

SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

ARABIC

The objective of the Arabic Minor programme is to provide students with a good command of the four different language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. An Arabic minor will also allow students to gain a deeper insight into the contemporary life and culture of the respective Arabic country.

Arabic language combines well with all major programmes offered within the Arts Faculty and it also provides students with additional opportunities to further studies overseas.

Minor (36 credits)

To complete a minor in Arabic, students are expected to take a total of 36 credits with the following components:

- **Prerequisite courses (12 credits):**
ARAB1001. Arabic I.1
ARAB1002. Arabic I.2
These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 1 or 2.
- **Core course (24 credits):**
ARAB2001. Arabic II.1
ARAB2002. Arabic II.2
ARAB3001. Arabic III.1
ARAB3002. Arabic III.2
These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4.

Core Courses

ARAB1001. Arabic I.1 (6 credits)

This course is intended for students with little or no previous knowledge of Arabic. Participants will acquire basic skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing Arabic. Small tutorial groups will be conducted in order to facilitate interaction among participants. Special attention will be given to pronunciation and building a base of core vocabulary. This course is a pre-requisite for students wishing to pursue a minor in Arabic.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

ARAB1002. Arabic I.2 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **ARAB1001. Arabic I.1**. Vocabulary and grammar will be presented in context covering a variety of situations. The emphasis will continue to be on the spoken language, as well as on providing a solid foundation in written Arabic. Small tutorial groups are arranged throughout the semester to optimise opportunities for interactive practice. This course is a pre-requisite for students wishing to pursue a minor in Arabic.

Prerequisite: **ARAB1001. Arabic I.1**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ARAB2001. Arabic II.1 (6 credits)

This course further develops students' overall Arabic language ability established in **Arabic I. 2**. On completion of the course, students will have mastered basic grammar and the vocabulary needed to write short essays. Students will also be able to carry out conversations in Arabic to deal with a variety of everyday situation at a higher level than **Arabic I.2**. Small tutorial groups are arranged throughout the semester to optimise opportunities for interactive practice.

Prerequisite: **ARAB1002. Arabic I.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ARAB2002. Arabic II.2 (6 credits)

This course builds on **Arabic II. 1** and further develops students' overall Arabic language skills through further syntax acquisition: reading and text analysis, listening comprehension, composition, translation, oral expression and communicative skills. A wide variety of teaching techniques is used. Small tutorial groups are arranged throughout the semester to optimise opportunities for interactive practice.

Prerequisite: **ARAB2001. Arabic II.1**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ARAB3001. Arabic III.1 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **ARAB2002. Arabic II.2**. It continues to build on the first and second year's work. The intention is to lead students towards an in-depth understanding of the Arabic language through the study of various materials provided in class. A wide variety of teaching techniques is used. Small tutorial groups are arranged throughout the semester to optimise opportunities for interactive practice.

Prerequisite: **ARAB2002. Arabic II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ARAB3002. Arabic III.2 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **ARAB3001. Arabic III.1**. It offers a balanced range of language skills and further explores the various linguistic aspects of the language. Small tutorial groups will be arranged to optimise opportunities for interactive practice.

Prerequisite: **ARAB3001. Arabic III.1**

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

Students are encouraged to take the following elective courses during their studies of the language.

ARAB1021. Introduction to Arabic culture (6 credits)

This course is designed to introduce students to the diverse backgrounds across the vast and immensely rich panorama of the Arab World. It will give students a better understanding of the Arab World and the Arabic-speaking countries by introducing them to major current events and developments in these countries from the diversified political and social to cultural aspects. Topics include a historical overview of the Arab people, Arab World contemporary life, family and social life, Arabic customs and traditions, and multicultural aspects of Arabic society. Besides, topics ranging from visual arts, music, to cinema, cultural tourism, food, fashion, and education will also be covered.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

Medium of instruction: English

No previous knowledge of Arabic is required.

ARAB1022. Ancient Near East: An introduction (6 credits)

This course is designed to introduce students to the Ancient Near East, known as the cradle of civilization. It will give students a better understanding of the place where the first writing system was produced, where the first centralized governments were created, and where law codes and empires have started. The Ancient Near East refers to early civilizations in a region roughly corresponding to the modern Middle East: Mesopotamia (modern Iraq and Syria), Anatolia (modern Turkey), the Levant (modern Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan), as well as Persia (modern Iran), and Ancient Egypt. This course offers an introduction to the history and cultures of the major civilizations of the ancient world from c. 3300-300 B.C., focusing on Egypt and Mesopotamia. Topics include a historical overview of the Ancient Near East, rise and fall of its empires, gods and myths, and the first languages spoken in these regions. Besides, topics ranging from art, architecture, and literature will also be covered.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

Medium of instruction: English

No previous knowledge of Arabic is required.

