

YEAR IN
REVIEW

2022
2023

مجلس الدراسات
العربية والإسلامية

ASU Council for Arabic
& Islamic Studies

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

A unit of the ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Arizona State University
Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies
2021-2022 Year in Review

A unit of the [ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)
with administrative support from the
[School for International Letters and Cultures](#)

Message from

Dr. Souad T. Ali, Founding Chair



A reflection of the New American University concept, the mission of the *ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies* is to advance quality research and teaching promoting multiculturalism, cross-cultural understanding, diversity, interfaith dialogue and the expansion of human civilization and cultures through Arabic, Middle Eastern, and Islamic Studies.

The 2022 - 2023 academic period witnessed the resumption of our Lecture Series featuring prominent world scholars, including Dr. Zeinab Badawi, Dr. Ziba Mir-Hosseini, Dr. Tahera Qutbuddin, Dr. Roagia Abusharaf, Dr. Umar Sulayman, Dr. Andrea Shaheen Espinosa, Dr. Amina Wadud, Julie Kaplan, among others. The Council's lectures explored critical, timely and significant topics surrounding Arabic and Islamic Studies including, "Why the History of Africa Matters?", "Journeys Towards Gender Equality in Islam", "Piety, Ethics, and Politics in the Friday Sermon of Islam", "Burning Desires: Zanzibari Women in the Throes of Concubinage and Forced Marriage", "The New Middle East: Observations and Conversations", "The Syrian Diasporic Imaginary of the U.S Southwest: Arabness, Trauma, and Musical Identities", "Julie Kaplan in Iraq: Educational and Cultural Reflections", "Half A Century of Islam and Feminism", among others. Within the context of outreach and social embeddedness, the lectures generated important scholarly discussions that engaged speakers with large audiences of faculty, students and members of the greater Phoenix community.

Our Arabic Film and Poetry Series continued introducing the ASU and Arizona communities to cultural aspects of Arab and Middle Eastern society and culture through films rarely seen in the West, and a rich variety of classical, contemporary, and modern Arabic poetry followed by faculty-led scholarly discussions engaging ASU students and faculty. The new Season of the Series continued successfully and creatively featuring Classical and Contemporary/Modern Arabic Poetry; as well as several award-winning films including, "Kingdom of Morocco", "The Cave", "The Insult", and others.

We continue our collaboration with our national and international partners, including Georgetown University, the University of Chicago, Harvard University, Dar al-Athar al-Islamiya, the American University of Kuwait, and Egyptian and Turkish Universities. Our Middle Eastern Studies Program hosted two Fulbright FLTA Fellows for Arabic and Turkish from Libya and Turkey. As Liaison of the ASU/Egyptian Cultural & Educational Bureau (ECEB) MOU, in partnership with USAID, it was my pleasure to facilitate the arrival of two scholars from Egypt, Dr. Sarah Wahba and Dr. Koloud Abdel-Raouf Bakhit whose fellowships and training programs were affiliated with the ASU Biodesign Institute, and the ASU Tourism programs.

The Council's future activities include conferences, colloquium, panel series, workshops, faculty and student exchange programs, student teaching assistantship and internship opportunities, as well as seed-grants to enrich faculty research on the Council's mission, pending university and fundraising initiatives. Several national and international grant proposals have already been submitted. The Council has also recently been invited to submit additional grant proposals by Gulf universities as well as the Diplomatic Institute in Qatar.

It is my distinct pleasure to extend my thanks and appreciation to our sponsors, affiliates and Council friends, and to invite faculty, staff and students to continue engaging in our programs and events. Supporting the Council's fundraising program provides the opportunity to invest in its vision and mission. I am honored to be the Founding Chair of the Council at such an important transitional period in Arab and Muslim - U.S. and West relations.

Vision

Reflecting on the rich diversity of both Arabic Studies and Islamic Studies, the interdisciplinary program of the Council integrates the study of and research in Arabic and Islamic studies in diverse regions such as the Middle East, including the Arab World, Turkey and Iran, as well as Islamic Studies in regions beyond the Middle East and North Africa in countries such as Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and other Muslim majority countries. The program promotes the teaching of Arabic, Persian, and Turkish as well as other languages taught in ASU's School of International Letters and Cultures including Indonesian and Hindi-Urdu, in collaboration with the study of sociology, history, politics, anthropology, and religion.

Mission

The Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies was established at Arizona State University to acknowledge the significant contributions of Arabic Studies and Islamic civilization and cultures to the world at large both historically and in the modern age. The Council's research and teaching programs seek to promote multiculturalism, diversity, inter-faith dialogue, cross-cultural understanding, and the expansion of human civilization and cultures through Arabic as well as other Middle-Eastern languages including Persian and Turkish. The Council seeks to develop constructive academic and cultural interaction and partnerships between ASU and similar groups in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

Initiatives

The Council holds a variety of initiatives throughout the academic year including the annual Lecture Series, Arabic Film and Poetry Series, symposia, workshops, and events throughout the ASU and greater Phoenix metropolitan area.

Council of Arabic and Islamic Studies Presents

Burning Desires: Zanzibari Women in the Throes of Concubinage and Forced Marriage

Annual Lecture Series featuring
Prof. Rogiia Mustafa Abusharaf
Professor of Anthropology at UPD
Kenya

Organized & Moderated by Dr. Saoud T. Al-Sayid

Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Dr. Rogiia Mustafa Abusharaf is a Professor of Anthropology at UPD, Department of Anthropology, and is the author of *Burning Desires: Zanzibari Women in the Throes of Concubinage and Forced Marriage*. She received her PhD from the University of Chicago Press, 2017. Her research and teaching interests include critical ethnography, gender, writing, autobiography, and postcolonial studies. She is also a frequent speaker at international conferences and has published articles in various journals. Her research focuses on the lives of women in Zanzibar and the impact of colonialism and globalization on their lives. She is currently working on a book about the lives of women in Zanzibar and the impact of colonialism and globalization on their lives.

