



UNC  
COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN STUDIES

CAMPUS BOX 3267  
113 NEW WEST  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3267

T 919.962.4294  
F 919.843.7817  
[www.unc.edu/depts/asia](http://www.unc.edu/depts/asia)

Date: October 15, 2017

To: Administrative Boards of the College of Arts & Sciences

From: Nadia Yaqub, Chair, Department of Asian Studies

Re: Request for changes to the concentration in Arab Cultures

The following courses are being added to the concentration:

- GEOG 59, First-Year Seminar: Space, Identity, and Power in the Middle East
- SOCI 60, First-Year Seminar: Sociology of the Islamic World

The following courses are being deleted from the concentration because they are being deactivated:

- ASIA 66, First-Year Seminar: The 2011 Revolution through Egyptian Eyes
- ASIA 68, First-Year Seminar: Power of Music/Music of Power: Cultural Politics of 20th-Century Arabic Music
- ARAB 409, War and Peace in Arabic Literature
- ARAB 410, Music, History, and Power
- ARAB 468, Modernity and Its Discontents in Arabic Literature and Culture

The following changes are being made to provisions of the major requirements:

- Explicitly noting that the 1-credit Arabic LAC course, ARAB 308, does not count toward the major. This is not a change, just a clarification that we hope will help prevent student confusion on this point.
- Limit of one FYS course used toward the major. This is consistent with departmental principle, and just needs to be explicitly articulated now that we are adding more FYS courses to this concentration.
- Deleting the text about taking major courses pass/fail, since it is superfluous given that a broader University-level policy governs this.

Attached is a revised version of the concentration text for the Undergraduate Bulletin.

Nadia Yaqub

# ASIAN STUDIES MAJOR, B.A. – ARAB CULTURES CONCENTRATION

## Contact Information

**Department of Asian Studies**  
<http://asianstudies.unc.edu>  
 New West 113, CB# 3267  
 (919) 962-4294

**Fadi Bardawil, Arabic Program Advisor**  
[bardawil@email.unc.edu](mailto:bardawil@email.unc.edu)

**Nadia Yaqub, Chair**  
[yaqub@email.unc.edu](mailto:yaqub@email.unc.edu)

**Li-ling Hsiao, Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies**  
[hsiaoll@email.unc.edu](mailto:hsiaoll@email.unc.edu)

**Lori Harris, Department Manager**  
[lori@unc.edu](mailto:lori@unc.edu)

The Department of Asian Studies offers five major concentrations, nine minors, and instruction in Asian and Middle Eastern languages. Students pursuing the B.A. degree in Asian Studies can complete the interdisciplinary major in Asian Studies, or concentrate in Arab Cultures, Chinese, Japanese, or South Asian Studies.

## Department Programs

### Majors

- Asian Studies Major, B.A. – Interdisciplinary Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-general-concentration>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A. – Arab Cultures Concentration (p. 1)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A. – Chinese Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-chinese-concentration>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A. – Japanese Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-japanese-concentration>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A. – South Asian Studies Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-south-asian-studies-concentration>)

### Minors

- Arabic Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/arabic-minor>)
- Asian Studies Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-minor>)
- Chinese Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/chinese-minor>)
- Modern Hebrew Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/modern-hebrew-minor>)
- Hindi-Urdu Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/hindi-urdu-minor>)

- Japanese Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/japanese-minor>)
- Korean Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/korean-minor>)
- Middle Eastern Languages Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/middle-eastern-languages-minor>)
- Persian Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/persian-minor>)

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Asian studies program, students should be able to:

- Identify significant aspects of the target culture, history, and society in interpreting and analyzing literary and other texts and media
- Identify and analyze cultural and historical trends across regional and national boundaries within Asia and the Asian diaspora
- Actively use listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the target language for interpersonal communication and personal and academic enrichment within and beyond the university setting
- Demonstrate awareness of global citizenship and affirm cultural diversity through academic and experiential learning

## Requirements

In addition to the program requirements listed below, students must

- attain a final cumulative GPA of at least 2.0
- complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
- take at least half of their major course requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum of 18 hours of C or better in the major core requirements (some majors require 21 hours).

