miami closer to the academic opportunities found at colleges and universities of equal caliber, almost all of which have well-established degree programs in Arabic and/or Middle Eastern Studies.

## II. RATIONALE: An Academic Need

Currently UM offers four courses in Arabic language, but no program of study that builds on these. The only degree option for a student of Arabic is to use Arabic as their secondary language in the minor in Modern Languages offered by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (MLL). An Arabic Studies Program will intensify interdisciplinary inquiry and enhance the study of a key world region by giving greater coherence, depth, and breadth to the current course offerings in MLL and other departments and programs at UM.

This program of study responds to strong student interest in learning more about the Arabic language and the art, religions, literature, and politics of the Arabic-speaking world. Course enrollments in the Fall 2010 semester demonstrate this interest: The number of students enrolled in Arabic 101 and 201 totals 38. There are two sections of REL171, Introduction to Islam, with a total enrollment of 44. The Islamic Art course (ARH260) is full to capacity with 20 students enrolled. An English course (ENG397 Special Topics) entitled "Arabs & Jews in Israeli & Palestinian Literature & Film" has 25 students enrolled. INS352, Panoramic View of the Middle East, has 26 students enrolled. Please see **Appendix E** for more information on student interest and Arabic enrollment patterns. UM should meet this interest by offering students the opportunity to further their knowledge of the region and to receive a degree that reflects their linguistic and cultural competencies.

The more than 21 countries of North Africa and West Asia, commonly referred to as the Maghreb and the Middle East, or the Arab world, form a region of central importance in political history and religious studies. Among other contributions of note, the region is known as the birth place of three major world religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In addition, the region is obviously pivotal in current international relations. However, the Arabic-speaking world is not only central to religion, politics, and international affairs, but is also a vital source of literature, philosophy, architecture, and visual and performing arts. This program will contribute the study of the literary and cultural aspects of the Arab world to UM's curriculum and will thus allow students to pursue a well-rounded course of study on the region.

The Arabic Studies program will cooperate closely with the Judaic Studies and Africana Studies Programs as well as the degree programs in French and Spanish in terms of cross-listed courses and jointly sponsored events. Similarly, linkages with the Departments of Classics and Religious Studies and the Program in Women's and Gender Studies may be mutually beneficial. The recently formed Miami Consortium for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (a joint program between UM and Florida International University) is creating a 5-year thematic unit around Islam and Latin America. The UM Arabic Studies program would certainly enrich and be enriched by this exciting Latin American Studies project.

By structuring the minor as a course of study on the Arabic-speaking world, rather than solely on the Arabic language, we will provide students with a much-needed, broader view of that language community. Among areas of scholarly inquiry, the Arab World in particular calls

for an interdisciplinary approach. Wherever one's primary interest lies, the history of the region as a cultural crossroads for the transfer of goods and ideas, as well as the site of repeated conquest and colonization, requires an understanding of a variety of different aspects of social, linguistic, political, and artistic traditions and practices. The need for more academic attention to the region has been a frequent topic in the media during the last several years, and the importance of linguistic proficiency as well as interdisciplinary cultural competence has been emphasized.

The Arabic Studies Program, through its course offerings and undergraduate degree, will bring the University of Miami in line with the academic opportunities found at colleges and universities of equal caliber, almost all of which have well-established and highly developed programs, departments, and centers in Middle Eastern, Arabic, and/or Islamic Studies. To enhance the interdisciplinarity, rigor, and globalness of the education UM offers its students, a Minor in Arabic Studies should be part of UM's academic offerings.

### **III. ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK and NECESSARY RESOURCES**

The Minor in Arabic Studies will be under the supervision of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Undergraduate Studies Committee, as are all undergraduate degree programs in the department. Most of the necessary resources for offering an Arabic Studies Minor are already in place. The one new course required by this minor, ARB 310 "Topics in Arabic Studies in Translation," was approved by the College Curriculum Committee in October 2010.