ARAB1023. Introduction to Ancient Egypt (6 credits)

Unlike ARAB1022 Ancient Near East: And Introduction, designed to introduce students to the Ancient Near East (Egypt and Mesopotamia). This course focuses only on Ancient Egypt, as it introduces students to the glorious civilization of ancient Egypt. From royal pyramids, and great kings, to huge temples, mysterious gods and foreign invasions, students will experience the world of ancient Egypt, its highs and lows, rise and fall. As the weeks pass, we will read the words of ancient kings, priests, and courtiers.

Who were the ancient Egyptians? Why did they create such monumental buildings and such magnificent works of art? The culture, history, art, architecture and religion of ancient Egypt has long captured the imagination of people across the world. This course will allow students to delve into the world of ancient Egypt, explore the beliefs of ancient Egyptians, and learn more about this great civilization across 3,000 years of history.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

Medium of instruction: English

No previous knowledge of Arabic is required.

ARAB1024. Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Language (Hieroglyphs) (6 credits)

This course offers an introduction to Egyptian hieroglyphs, the language of the Ancient Egyptians. Hieroglyphs is the name of one of the writing scripts of the Ancient Egyptian language. Looking to the Ancient Egyptian monuments, temples, tombs, and statues, you will see these beautiful pictorial writings, participants of this course will have the chance to decode these writings and understand the stories behind them.

The Ancient Egyptian language is grouped into six major chronological divisions: Archaic Egyptian, Old Egyptian, Middle Egyptian, Late Egyptian, Demotic, and Coptic. This course will focus on Middle Egyptian which remained in use from 2000 BCE through to the Roman Period. The course provides training in the fundamentals of Middle Egyptian Grammar, common monumental inscriptions and simple texts. The archaeological, historical, religious, and cultural contexts of the inscriptions will be discussed as one part of the frame for understanding the ancient texts.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

Medium of instruction: English

No previous knowledge of Arabic is required.

ARAB2022. Internship for students of Arabic (6 credits)

This course offers students an internship learning experience by allowing them to take their classroom knowledge into the community. Students will have an opportunity for experimental learning, earn credits and engage in a rich experience while working in an organization that demonstrates a real impact on society. The internship experience draws on the Arabic Programme coursework to encourage students to apply their classroom knowledge to work in organizations that demonstrate the use of Arabic in the community. Internships may be conducted at any point between the summer before a student enters Year 2 and the second semester of Year 4. The duration of the internship will depend on the arrangement made between the student and the organization but should involve approx. 120 contact hours of committed service for the host organization. Internships can be conducted during the semester or at full-time equivalent during the lecture-free period. Staffing resources and operations mechanisms allowing, students will be assessed by the organization contact throughout the duration of the internship and will also, if possible, receive a letter of reference from the organization at the end of the internship. A written report (800-1000 words in Arabic or English) with a description, critical assessment of and reflection on the internship experience will be assessed by the course coordinator at HKU. Students are asked to make their own internship arrangements with an organization of their choice in liaison with the course coordinator at the Arabic Programme of HKU.

Assessment: 100% coursework (graded on pass/fail basis)

ARAB2023. Field trip to an Arab country (6 credits)

In this course, an experienced faculty member will lead students on a supervised educational field trip to an Arab country. The rationale is to closely observe and study an aspect of The Arab World introduced in the courses on the Arabic programme or in a related course. Leading up to the field trip, students must participate in the intensive preparation that will take place in Hong Kong. After their return, students will be required to complete a written report of about 5,000 words (in English) based on the experience and knowledge they have acquired during the field trip.

Assessment: 100% coursework

ARAB3021. Media Arabic (6 credits)

This course enhances students' capabilities in vocabulary, structure, and the use of the Arabic used in the written and spoken news. It also helps improve reading, listening, and presentation skills at the intermediate level.

Prerequisite: **ARAB3001. Arabic III.1**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ARAB3119. Overseas immersion language course - Arabic (6 credits)

This course provides an opportunity to study Arabic and to experience linguistic and cultural immersion in a partner institution located in an Arabic-speaking country. The course usually takes place during the summer months (e.g., June, July and/or August) (courses may also be offered in the winter break) and the duration of the stay may vary from two weeks to one month, but must include at least 60 hours of formal class tuition. Students typically take part in this course after the completion of their second year of language studies at HKU. The course is designed to build on and to reinforce the language competence acquired during the previous years of study as well as to prepare the participants for more advanced work in the final years of the Programme.

Prerequisite: **ARAB2002. Arabic II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework. In order to be granted credits for this course, participants have to ensure that the course builds on their previous work done at HKU and is offered at the same level or above the level of their last Arabic language course at HKU and, after completing of the course, students have (1) to produce a formal statement of attendance and certified transcript bearing mention of the final grade(s) and the level obtained from the host institution; (2) to provide a portfolio including i. a learning journal written in Arabic of approximately 1,000 words relating to daily class activities and, ii. samples of assessments (written assignments, tests, examinations, projects etc.) along with evaluation results.

Non-ARAB elective courses:

Please note that the following course(s) may have prerequisite(s). Students should also confirm the availability of the following with the respective units.

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

GCIN2053. Traditional cultures and the creative industries in the Arab world (6 credits)