For more information, contact
CALS@asu.edu, 480.955.5281

ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies presents

ARABIC film&poetry series

engaging night of art, culture, & faculty-led scholarly discussion
Fall 2022

Classical Arabic poetry
November 17, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Film: The Cave
November 18, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Contemporary & Modern Arabic poetry
November 19, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Film: Kingdom of Morocco
November 20, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies presents

ASU Online

ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies presents

ARABIC film&poetry series

Engaging night of art, culture, & faculty-led scholarly discussion
Spring 2023

Documentary: Arabic and Islamic Civilization
February 6, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Classical, Contemporary and Modern Arabic Poetry
February 7, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Film: THE INSULT
February 8, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies presents

ASU Online

ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies presents

ARABIC film&poetry series

Engaging night of art, culture, & faculty-led scholarly discussion
Fall 2023

Classical Arabic poetry
September 12, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Film: SON OF DABYNE
September 13, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Contemporary & Modern Arabic poetry
September 14, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Film: INSYRIA
September 15, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies presents

ASU Online

Council of Arabic and Islamic Studies Presents

Journeys Towards Gender Equality In Islam

Dr. Zainab Badawi
Professor, Loyola University
September 14, 2022
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
ASU Online

Dr. Zainab Badawi is a Professor of Islamic Studies at Loyola University. She has a PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Journeys Towards Gender Equality in Islam*, which explores the role of women in Islam and the challenges they face in achieving gender equality. She is also a frequent speaker at international conferences and has published articles in various journals. She is currently working on a book about the lives of women in Islam and the impact of globalization on their lives.

For more information, contact
CALS@asu.edu, 480.955.5281

Council of Arabic and Islamic Studies Presents

The New Middle East: Observations and Conversations

Annual Lecture Series featuring
Dr. Umar Sulayman

Organized and moderated by Dr. Saoud T. Al-Sayid

Thursday, March 16, 2023, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Dr. Umar Sulayman is a Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at ASU. He has a PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Toronto. He is the author of *The New Middle East: Observations and Conversations*, which explores the role of the Middle East in the world and the challenges it faces. He is also a frequent speaker at international conferences and has published articles in various journals. He is currently working on a book about the lives of the Middle East and the impact of globalization on their lives.

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Council of Arabic and Islamic Studies Presents

The Syrian Diasporic Imaginary of the U.S Southwest: Arabness, Trauma, and Musical Identities

Annual Lecture Series featuring
Dr. Andrea Shaheen Espinosa

Organized and moderated by Dr. Saoud T. Al-Sayid

Monday, March 22, 2023, 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Dr. Andrea Shaheen Espinosa is a Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at ASU. She has a PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Toronto. She is the author of *The Syrian Diasporic Imaginary of the U.S Southwest: Arabness, Trauma, and Musical Identities*, which explores the role of the Syrian diaspora in the U.S Southwest and the challenges they face. She is also a frequent speaker at international conferences and has published articles in various journals. She is currently working on a book about the lives of the Syrian diaspora and the impact of globalization on their lives.

For more information, contact
CALS@asu.edu, 480.955.5281

Council of Arabic and Islamic Studies Presents

Julie Kaplan in Iraq: Educational and Cultural Reflections

Annual Lecture Series - Young Scholars Series featuring
Julie Kaplan

Organized & Moderated by Dr. Saoud T. Al-Sayid

April 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Julie Kaplan is a Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at ASU. She has a PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Julie Kaplan in Iraq: Educational and Cultural Reflections*, which explores her experiences in Iraq and the challenges she faced. She is also a frequent speaker at international conferences and has published articles in various journals. She is currently working on a book about her experiences in Iraq and the impact of globalization on her life.

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Council of Arabic and Islamic Studies Presents

Why the History of Africa Matters?

Annual Lecture Series featuring
Dr. Zeinab Badawi

Organized & Moderated by Dr. Saoud T. Al-Sayid

April 27, 2023, at 6:00 PM
ASU Online

Dr. Zeinab Badawi is a Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at ASU. She has a PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Why the History of Africa Matters?*, which explores the role of Africa in the world and the challenges it faces. She is also a frequent speaker at international conferences and has published articles in various journals. She is currently working on a book about the role of Africa in the world and the impact of globalization on her life.

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Lecture Series

The annual Lecture Series brings leading world scholars to the ASU community to explore timely, critical, and related topics surrounding Arabic and Islamic Studies.

Why the History of Africa Matters? November 8th, 2023



President of the London University's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Dr. Zeinab Badawi holds degrees from Oxford University and a post-graduate (awarded with a distinction) from SOAS, London University. She has worked in the British media for four decades on programs such as the BBC's 'Hard Talk'. Dr. Badawi has won many awards and several honorary doctorates and has produced a major 20-part tv series on the history of Africa and is currently writing a book on this. In addition to being President of SOAS, London University, she is a member of the Advisory Boards of Think-Tanks Afro-Barometer and MINDS - the Mandela Institute for Development Studies, a member of the Africa Europe Foundation, a board member of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the Arts, Humanities and Research Council of UKRI, of the Royal Foundation, and the Royal Opera House. A Sudanese-British citizen, Zeinab Badawi was born in the Sudan and moved to London at the age of two.