ARB 310 is a 3 credit course that will be offered once per academic year, either Fall or Spring. The course, after providing a brief overview of the Arabic-speaking world, will focus on a specific topic within the main linguistic, literary, and cultural facets of that linguistic community. The course will be conducted in English and thus will draw students from a variety of minors and majors. Through discussion, journal exercises, presentations, analytical essays, and/or research papers, the class will examine in depth a key issue in the Arabic-speaking world. The course fulfills the humanities literature requirement and provides writing credit. Since the topics will vary, students may repeat the course for credit. Topics will include: Language and identity in the Arab world (orality, literacy, regional dialects, and languages in contact); Gender and sexuality in the Arab world; the Postcolonial Arabic novel; Muslim Spain and its cultural legacy; Migration and "East/West" contact in Arabic literature and film. A sample syllabus for this course is included at the end of Appendix A.

The other courses required for the Minor are already taught regularly. Language instruction in Arabic could be strengthened and expanded to enable students to attain higher levels of language proficiency. Enhancement of the existing Arabic language courses (ARB101, 102, 201, and 202) will be pursued over the next several years. Dr. Christina Civantos will serve as the director of the Arabic Studies program and in that capacity she will spearhead efforts to advertise and promote the new course and the minor.

In terms of budget, the minor initially requires little to no additional resources. There would be no major budgetary impact at this point because there is no need for further secretarial staff or equipment. The current library holdings, in general terms, provide adequate resources to support

a minor. However, if possible the holdings could certainly be improved. Please see **Appendix F** for details on library holdings.

With the success of the minor the Department of Modern Languages anticipates eventually making the Arabic lectureship full time and establishing a tenure-line position dedicated to Arabic.

#### **IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR**

The minor in Arabic Studies requires 15 credits, passed with a "C" or higher. Courses must be distributed as follows:

- At least 3 credits in a 200-level Arabic language course (ARB201 or ARB202 or the equivalent)
- At least 3 credits in ARB310 Topics in Arabic Studies in Translation
- At least 3 additional credits in any ARB course beyond ARB 101 (to reach a total of 9 ARB credits)
- At least 3 credits, outside of ARB courses, in humanities or social science courses focused on the Middle East, North Africa, Islam, or the Arab world  
For example: REL171 Introduction to Islam, ARH260 Islamic Art, INS352 Panoramic View of the Middle East, GEG242 Economic and Political Geography of the Middle East, and POL387 Politics of the Middle East, or another relevant course as approved by the program director
- 3 additional credits from either an ARB course beyond ARB 101 or any course focused on the Middle East, North Africa, Islam, or the Arab world, as approved by the program director

See **Appendix A** for the list of currently offered core courses in Arabic Studies and for sample course combinations that would fulfill the requirements for the minor.

Study abroad is highly encouraged both for language acquisition and the attainment of cultural competency. Among various study abroad opportunities, UM is now creating an exchange program at the University of Tunis in Tunisia through which students can opt to take Arabic language courses and/or courses on Arab culture, politics, etc. There are several fellowship programs that exist to help students study Arabic, whether abroad in an Arabic-speaking country or in the U.S. These include the US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship Program, The Center for Arabic Study Abroad at the American University in Cairo, and the Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS).

Up to 9 credits taken abroad in an Arabic-speaking country are eligible to fulfill the requirements for the minor. Up to 6 transfer credits from an accredited university or 4-year college in another region of the world are eligible to fulfill the requirements for the minor. In all cases, whether the credits are from a UM-affiliated study abroad program or transfer credits from any institution,

the credits' UM equivalency, if any, will be determined by the UM Arabic Studies Program Director; ARB 310 must be taken within the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at UM; and the student must fulfill the distribution of requirements and other criteria stipulated above.

If a student has studied Modern Standard Arabic (*fusha*) in another setting (e.g., a high school foreign language program or schooling in an Arab country), she/he may request a proficiency evaluation from the Program Director. If the student's Modern Standard Arabic is equivalent to, or beyond, the Intermediate level, the student may be exempted from the requirement to earn 3 credits in a 200-level Arabic language course; however, the student will still be required to take at least 9 credits of ARB courses and a total of 15 credits, as stipulated above, to complete the minor.

**V. PROJECTED TIMETABLE**

While the Minor can function well with the current faculty, the additional resource of a full-time lecturer in Arabic would greatly enhance the program.