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>).

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Core Requirements</b>		
ARAB 300	Arabic Grammar and Composition	3
Two additional Arabic language courses beyond ARAB 204 <sup>1</sup>		6
One of the following introductory-level classes: <sup>2</sup>		3
ASIA 64	First-Year Seminar: Arab World Photography <sup>3</sup>	
ASIA 70	First-Year Seminar: Narrating the Self: Autobiographies of Arab Intellectuals <sup>3</sup>	
ARAB 150	Introduction to Arab Cultures	
ARAB 151	Arabic Literature through the Ages	
Four Arabic literature and culture courses (list below)		12
<b>Additional Requirements</b>		
Arabic through level 4 <sup>4</sup>		4
Total Hours		28

<sup>1</sup> Students whose initial language placement is above ARAB 305 should consult the department.

<sup>2</sup> It is recommended that students take this course either prior to or concurrent with upper-level Arabic literature and culture classes.

Removing ASIA 66 and 68 from introductory-level requirement, above.

**3** No more than one first-year seminar may be counted among the eight major courses.

**4** The first three levels of Arabic (ARAB) can count toward the General Education Foundations requirement and have not been included as additional hours for the major.

## Arabic Literature and Culture Courses

Code	Title	Hours
<b>At least three must be chosen from:</b>		
ARAB 321	Visions of Emancipation in Modernist Arab Thought	
ARAB 337	Borders and Walls in the Arab World	
ARAB 338	Borders and Walls in the Arab World - Experiential	
ARAB 350	Women and Leadership in the Arab World	
ARAB 407	Readings in Arabic I (taught in Arabic)	
ARAB 408	Readings in Arabic II (taught in Arabic)	
ARAB 434	Modern Arabic Literature in Translation	
ARAB 443	Dissident Voices in Arab Cultures	
ARAB 452	Imagining Palestine	
ARAB 453	Film, Nation, and Identity in the Arab World	
ARAB 462	Global Perspectives on Arab Cultures and Societies	
ASIA 692H	Senior Honors Thesis II	
ASIA/CMPL 359	Literary Diasporas of the Middle East	
ASIA/CMPL 442	Postcolonial Literature of the Middle East	
ASIA/JWST/PWAD 357/362	The Arab-Jews: Culture, Community, and Coexistence	
ASIA/JWST/PWAD 425	Beyond Hostilities: Israeli-Palestinian Exchanges and Partnerships in Film, Literature, and Music	
ASIA/WGST 329	Middle East Women Writers	
ASIA/WGST 471	Gender and Sexuality in Middle Eastern Literature	
<b>At most one course may be chosen from:</b>		
ARAB/ASIA/RELI 681	Readings in Islamicate Literatures	
ARTH 351	Crusader Art	
ARTH/ASIA 154	Introduction to Art and Architecture of Islamic Lands (Eighth-16th Centuries CE) <sup>H</sup>	
ARTH/ASIA 251	Art in the Age of the Caliphs	
ARTH/ASIA 458	Islamic Architecture and the Environment	
ARTH/ASIA 561	Arts of the Islamic Mediterranean	
ASIA/GEOG 447	Gender, Space, and Place in the Middle East	
ASIA/HIST 138	History of Muslim Societies to 1500	
ASIA/HIST 139	History of Muslim Societies since 1500	
ASIA/HIST 275	History of Iraq	
ASIA/HIST 276	The Modern Middle East	
ASIA/HIST 277	The Conflict over Israel/Palestine	

Removing ARAB 409, 410, and 468 from list below.