Journeys Towards Gender Equality in Islam. September 28th, 2023



Ziba Mir-Hosseini (www.zibamirhosseini.com) is a legal anthropologist, specializing in Islamic law, gender and Islamic feminism, and a founding member of Musawah. She obtained her BA from Tehran University and PhD from Cambridge University, and has held numerous research fellowships and visiting professorships, and Hauser Global Law Visiting Professor at New York University (2002-2019). Currently, she is Professorial Research Associate at the Centre for Islamic and Middle Eastern Law, SOAS, University of London. She has published books on Islamic family law in Iran and Morocco, Iranian clerical discourses on gender and democracy, Islamic reformist thinkers, and the revival of zina laws. Her latest book is *Journeys Towards Gender Equality in Islam* (2022). She also co-directed two award-winning feature-length documentary films on Iran: *Divorce Iranian Style* (1998) and *Runaway* (2001). In 2015, she received the American Academy of Religion's Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion.

Julie Kaplan in Iraq: Educational and Cultural Reflections. April 20th, 2023



Julie Kaplan is a Fulbright Canada Killam Fellow where she studied Political Science at the University of Prince Edward Island during a semester exchange in fall 2022. Julie will graduate from Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University with a B.S in Finance and B.A in Global Politics in May 2023. Ms. Kaplan spent four months in Iraq and wrote her outstanding Honors Thesis, under Dr. Souad T. All's supervision, based on a 12 - episode film series reflecting on her first - hand experience and research. Julie took two years (fall 2020 to spring 2022) off of her undergraduate degree to gain work and travel experience abroad. She worked at Deloitte in Switzerland, as well as at a small bank in Moldova. Julie also enjoyed lecturing at schools and universities in Uzbekistan, Iraq, and Moldova on topics including the benefits of democracy, microlending, and personal finance. She is looking forward to working as an Associate Consultant at Bain & Company in San Francisco after graduation.

The Syrian Diasporic Imaginary of the U.S Southwest: Arabness, Trauma, and Musical Identities March 22nd, 2023



Dr. Andrea Shaheen Espinosa is an associate professor at Arizona State University in the School for Social Transformation and the Herberger School of Music, Dance, and Theater. Her current research explores the ways that migration, nostalgia, and trauma impact notions of identity and performance practice within Syrian diasporic communities in the U.S. and Latin America. Her research has been supported by Medici, CMES, and Fulbright, and her recent work has been published in *Yearbook for Traditional Music*, *The Double Reed*, and *Cahiers d'ethnomusicologie*. Additionally, Shaheen Espinosa is also the founder and director of Layali Al-Sham, a binational SWANA music ensemble that has received national and international recognition (Fronteras Desk, NPR, and Arabs Got Talent).

The New Middle East: Observations and Conversations. March 16th, 2023



Dr. Umar Sulayman is a Fulbright scholar and an instructor of Arabic, English, and Linguistics with a Ph.D. in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. He began teaching in 2001 at the University of Baghdad, covering General Linguistics and English Grammar. He also taught English and TOEFL courses at MUC Mansour University College. In 2006, he received a Fulbright scholarship for a second MA in TESOL at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He taught English for Specific Purposes at Ohio Northern University starting in 2009 and became the program director in 2010. Umar established the Arabic program at ONU in 2012 and later joined ASU Global Launch in 2015. Since 2017, he has been an instructor of Arabic, Iraqi culture, and Linguistics at SILC, coordinating the SILC language fair since 2018. Umar is also a frequent speaker on war, refugees, and Middle Eastern politics due to his personal experiences.

Burning Desires: Zanzibari Women in the Throes of Concubinage and Forced Marriage

September 21st, 2022



Professor Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf. Drawing on a variety of ethnographic insights I have gathered in Zanzibar and Oman between 2016-2019 along with a constellation of texts, archives, local historiographies, a constellation of Swahili statements for against Ndoa in private possession of an interlocutor, memoirs and other e-fieldnotes gathered over 2020-2021; I base my commentaries in the frame of what anthropologist Enseng Ho calls “oceanic intimates.” I shall attempt to consider the exploitation of women’s bodies to explore what was at stake in the two parallel instances of concubinage and forced marriage, which cannot be understood in isolation of the “correspondences” and the emotionality that manifested itself phenomenologically in both gendered social dramas.

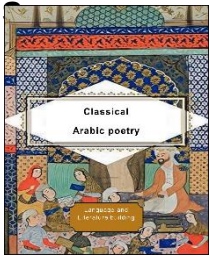
Half A Century of Islam and Feminism. March 3rd, 2022

Dr. Amina Wadud is a renowned scholar and activist focused on Islam, justice, gender, and sexuality. After retiring from US academia as a Full Professor, she served as a Visiting Researcher at Starr King School for the Ministry. In 2018, she moved to Indonesia to escape US political and ethical turmoil and recently returned to academia as a Visiting Professor at the National Islamic University in Jogjakarta. Author of the seminal work "Quran and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective," which has been translated over ten times, Dr. Wadud significantly contributed to Islamic feminism. Her second book, "Inside the Gender Jihad: Women's Reform in Islam," furthered the discourse on ethics and activism. After a three-year research grant on Islamic discourse on sexual diversity, funded by the Arcus Foundation, she is now organizing the International Center for Queer Islamic Studies and Theology (QIST).