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Spring 2011: | Begin advertising the minor and recruiting students   |
| Fall 2011:   | Continue promoting the minor<br>Begin admitting students to the minor<br>Begin offering ARB 310                                   |
| Fall 2012:   | Continue promoting the minor and admitting students<br>Continue offering ARB 310  |
| Fall 2013:   | Continue promoting the minor and admitting students<br>Continue offering ARB 310<br>Begin search for Full-Time Lecturer in Arabic |



**APPENDIX A: Core Courses & Sample Syllabus for ARB 310**

The only new course is the first in the list, ARB 310. A sample syllabus for ARB 310 is included below. This course was approved by the College Curriculum Committee in October 2010. The other courses listed below have been regularly offered during the last few years. (In some cases the Bulletin notation is outdated and says "by announcement only.") Other relevant courses (not listed here) have already been established and are offered occasionally.

**Core Courses:****ARB310 Topics in Arabic Studies in Translation**

*3 credits, once a year, Fall or Spring*

Topics within the main linguistic, literary, and cultural facets of the Arabic-speaking world, including language in society, gender and sexuality, immigration, and literary, cinematic, and artistic representations of central themes or issues. Conducted in English. May be used to fulfill the humanities literature requirement; Writing credit. May be repeated for credit if topics vary. PREREQUISITE: ENG 106, OR EQUIVALENT; ONE 200-LEVEL COURSE IN HUMANITIES OR SOCIAL SCIENCES; OR PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR.

**ARB101 Elementary Arabic I**

*3 credits Fall Semester*

Fundamental grammatical principles; drill in pronunciation; simple reading and translation. Closed to native speakers.

**ARB102 Elementary Arabic II**

*3 credits Spring Semester*

Reading and translation; oral and written exercises. Closed to native speakers. Closed to native speakers. PREREQUISITE: ARB 101 OR THE EQUIVALENT. CLOSED TO NATIVE SPEAKERS.

**ARB201 Intermediate Arabic**

*3 credits Fall Semester*

Reading and translation; oral and written exercises. Closed to native speakers. Closed to native speakers. PREREQUISITE: TWO SEMESTERS OF ARABIC OR THE EQUIVALENT. CLOSED TO NATIVE SPEAKERS.

**ARB202 Intermediate Arabic II**

*3 credits Spring Semester*

Continuation of Arabic 201. Readings designed to integrate listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing skills. Discussion of Arab society, history and culture. Closed to native speakers. PREREQUISITE: ARABIC 201 - CLOSED TO NATIVE SPEAKERS.

**INS352 Panoramic View of the Middle East**

*3 credits Fall Semester*

The Middle East and a basic understanding of the factors, forces and processes shaping developments in the modern and contemporary history of this important world region.

PREREQUISITE: INS 201, GEG 242 OR POL 212 OR PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR.

**REL171 Introduction to Islam**

*3 credits Offered By Announcement Only*

History of Islam, the Qur'an, and the systematization of Islamic law. Emergence of the theological schools, the mystical and philosophical traditions, and the spread of Islamic civilization.

**REL370 Islam in Modern Times**

*3 credits Offered By Announcement Only*

Islam's encounter with the west, the impact of modernization on the Muslim World, and the rise of Islamic Fundamentalism. Islam in America and the Afro-American Islamic movements will also be discussed.

PREREQUISITE: THREE CREDITS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES.

**ARH260 Islamic Art**

*3 credits Fall Semester*

Students in this course will study Islam as a religious and political entity and will analyze how the Islamic world defined itself in the realm of cultural production. This course will analyze a variety of Islamic artistic media, including architecture, manuscript illumination, textiles, ceramics, and small-scale luxury objects. Artworks from the 7th to the 17th century, created in a geographic area extending from Spain to India, will be studied in order to provide a general overview of artistic production in diverse Islamic lands.

**GEG242 Economic and Political Geography of the Middle East**

*3 credits Fall Semester*

Human and physical geography of the Middle East with emphasis on current topics.

**POL387 Politics of the Middle East**

*3 credits Fall Semester*

Comparative analysis of the political development of the Middle East in terms of nations and as a region. Particular stress is on the relationships within the region and with other regions of the world.