ASIA/HIST 536	Revolution in the Modern Middle East
ASIA/HIST 537	Women in the Middle East
ASIA/HIST 538	The Middle East and the West
ASIA/PWAD 435	The Cinemas of the Middle East and North Africa
ASIA/RELI 180	Introduction to Islamic Civilization
ASIA/RELI 181	Modern Muslim Societies
ASIA/RELI 581	Sufism
ASIA/RELI 582	Islam and Islamic Art in South Asia
ASIA/RELI 584	The Qur'an as Literature
FREN 617	Framing Identities: Franco-Arab Transvisual Transcultural Contexts
GEOG 59	First-Year Seminar: Space, Identity, and Power in the Middle East <sup>1</sup>
GEOG 448	Transnational Geographies of Muslim Societies
RELI 185	Women/Gender/Islam <sup>H</sup>
RELI 480	Modern Muslim Literatures
SOCI 60	First-Year Seminar: Sociology of the Islamic World <sup>1</sup>
SOCI 419	Sociology of the Islamic World
or approved courses taken in UNC-Chapel Hill-sponsored study abroad programs	

<sup>H</sup> Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

**1** No more than one first-year seminar may be counted among the eight major courses.

Students majoring in Arab cultures are strongly encouraged to take additional Arabic literature or culture courses as electives or to fulfill General Education requirements.

Note that ARAB 308 does not count toward this major.

Placement credit (PL) may not be used to meet core requirements for the concentration.

With the approval of the associate chair of Asian studies, a student may count a course in directed readings (ASIA 496 or ARAB 496) in the concentration in Arab cultures. To register for ASIA 496 or ARAB 496, a student must obtain the approval of the associate chair and the faculty member who will supervise the project.

Of the eight courses in the concentration in Arab cultures, at least six must be passed with a grade of C (not C-) or better.

## Special Opportunities in Asian Studies Honors in Asian Studies

A candidate for honors in Asian studies will write a substantial paper under the guidance of a faculty member. While researching and writing the honors paper, the student will enroll in ASIA 691H and ASIA 692H. ASIA 692H may count as one of the interdisciplinary courses for the major; ASIA 691H will count for elective credit only. In the case of the concentrations in Arab cultures, Chinese, Japanese, and South Asian studies, ASIA 692H may count toward the major in the concentration.

A committee composed of at least two faculty members will examine the candidate. To be accepted as an honors candidate, a student must meet

the University's requirement of a minimum overall grade point average of 3.3, secure the consent of a faculty member in the Asian studies field to act as advisor for the project, and submit a proposal to the associate chair of Asian studies for approval.

Studies and the campuswide Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research in the spring.

## **Departmental Involvement**

The department sponsors a variety of cultural events – lectures, film series, performances, and more – as well as social and informational events where students can get to know each other and faculty members in an informal setting. Faculty members in the department serve as advisors to some of the many Asia-related student organizations on campus, such as the Japan Club, Chinese Conversation Club, Hebrew Table, and more.

## **Languages across the Curriculum**

The department participates in the Languages across the Curriculum (LAC) program, offering a one-credit-hour discussion section that is conducted in Arabic but associated with a variety of courses offered in English, both in Asian studies and in such other departments as history or religious studies. This LAC recitation section offers students the opportunity to use their Arabic language skills in a broader intellectual context.

Additional LAC offerings are being developed in Chinese and Hindi-Urdu.

## **Libraries**

The University has rich collections of books and periodicals on Asia in the relevant Asian languages, as well as in English and other Western languages. Experts in the collection development department for Davis Library are available to help students locate the materials they need. The University also has an outstanding collection of Asian films and other audiovisual materials, housed in the Media Resource Center at House Library.

## **Speaker Series**

The department sponsors an annual speaker series. These events include lectures by prominent artists, scholars, and writers and are often cosponsored by other units on campus.

## **Study Abroad**

UNC–Chapel Hill sponsors several study programs (summer, semester, and yearlong) in China, Egypt, India, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam. Asian studies majors are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to live and study in an Asian setting; UNC-approved study abroad programs also satisfy the experiential education requirement. For further information on these programs and other study abroad opportunities in Asia, contact the UNC Study Abroad Office.

## **Undergraduate Research**

The department actively encourages undergraduate student research. Through classes, advising, and office hours, faculty members guide students toward defining areas of interest, conceptualizing research questions, identifying sources, and writing academic papers. Students may pursue research through independent studies, the senior honors thesis, and study abroad research opportunities such as the Burch Fellowship. Asian studies students have received a variety of competitive research support and travel awards, won regional contests for undergraduate papers, published papers in academic journals, and presented their work at such events as the Senior Colloquium in Asian