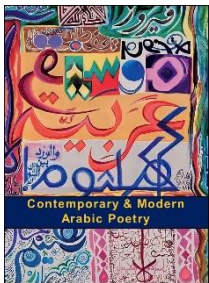
Arabic Film & Poetry Series

The Arabic Film and Poetry Series, held each semester, offers the larger ASU community the opportunity to explore the Arab and Islamic worlds during an engaging series including art, culture, and faculty-led scholarly discussions through classical and contemporary Arabic poetry and award-winning international films.



Classical Arabic Poetry September 12, 2023

From the very earliest stages in the Arabic literary tradition, poetry has reflected the deepest sense of Arab self-identity, of communal history, and of aspirations for the future. Within this tradition the role of the poet has been of major significance. The linkage between public life and the composition of ringing odes has remained a direct one from the pre-Islamic era, through the premodern period to the modern period.



Classical Contemporary and Modern Arabic Poetry November 20, 2023

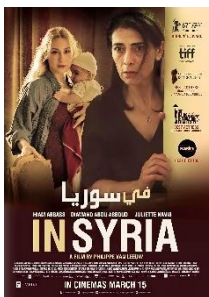
“From the very earliest stages in the Arabic literary tradition, poetry has reflected the deepest sense of Arab self-identity, of communal history, and of aspirations for the future. Within this tradition the role of the poet has been of major significance. The linkage between public life and the composition of ringing odes has remained a direct one from the pre-Islamic era—when the poet was a major verbal weapon, someone whose verses could be invoked to praise the heroes of his own tribe and to pour scorn on those of their enemies—through the premodern period—when poetic eulogies not only extolled the ruler who patronized the poet but reflected a pride in the achievements and extent of the Islamic dominions—to the modern period—in which the poet has felt called upon to either reflect or oppose the prevailing political mood. In times of crisis it has always been, and still remains, the poet’s voice that is first raised to reflect the tragedies, the anger, the fears, and the determination of the Arab people.” Britannica



SON of BABYLON October 19, 2023

Won Amnesty Film Award & Peace Prize in 60th Berlin International Film Festival in 2010.

The film is set initially in Northern Iraq two weeks after the fall of Saddam Hussein. Ahmed, a 12-year-old boy begrudgingly follows in the shadow of his grandmother. On hearing news that prisoners of war have been found alive, she is determined to discover the fate of her missing son.



IN SYRIA October 11, 2023

A “brilliantly effective indictments of the horrors of war,” In Syria (originally Insyriated) won the Panorama Audience Award at the 67th Berlin International Film Festival. And at the 8th Magritte Awards, it won all six Awards it was nominated for, including Best Film and Best Director. The film depicts life in war-torn Syria, focusing on a mother trying to protect her family, attempting to keep her family safe as war rages.



Classical Contemporary and Modern Arabic Poetry February 23, 2023

“From the very earliest stages in the Arabic literary tradition, poetry has reflected the deepest sense of Arab self-identity, of communal history, and of aspirations for the future. Within this tradition the role of the poet has been of major significance. The linkage between public life and the composition of ringing odes has remained a direct one from the pre-Islamic era—when the poet was a major verbal weapon, someone whose verses could be invoked to praise the heroes of his own tribe and to pour scorn on those of their enemies—through the premodern period—when poetic eulogies not only extolled the ruler who patronized the poet but reflected a pride in the achievements and extent of the Islamic dominions—to the modern period—in which the poet has felt called upon to either reflect or oppose the prevailing political mood. In times of crisis it has always been, and still remains, the poet’s voice that is first raised to reflect the tragedies, the anger, the fears, and the determination of the Arab people.” Britannica



The Insult March 14, 2023

Through the eyes of volunteer rescue workers called the White Helmets, *Last Men in Aleppo* allows viewers to experience the daily life, death, and struggle in the streets, where they are fighting for sanity in a city where war has become the norm. Winner, 2017 Sundance World Cinema Grand Jury Prize for Documentary.



Arabic and Islamic Civilization, February 6, 2023

The contemporary and modern Arabic poetry session covered several poets from different Arab countries. In addition to poetry viewing and scholarly discussion, students were invited to recite various pieces of their favorite modern poetry and to recite their own original works.



Contemporary & Modern Poetry, November 17, 2022

The contemporary and modern Arabic poetry session covered several poets from different Arab countries. In addition to poetry viewing and scholarly discussion, students were invited to recite various pieces of their favorite modern poetry and to recite their own original works.



The Cave, October 6, 2022

The CAVE premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in 2019.

Directed by Feras Fayyad. The CAVE was produced in 2019 as a Syrian-Danish film. A sequel of the Last Men in Aleppo, the CAVE features Dr. Amani Ballour in Ghouta, a Syrian physician operating a makeshift hospital nicknamed “the Cave” during the Syrian Civil War.



Classical Arabic Poetry, September 12, 2022

From the very earliest stages in the Arabic literary tradition, poetry has reflected the deepest sense of Arab self-identity, of communal history, and of aspirations for the future. Within this tradition the role of the poet has been of major significance. The linkage between public life and the composition of ringing odes has remained a direct one from the pre-Islamic era, through the premodern period to the modern period.



Kingdom of Morocco, November 2, 2022

BBC Documentary featuring the great history of the kingdom of Morocco. Some of the most vibrant history of the world.

Supporting the Community

The Council also supports various ASU and community events which expand the community's understanding of Arabic and Islamic Studies. Some activities have included co-sponsoring the annual ASU Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures Open House, participating in School of International Letters and Cultures activities, and supporting events and initiatives with various ASU units, community organizations, and student organizations.