PREREQUISITE: POL 202

**Sample Syllabus**

**ARB 310: Topics in Arabic Studies in Translation**

**THE LEGACY OF MUSLIM SPAIN**

**Dr. Christina Civantos**

Merrick 210-19

tel: 284-4858, ext. 8-7265

ccivantos@miami.edu

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This course explores the cultural life of Muslim Spain as well as its “afterlife” in contemporary Arab literature and film. During the European Middle Ages the cities of present-day Spain, ruled by Muslims but inhabited by Christians and Jews as well, flourished as centers of intellectual inquiry and artistic production. Known in Arabic as al-Andalus, Arab and Berber rule in the Iberian Peninsula came to an end in 1492 and the remaining Muslim and Jewish population was expelled by the early 1600’s. Long after this period, the accomplishments of al-Andalus continue to be admired and the period continues to be invested with symbolic value. For some, medieval Iberia stands as a testament to humanity’s capacity for religious tolerance and co-existence while for others it is an example of the results of religious fundamentalism. For others still, it is a symbol of loss—loss of cultural dominance and loss of paradise on Earth. In this course, we will learn about al-Andalus’s political, social, and religious life, and its cultural achievements. In addition to getting a taste of the art, architecture, and music of Arab Spain, we will focus especially on the Arabic literature of the period. In addition, we will examine how al-Andalus operates to this day as a cultural sign—an icon or symbol of identity—within 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>-century Arab poetry, narrative, and film from Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, and the diaspora.

Which version of the al-Andalus story do we believe? What are the stories that al-Andalus continues to tell?

.....

**Pre-requisite:** ENG 106, or equivalent; one 200-level course in humanities or social sciences; or permission of instructor.

**Requirements:**

- 15% Attendance and Participation
- 25% 8 Reading Journal Entries, 1-2 pages each
- 5% 2 Peer-Editing Exercises (commentary on a classmate’s essays)
- 15% Short Analytical Essay, 3-4 pages (first draft = 60%, revised version = 40%)
- 40% Critical Essay (argumentative research essay documented with a minimum of 3

secondary sources), 8-10 pages (first draft = 60%, revised version = 40%)

## **COURSE CALENDAR:**

### **Introduction to Arabic Studies and to the Study of Arab Spain:**

Week 1: History as Narrative and al-Andalus as Symbol

- selections from The Content of the Form and Metahistory (Hayden White)
- "Extensio Animae: The Artful Ways of Remembering 'Al- Andalus'" (William Granara)

Week 2: Overview of Arab world and the rise of Islam

- Selections from A History of the Arab Peoples (Albert Hourani)

### **Muslim Iberia and Its "Afterlife" in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Arab World:**

#### **Social and religious groups across political periods:**

Week 3: the concept of *convivencia*; conquest, Umayyad Emirate and Caliphate of Cordoba, Taifa kingdoms, Almohad and Almoravid dynasties, Nasrid rule in Granada, expulsion

- selection from The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain (María Rosa Menocal)
- selection from Islam and the West: The Moriscos, a Cultural and Social History (Anwar Chejne)
- selection from Medieval Iberia. Readings from Christian, Muslim and Jewish Sources (Olivia Remie Constable)
- film: Cities of Light: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain (Robert Gardner, 2007)

**Architecture and the decorative arts: monuments, paradise gardens, and the Alhambra palace as text**

Week 4:

- selection from Gardens, Landscape, and Vision in the Palaces of Islamic Spain (D. Fairchild Ruggles)
- selection from Al-Andalus: The Art of Islamic Spain (Jerrilynn D. Dodds, ed.)

**Music: the enduring popularity and identification with 'Andalusian' music**

Week 5a:

- "Music in Medieval Iberia: Contact, Influence and Hybridization" (Dwight F. Reynolds)
- "Performing al-Andalus, Remembering al-Andalus: Mediterranean Soundings from Mashriq to Maghrib" (Jonathan Shannon)

**Poetry: love and sexuality in courtly and bawdy verse**

Weeks 5b and 6:

- selections from Hispano-Arabic Poetry (James Monroe)
- selection from An Anthology of Ancient and Medieval Woman's Song (Anne Lingard Klinck, ed.)
- selection from The Literature of Al-Andalus (María Rosa Menocal, Raymond P. Scheindlin, and Michael Sells, eds.)