ASU Homecoming Block Party

Homecoming brings together students, parents and alumni to celebrate their Sun Devil spirit. At the highlighted event, the Homecoming Block Party, thousands of people visited the School of International Letters and Cultures site which included cultural activities and entertainment in more than 20 languages, including Arabic and Hebrew calligraphy, henna tattoos, and more.

ASU Open Door

The annual Open Door brings thousands of local community members to experience ASU through a variety of hands-on activities, presentations, and visits to campus museums, classrooms, and laboratories. Mini Arabic language classes, cultural lessons and Arabic calligraphy were provided by CAIS and the Arabic Studies Program in the School of International Letters and Cultures.

School of International Letters and Cultures - Language Fair

CAIS, along with the ASU Arabic language section, showcased the Arabic language and culture at the annual Language Fair sponsored by the School of International Letters and Cultures. The annual fair engages local high school students in expanding their global appreciation and knowledge of languages by showcasing various cultures, lessons, competitions, foods, dances, and traditions. The Fair is an important outreach program to attract high school students to ASU.

Academic Opportunities

ASU students of all levels, interests, and majors can enhance their ASU experience and career opportunities through a major concentration, minor or certificate in Arabic studies. Courses are offered through the ASU Arabic Studies program within the School of International Letters and Cultures.

Arabic Studies Concentration – B.A. in International Letters and Cultures

The B.A. program in international letters and cultures with a concentration in Arabic studies provides critical and cultural diversity in advanced Arabic language and literature that enriches ASU students' undergraduate experience; helps them gain a broad knowledge and understanding of the culture, literature and traditions of the vast Arabic-speaking world; and prepares them for the job market. The Arabic studies concentration benefits students interested in academic research and careers in public and diplomatic service as well as in national security. This concentration complements existing degree programs in the School of International Letters of Culture and enhances studies in social science disciplines such as political science and global studies, and in humanities fields including anthropology, history, philosophy and religious studies.

Arabic Studies Minor

The minor in Arabic studies provides students with instruction in Modern Standard Arabic as well as Arabic culture and literature. Students who successfully complete the prescribed coursework will be able to effectively communicate in Arabic and interact with native speakers of Arabic. Literature courses expand students' knowledge in Arabic, Middle East, and Islamic culture and civilization. Students of all academic disciplines doing research or seeking employment in areas related to the Middle East or parts of the Arab world will find the minor in Arabic highly beneficial.

Arabic Studies Certificate

The certificate in Arabic studies provides undergraduate and graduate students with skills that will enable and qualify them to communicate effectively in Arabic. Simultaneously, students gain a broad knowledge and understanding of the culture, literature and traditions of the vast Arabic-speaking world. The certificate provides critically needed educational and cultural diversity that will enrich students' experience and prepare them for life as employees and employers with an added advantage the program gives them in the job market, given the demonstrably high need for graduates with Arabic knowledge.

Other Languages

The ASU School for International Letters and Cultures also offers additional languages, such as Hebrew, Hindi-Urdu, and Indonesian that are significant to Arab, Islamic, and Middle Eastern communities.

- **Farsi**, also known as Persian, is the most widely spoken member of the Iranian branch of the Indo-Iranian languages, a subfamily of the Indo-European languages. It is the language of Iran (formerly Persia) and is also widely spoken in Afghanistan, in an archaic form, in Tajikistan and the Pamir Mountain region. Persian is spoken today primarily in Iran and Afghanistan, but was historically a more widely understood language in an area ranging from the Middle East to India. Significant populations of speakers in other Persian Gulf countries include Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates, as well as large communities in the United States.
- **Turkish** is the official language of the Republic of Turkey and is the most widely spoken language in the Turkic language family with over 70 million native speakers. Outside of Turkey, Turkish is also spoken in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Northern Cyprus, Greece, and other European countries, like Germany, where many Turkish workers and their families live. Turkey is a democratic and secular country with a rich and diverse cultural heritage. Turkey, considered the gateway between the East and the West, is bordered by eight countries in Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East, making it geo-strategically important.
- **Modern Hebrew** is one of two official languages of Israel (the other being Arabic), which is home to a diverse representation of Jews, Muslims, Christians, and others, including a 20% Muslim population. Modern and pre-modern Hebrew are studied by Jews and students of Judaism, Israel, theology, and the Middle East.
- **Hindi** is the official language of India, home to ancient civilizations, historic trade routes, and vast empires, including a significant Muslim population and Islamic history.
- **Urdu** is the official language to Pakistan and is similar to Hindi other than that it is written in the Arabic script.
- **Indonesian** is the national language of Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country with over 238 million people and the largest Muslim population in the world.

Learn more at
<https://silc.asu.edu/content/academic-areas>

Fulbright FLTA Fellows

Our Middle Eastern Studies program hosted two Fulbright FLTA Fellows from Turkey and Libya who taught Turkish and Arabic in fall 2022 and spring 2023.



Rumeysa YÜCEL

Rumeysa is PhD student in Bahcesehir University English Language Education program, was an English Language instructor at Turkish Air Force Academy, National Defense University. She has certificate in teaching Aviation English awarded by Mayflower College and Turkish Partnership for Peace Training Center. Also, she is a participant in 'EAP Leaders of Tomorrow'(E-LOT) funded by British Council and carried out with the cooperation of Çukurova University and Leeds Beckett University. Her research interests are ESP curriculum development, teacher education in educational technology, bilingual education. She has taught Turkish to Syrian refugee children in Istanbul for their immersion into Turkish society. She is currently a Turkish FLTA at Arizona State University.