**Ibn Hazm (994–1064): Politics through love**

Week 7:

- selection from The Ring of the Dove [Tawq al-Hamama] (Ibn Hazm, c. 1022, trans. by A.J. Arberry)
- selection from The Legacy of Muslim Spain (Salma Khadra Jayyusi)
- Film: The Lost Ring of the Dove [Tawq al-Hamama al-Mafqud] (Nacer Khemir, 1991)

**Ibn Rushd/Averroes (1126-1198): Symbol of secularism or difference?**

Weeks 8, 9, and 10a:

- "Ibn Rushd/Averroes and 'Islamic' Rationalism" (Richard C. Taylor)
- Selection from The Legacy of Muslim Spain (Salma Khadra Jayyusi)
- "Averroes's Search" ["La busca de Averroes"] (Jorge Luis Borges, 1947, trans. by J. E. Irby.)
- Selection from Orientalism (Edward Said)
- "The Day in Buenos Aires" ["Yawm Buinus Ayris"] (Jabbar Yassin Hussin, 2000, trans. by R. Jarrar)
- Film: Destiny [al-Masir] (Youssef Chahine, 1997)
- "The debate on Islam and secularism in Egypt" (Fauzi M. Najjar)

**Al-Andalus in modern Arab narrative:**

Weeks 10b, 11, and 12a:

- Granada: A Novel [Gharnata] (Radwa Ashour, 1994, trans. by W. Granara)
- "Nostalgia, Arab Nationalism, and the Andalusian Chronotope in the Evolution of the Modern Arabic Novel" (William Granara)
- "An Andalusian Tale" ["Qissa Andalusiyya"] (Daisy al-Amir, c. 1960, trans. by A. M. Cassimy and W. McClung Frazier)
- selection from Crescent (Diana Abu-Jaber, 2003)
- "In Search of Andalusia: Reconfiguring Arabness in Diana Abu-Jaber's Crescent" (Nouri Gana)

**Al-Andalus in modern Arabic Poetry:**

Weeks 12b and 13:

- Poems by Ahmad Shawqi, Nizar Qabbani, and Mahmud Darwish
- "The Lost Garden of al-Andalus: Islamic Spain and the Poetic Inversion of Colonialism" (Yaseen Noorani)
- Selection from: Literary disinheritance (Najat Rahman)
- "Al-Andalus arising from Damascus': al-Andalus in modern Arabic poetry" (Reuven Snir)

**Al-Andalus and Modern Spain: Contemporary Arab Migration to Spain**

Week 14a:

- "Muslims In Spain: Between The Historical Heritage And The Minority Construction" (Jordi Moreras)
- "Al-Andalus in Andalusia: Negotiating Moorish History and Regional Identity in Southern Spain" (Mikaela Rogozen-Soltar)

**Concluding Discussion: Interpreting al-Andalus**

Week 14b:

- “Representing and Remembering al-Andalus: Some Historical Considerations Regarding the End of Time and the Making of Nostalgia” (Justin Stearns)

**APPENDIX B: Sample Course Combinations for Completion of Minor**

The following are three possible combinations of the five courses/15 credits required for the minor, designated according to their area(s) of concentration. Of course, there are also other possible combinations.

| # of courses | Language and Social Sciences Concentration | Humanities Concentration | Literature/Cultural Studies Concentration |
|--------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| 1            | ARB 201                                    | ARB 102                  | ARB 201                                   |
| 2            | ARB 202                                    | ARB 201                  | ARB 310                                   |
| 3            | ARB 310                                    | ARB 310                  | ARB 310 (with different topic)            |
| 4            | GEG242                                     | REL 171                  | REL 171                                   |
| 5            | POL 387                                    | ARH 260                  | ARH 260                                   |

## **APPENDIX C: Other Universities with Similar Programs**

Villanova University:

<http://www.villanova.edu/artsci/global/criticallangs/arabic/>

[http://www.villanova.edu/artsci/global/criticallangs/arabic/minor\\_conc.htm](http://www.villanova.edu/artsci/global/criticallangs/arabic/minor_conc.htm)

<http://www.villanova.edu/artsci/global/criticallangs/arabic/courses.htm>

Notre Dame University:

[http://classics.nd.edu/documents/Arabic\\_Studies\\_Brochure.pdf](http://classics.nd.edu/documents/Arabic_Studies_Brochure.pdf)

Georgetown University, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies:

<http://ccas.georgetown.edu/academics/certificates/undergraduate/>

San Diego State University:

<http://www.cias.sdsu.edu/>

New York University:

[http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/mideast/Programs/bachelor\\_arts.html](http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/mideast/Programs/bachelor_arts.html)

University of Pennsylvania:

<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/arabic/DegreeRequirement.htm>

Northwestern University:

<http://www.asianandmiddleeast.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/minor.html>

## **APPENDIX D: Local and External Funding Opportunities**

### **Local sources:**

A significant number of **UM alumni and current students** are natives of the Middle East, particularly of the Arab Gulf states. Many of these alumni and "future alumni" are high net worth individuals. Establishing contact with these alumni, and tracking and maintaining contact with future alumni, is likely to yield private donations supporting components of the Arabic Studies Program.

Some **Middle East diplomatic and trade organizations** have their headquarters or representatives' offices in South Florida. These include: The Sultanate of Oman's Omani Center for Investment Promotion and Export Development and The Lebanese Consulate.

### **External Sources:**

There are a number of public and private foundations which provide scholarly grants as well as institutional grants related to Middle East/Islamic/Arabic Studies themes.

#### **The Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) program**

In 2005, The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures successfully applied for a teaching assistant through the FLTA program. The Department was able to host a teaching assistant from Tunisia who, under the supervision of Dr. Civantos, helped with our Arabic language courses during the 2005-06 academic year by offering tutoring, discussion sections, and informal conversation groups. The Department can seek another Fulbright FLTA for Arabic in the future.

#### **The Fulbright Visiting Specialists Program: "Direct Access to the Muslim World"**

The objective of this program is to bring academics from the Muslim world to the U.S. for 6 weeks of intensive university teaching and community outreach. Through this program the University of Miami could host a scholar from the Muslim Middle East who would participate in a team-taught interdisciplinary course on the region.



## APPENDIX E: Student Interest

Over the last few years, enrollments in UM's Arabic courses have ranged between approximately 13 and 25 students per section. This indicates strong student interest in Arabic, which is typical of what has been seen across the U.S. during the last several years.

In Fall 2006 the Modern Language Association of America (MLA) released a comprehensive new survey funded by the United States Department of Education, which was entitled "Enrollments in Languages Other Than English in United States Institutions of Higher Education." This survey indicates that amid a broader significant increase in interest in language study at American colleges and universities since 2002, enrollments in Arabic have risen by 127%. This has moved Arabic into the list of the top 10 most studied languages in the U.S. For the full MLA report, please see: [http://www.mla.org/2006\\_flenrollmentsurvey](http://www.mla.org/2006_flenrollmentsurvey)

The following page is a scan of a sheet that was passed out in the Fall 2009 Arabic 101 and Arabic 201 courses to gauge student interest in an interdisciplinary minor. The vast majority of the students expressed an interest in pursuing an Arabic Studies minor. The establishment of this minor will encourage even higher Arabic enrollments by giving the language courses greater coherence and purpose.

Minor in Arabic Studies

Fall 2009

We are trying to gauge student interest in a minor in Arabic Studies that would require credits in Arabic as well as in humanities or social science courses focused on the Middle East, Islam, and/or the Arab world. Please sign below if you would be likely to pursue such a minor in Arabic Studies, or, if you are already an upperclass student finishing your degree, sign below if you would probably have pursued such a minor if it had been available when you began your studies at UM. Thank you!

Matt Ferens

Adam Adahan

Alisha Bacchus

Natania Wlensky

Nazia Salam

Nicole Padula

Kamilah Zisdean

Nancy Shalhub → please!