Malak Ali

Selma Malak Ali, an English language graduate from Tripoli's university in Libya. Has been teaching English to second language learners for 13 years both in Tripoli and in Cairo-Egypt. She is certified from Cambridge university to teach English globally. She is an active member in her society as she volunteers to teach kids English, and volunteers to help displaced people back in her country to get shelters and food. She is a mental health advocate in her hometown as she spoke on Tedx about mental health to raise awareness in her community. She is currently the Libyan FLTA who has been teaching Arabic at Arizona state university.



The Egyptian Collection: A Gift to CAIS



CAIS has been honored to receive a precious gift from the family of Patricia "Patty" Turullols Lindbergh Cooper, a lovingly curated her self-taught knowledge of Egyptology for over 50 years. Her first item the collection was the cat statue. This adoration for the domestic cat undoubtedly connected her with the lives of Ancient Egyptians. She was of Spanish-Mexican decent and lived most of her life in Texas and Arizona but always craved exotic cultures and far-away lands as an escape from the challenges of daily life. Patty surrounded herself with her collection of Egyptian reproductions and books as a source of extraordinary joy. May her collection transport the viewer through time and imagination to a culture of beauty, extravagance, mystery and of course a profound veneration for cats. The Collection is displayed on the 2nd floor of the DH building.



Success Stories

The Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies would like to congratulate many ASU students, scholars, and alumni for their great achievements in Arabic and Islamic Studies! Here are a few examples of outstanding student success stories through the years.



Yara Osman

Yara Osman graduated from Arizona State University in Spring 2024. She completed her Honors Thesis on "Diverse Minds: Promoting Diversity in Neuroscience Through Children's Literature." Yara majored in Neuroscience with a minor in Business. She plans to take a gap year before applying to grad school.



Neimeh Mousa

Neimeh Mousa received her Ph.D. in Linguistics and Sociolinguistics from ASU's English Department in fall 2020, and a B.A. in English Literature from Al-Najah National University in Palestine. She wrote her dissertation on "Grammatical Aspects of Rural Palestinian Arabic". Neimeh Mousa is Associate Teaching Professor of Arabic and the coordinator of lower-division Arabic courses at Arizona State University's School of International Letters and Cultures. Her research focuses on sociolinguistics, syntax, and the grammatical aspects of Arabic dialects and code-switching among Arabic/English bilinguals.

Umar Sulayman

Umar Sulayman, a Fulbright scholar, completed his PhD in Linguistics and Sociolinguistics at Arizona State University. He wrote his Dissertation on: "Adverbial Ordering in Iraqi Arabic." He started his teaching career in 2001 at the University of Baghdad and has taught at various institutions, including Ohio Northern University and ASU Global Launch. He established the Arabic program at ONU and currently teaches Arabic, Iraqi culture, and Linguistics at SILC. Politics and war have greatly influenced his life, and he frequently speaks about war, refugees, and Middle Eastern politics. Umar holds two M.A. degrees and a B.A. from the University of Baghdad.

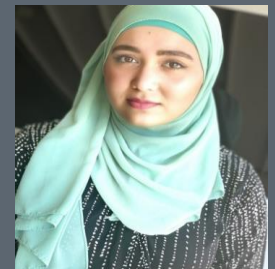


Julie Kaplan

Julie Kaplan was an Honors student of Arizona State University. She wrote her Honors Thesis on "Julie in Iraq: Educational and Cultural Reflections" based on 12 episodes of film she made in Iraq. Currently working as an Associate Consultant at Bain & Company in San Francisco. She holds a B.S. in Finance and a B.A. in Business Global Politics. Her diverse experiences include studying at the University of Prince Edward Island as a Fulbright Canada Killam Fellow, interning as an Oil and Gas Investment Banking Summer Analyst in Houston, and filming a solo travel docu-series in Iraq. As a Polish-US dual citizen, she has a deep interest in European politics and culture.

Alaa Amjad Khalaf

Khalaf is graduating as a Barrett, The Honors College student with bachelor's degrees in political science and international letters and cultures (Arabic studies) from the School of Politics and Global Studies and the School of International Letters and Cultures, respectively. She added the concurrent major in Arabic studies midway through her time at ASU because she "realized that I need something that will always keep me connected to my Palestinian roots." Khalaf moved to Palestine with her mother and brother after the death of her father when she was just 4 years old. Amjad Khalaf was her father's name, and she feels honored to have it as part of her own name.



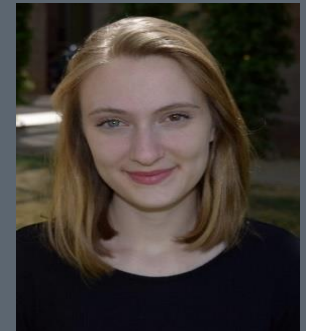


Bethany Elias Jenner

Bethany successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in April 2020, entitled “They Made their Sacred Space: Power and Piety in Women’s Mosques, and Mushollas [In Indonesia],” under the supervision of Dr. Abdullahi Gallab, Dr. Souad T. Ali and Dr. Suzanne Brenner. Through generous funding from ASU, the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and the Henry Luce Foundation, Bethany’s research examines the nuances of gendered space, piety, and community in the context of religion and gender through ethnographies of the Women’s Mosque of America in Los Angeles and two of Indonesia’s Women – only Mushollas. Among her other Awards and Grants, Bethany is a recipient of the Jenny Norton Grant for Women’s Studies, CLAS Graduate Excellence Award, and the Distinguished Arabic Excellence Award. She completed her PhD in SHPRS with an emphasis in Islam in Global Context. Bethany is currently a Faculty Associate at ASU.

Rachel Fletcher

Rachel is a graduating senior at ASU with dual degrees in Political Science and Anthropology as well as certificates in Cross-Sector Leadership, International Studies, Political Economy, and Political Entrepreneurship. Her honors thesis, “Examining Women as Agents of Violence within the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq: Including a Case Study on the Recruitment of Sudanese Medical Students with Historical Analysis,” directed by Dr. Souad T. Ali, examined the ways women are forced to contribute to the goals of ISIS and their motivations for joining the group as well as the importance of understanding these issues within international security. She Dr. Ali’s Research Fellow from the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict (CSRC). Rachel is a Fulbright Finalist for Malaysia, and she hopes to continue her studies on women, war, and peace after graduation.





Samantha Hill

Samantha graduated with a B.A in Psychology in 2019. At ASU, she was a peer educator for the ASU Sexual and Relationship Violence Prevention Program and started the Refugee Support Alliance student organization dedicated to serving refugees both locally and internationally. Samantha advocates against sexual violence within interfaith communities, and her Honors Thesis titled “The Intersection of Islam, Women and Sexual Violence Prevention” was directed by Dr. Souad T. Ali. She continues working with local communities in raising awareness against injustice in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Yusef Sabri

Yusef Sabri recently graduated with a Minor and a Certificate in Arabic Studies and a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemical Engineering. Yusef said, “his knowledge of Arabic has “opened up several doors” and indicated that he already began receiving several job offers. Recommended by his mentor Dr. Souad T. Ali, Yusef completed an Internship with “A Foreign Language Service”, which is a Mesa-based company in Arizona. He did significant Arabic-English translation and interpreting work for the company as an Intern. Sabri mentioned that, “interpreting offers him a practical way to use the language skills her worked hard to master in his courses”.



Raneem Tohaibeche

Raneem graduated from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with her Bachelors in Biochemistry along with a Certificate in Arabic Studies. Her Arabic study courses led her to start an honors thesis project under the supervision of Dr. Souad T. Ali about the evolution of Muslim female physicians in medicine. Raneem’s interest in medicine and the health field has been uprising since, and she is currently pursuing her Master in the Science of Health Care Delivery.

Selma Ismail

Selma Ismail graduated from ASU with degrees in Global Studies and Business (Public Service/Public Policy) from the WP Carey School of Business. She also completed an Arabic Studies Certificate in SILC, as well as a Certificate in Islamic Studies in Religious Studies. Selma has received a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in Malaysia as a Fulbright Scholar. With interest in international relations and human right issues, Selma completed her Honors Thesis “Female Circumcision in Sudan: Exploring the Human Rights Abuse Through a Culturally Competent Lens”, directed by Dr. Souad T. Ali.



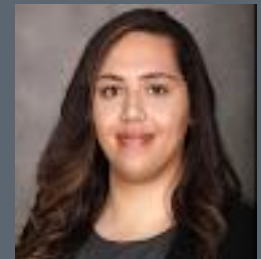
Joseph Conant

Joseph graduated with a B.A. in French with a Minor in Arabic Studies and an Arabic Studies Certificate in the School of International Letters and Cultures. He received two prestigious scholarships: the Boren Scholarship NSEP and a scholarship from Qatar University to study advanced Arabic. He is very interested in doing further Arabic studies. Joseph also assumed the position of President of the Arabic Language and Culture Club for one year.



Mary-Victoria Hickcox

Mary-Victoria Hickcox graduated with a B.A. degree in Global Health and a Minor in Sustainability from Barrett, the Honors College. Her thesis, “Addressing Misconceptions of Women in Islam through the Exegesis of Female Islamic Scholars”, directed by Dr. Souad T. Ali, examined the various interpretations and readings of the Qur’an pertaining to women (and men). She is teaching middle school science in Phoenix through Teach For America with a long-term goal of entering into education policy.



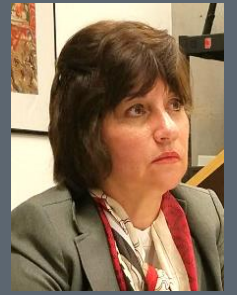


Ayla Perez

Ayla Perez graduated with a Master's degree in Women and Gender Studies from the School of Social Transformation. Her Masters Applied Project for Women and Gender Studies, chaired by Dr. Souad T. Ali, examined honor crimes within imperialism, colonialism and regime change. As a case manager for substance abuse and mental health, she works now to obtain grants to develop a program in the U.S. to recognize honor crimes against women and create support systems for survivors of honor crimes.

Lourdes Saez

Lourdes E. Saez completed her Ph.D. in Religious Studies with concentration in Islam in Global context in under the mentorship of Dr. Abdullahi Gallab, Dr. Souad T. Ali and Dr. Moses Moore. She also holds a Certificate in Arabic Studies. Her Dissertation, *Hay Moros en la Costa: the Imprint and Legacy of Islam in Puerto Rico and the Fiestas de Santiago Apostol*, examined the legacy of Islam through Iberian and African Muslims in Puerto Rico. Lourdes received a Master of Arts in Cultural Studies from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM. She also holds a Master of Arts in Spanish, from the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. She currently teaches at a college in Albuquerque and volunteers for a local homeless shelter.



Shabnam Rezai

With an undergraduate degree in Psychology, Shabnam Rezai worked on her Master's thesis, co-chaired by Dr. Souad T. Ali that presented a more positive view of Afghani women, told from their own perspective and experiences. Shabnam works to dispel the oppressed and passive image of Afghani women portrayed by the press and even in some scholarly studies. Shabnam works as an academic advisor in the ASU Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering with mechanical engineering and aerospace students. She graduated in May 2017 with a Master's degree in Religious Studies focusing on Islam in global contexts. Her ultimate goal is to teach as a professor.

Brieanna Griffin

Brieanna graduated from Barrett, the Honors College at ASU with double Majors in Global Studies and Anthropology, as well as a Minor in Arabic studies and certificates in Islamic studies and TESOL. After graduating, she traveled to Tanzania to study Swahili intensively and work at a local NGO as a Boren scholar through the U.S. government. She noted that the combination of Arabic and the Swahili language skills helped better prepare her to pursue graduate studies in Islamic studies and work within American public diplomacy (with an emphasis in public diplomacy throughout the Muslim world).



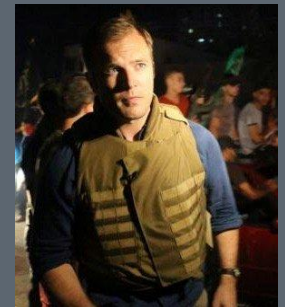
Amirah Ismail

Amirah is a Foreign Service Officer within the U.S. Department of State. She served a two-year term in Latvia, an assignment in Algeria and is currently covering the Afghanistan Desk. Additionally, she served various roles both as a student and in the U.S. Department of State in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Washington D.C. as a U.S. diplomat. Amirah noted that her mission is to promote peace and prosperity around the world, protect American citizens, and advance U.S. foreign policy goals. Amirah earned a Master degree in Middle East Studies from George Washington University, and graduated from ASU in 2009 with double majors in global studies and justice studies, and certificates in Arabic and Islamic Studies.



Ian Lee

Ian continues his vigorous journalism activities as a CNN reporter in the Middle East, covering the most critical developments in the region, including the 2011 Arab Spring, Ukraine Crisis, Sochi Winter Olympics, June 30 Revolution in Egypt, 2014 Gaza War, 2016 Turkish coup d'état attempt, and 2017 North Korea crisis, among other things. He has received many awards for his important work, including the Emmy Award "CNN/CNNi Breaking News Simulcast" (2012) and the Peabody Award "CNN's coverage of the uprising in Libya and Egypt" (2011). Ian graduated from ASU in 2007 majoring in journalism with specialization in Arabic and Islamic studies, including a study abroad experience at the University of Jordan, followed by work in Egypt as a Fulbright Grantee.





Lena Arkawi

Lena played a critical role for the United Nations World Humanitarian Summit (May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey) that hosted 53 world leaders and 9,000 participants during this first-ever convening in the UN's 70-year history due to the highest levels of human suffering witnessed since World War II. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree program in Advocacy in a Global Environment at George Washington University. Lena graduated from ASU in 2009 majoring in interdisciplinary studies with concentrations in business and communication, and a certificate in Arabic Studies.

View more Student Success Stories: <https://cais.asu.edu/content/student-success-stories>

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Dr. Souad T. Ali
Founding Chair



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About Dr. Souad T. Ali, Founding Chair

Dr. Souad T. Ali is Founding Chair of the ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies; Head of Classics and Middle Eastern Studies, Coordinator of Arabic Studies; Associate Professor of Arabic Literature and Middle East/Islamic Studies in the School of International Letters and Cultures (SILC). She is simultaneously an Affiliate Faculty in the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, Women and Gender Studies, African and African-American Studies, the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, Institute for Humanities Research, among others.

A Fulbright Scholar, Professor Ali is the author of *A Religion, Not A State: Ali 'Abd al-Raziq's Islamic Justification of Political Secularism* (University of Utah Press 2009) that reached the top of Amazon's List for "Bestselling New and Future Releases in Turkey" when it was released. Her second book, *The Road to Two Sudans*, an edited volume of which she is the lead editor, has been published internationally by Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2014) and reached the top of Amazon's List for "Bestselling New and Future Releases" in Sudan History and North African History. Dr. Ali's third book, *Kuwaiti Women in Leadership Roles* has recently been published internationally by Cambridge Scholars (2019). Her fourth forthcoming book is, *Subjugated Voiced* (with Emily Silverman). Dr. Ali published over 30 scholarly articles. Additional international publications include several of her scholarly articles which have been translated into different languages. She has contributed over 100 scholarly presentations nationally and internationally.

Professor Ali's research interests cover a wide area including Arabic Literature, women and gender in Islam, Classical Islamic Texts, Islam and Secularism, Islamic Law; Sufism, Islam and Democracy, Islam and modernity, Quranic and Hadith Studies, feminist movements in Islam and the Middle East, Arab and Arab-American women, the emergent scholarship of Muslim-American women scholars, Sudanese women, and Sudanese politics.

President of the Sudan Studies Association of North America, Dr. Ali is a Board Member and Arizona Representative, as well as the past- President, of the American Academy of Religion/Western Region (AAR/WR). She represented ASU on the Governing Board of the Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA) in the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University. In addition, she serves as Executive Committee Member of the International Association of Intercultural Studies (IAIS), Cairo, Egypt and Bremen, Germany. She is also a Board Member of the Sudan Studies Association of North America.

Professor Ali received a B.A. with distinction from the University of Khartoum and the Polytechnic of North London, a Masters with distinction from Brigham Young University, and a Ph.D. with honors from the University of Utah (2004) where she studied under Dr. Bernard G. Weiss.

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Contact

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Souad.Ali@asu.edu, 480.965.4586

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