Rachel Tucker

Peni Pict

Manika Freise

Ania Davis → interested

Alicia Beerman

Grace Castro

Cybel Sadadi - before graduate

Sandy Kipfel same please!

Jeanne Kraut

Caitlin Knapp

Bachanna Karmally

Dustin Orsland - would have (senior)

Danya Shalhub

Wendy Diaz-Huarcaya

Suzanne Al-Hamad

Sarah Altajjar

Dalal Eldick

David Elmashat

Julie Soto

## APPENDIX F: Library Holdings

The current holdings in Richter Library that are relevant to Arabic and the Arab world are minimally adequate to support an undergraduate minor in Arabic Studies. Many gaps can be filled through the use of Interlibrary Loan; however, it would be desirable to improve the holdings over time for greater ease of research and teaching.

In terms of monographs on the Arab world, Richter Library offers basic coverage in most areas of the social sciences and humanities. The areas that need the most improvement overall are critical studies on Arabic linguistics, language learning resources for students of Arabic, and Arabic literature in the original and in translation. In terms of reference works, key resources such as The Encyclopedia of Islam are available electronically. Regarding journals, many major journals are available electronically, but only for limited years. For instance, Arab Studies Journal, published by Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, is available to UM patrons electronically but only from 2009 to the present, although the journal was established in 1993. Similarly, Richter no longer subscribes to other important journals for the study of the Arab world: several years of both Middle Eastern Literatures and the Journal of Arabic Literature are available electronically but only up until 2009. Other significant journals are absent or nearly so, such as The Journal of North African Studies of which only a few special issues are available in the stacks. With regards to film resources, there are many relevant documentaries available at Richter, but very few narrative films from the Arab world.

Many of the materials whose acquisition would support the Arabic Studies minor fall within specific disciplines (e.g., Religious Studies and Political Science) for which there are departmental library budgets and may be purchased through those channels. For resources within the fields of Arabic language, linguistics, literature, and film, a modest supplement to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures library funds would be very helpful.

## APPENDIX G: Letter of Support from MLL Department Chair



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

*David R. Ellison, Chairman  
Distinguished Professor in the Humanities*

November 30, 2010

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF A MINOR IN ARABIC STUDIES

SUBMITTED BY: DAVID R. ELLISON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David R. Ellison".

I am happy to write this letter in support of the minor in Arabic Studies proposed by my colleague, Dr. Christina Civantos, Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

This minor was discussed at length in our department meetings and approved unanimously. It was then voted on and approved at the College of Arts and Sciences faculty meeting on November 15, 2010. Taking into account several of the comments made at that meeting, Dr. Civantos revised her proposal and has submitted it to the Faculty Senate as updated on November 18, 2010.

I have read the updated version of the proposal and am happy to support it as Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. I believe that the minor in Arabic Studies will enhance the interdisciplinary offerings in the College of Arts and Sciences and will respond in an intellectually serious way to student demand for more courses focused on Arabic and the Arab World.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
COLLEGE of  
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TO: Senate General Welfare Committee  
Faculty Senate Office

FROM: Leonidas G. Bachas  
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences 

SUBJECT: Minor in Arabic Studies – Support from Arts & Sciences

DATE: January 24, 2011

With this letter, I would like to address the Senate General Welfare Committee's request regarding the Dean's support for the Minor in Arabic Studies. In my letter of November 22, 2010, I indicated the support of the College for the establishment of a Minor in Arabic Studies. With this note, the Dean's Office assumes the responsibility to offer the Minor in accordance to the Faculty Manual stipulations. As many of our programs, the Minor in Arabic Studies will be reviewed on a regular basis to gauge its effectiveness and determine its need for growth.

The Senate General Welfare Committee requested to comment also on replacement hiring should any of the current faculty leave the University and future hiring for new faculty positions. Our commitment to offer the Minor implies that we will continue to provide necessary resources to teach the courses. As the proposal indicates, on page 4, most of the necessary resources for offering a Minor in Arabic Studies are already in place. The one new course will be offered once per academic year, either in the Fall or Spring semester, with a current faculty member. I do not foresee any problem with continuing to offer the courses needed for the minor. I hope this explanation meets your approval.

Thank you.

cc: David Ellison, Chair, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures