

Fall 2025 Courses

PREMODERN ISLAMIC WORLDS

MDES UN1003, Professor Sarah bin Tyeer

Monday/Wednesday: 10:10-11:25 AM

Lecture and recitation. Islamic civilization and its characteristic intellectual, political, social, and cultural traditions up through 1800. Note: Students must register for a discussion section.

GAME OF THRONES: ON EPICS AND EMPIRES

MDES UN1030, Professor Hamid Dabashi

Tuesday/Thursday: 10:10-11:25 AM

This undergraduate course offered in the context of the Global Core component of the Core Curriculum is an examination of the globally popular HBO series “Game of Thrones” as a prototype for a comparative understanding of the larger question of epics and empires. In this course we expand the domains of our interests and inquiries far wider and divide our syllabus into four parts: (1) Westeros: The Mythic Empire; (2) Persia: The First Empire, (3) America: The Last Empire; and (4) On Epics and Empires. Our objective will be to examine the main themes and overall arc of “Game of Thrones” into wider mythic, heroic, and transhistorical dimensions of our contemporary history.

COLLOQUIUM ON MAJOR TEXTS

AHUM UN1399, Professor Elaine van Dalen

Monday: 2:10-4:00 PM

Readings in translation and discussion of texts of Middle Eastern and Indian origin. Readings may include the Quran, Islamic philosophy, Sufi poetry, the Upanishads, Buddhist sutras, the Bhagavad Gita, Indian epics and drama, and Gandhi's Autobiography.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

MDES UN1551, Professor Taoufik Ben-Amor

Thursday: 5-7 PM

In collaboration with the Center for Ethnomusicology, MESAAS, Institute for Medieval Japanese Studies and the Louis Armstrong Jazz Performance Program, the Music Performance Program (MPP) offers students the opportunity to participate in various world music ensembles: Arab Music, Bluegrass, Japanese Gagaku/Hogaku, Klezmer and Latin American Music. Each ensemble requires different levels of experience, so please refer to the World Music section of the Music Performance Program website for more info. Please note the Latin American Music Ensemble focuses on two different Latin music traditions: The Afro-Cuban Ensemble meets in the Fall and the Brazilian Ensemble meets in the Spring.

THEORY AND CULTURE

MDES UN3000, Professor Debashree Mukherjee

Monday/Wednesday: 11:40 AM-12:55 PM

Required of all majors. Introduces theories of culture particularly related to the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. Theoretical debates on the nature and function of culture as a symbolic reading of human collectivities. Examines critical cultural studies of the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. Enables students to articulate their emerging knowledge of Middle East, South Asian, and African cultures in a theoretically informed language.

INTRODUCTION TO ARMENIAN STUDIES

MDES UN3335, Professor Alison Vacca

Tuesday: 10:10 AM-12:00 PM

Historians frequently situate Armenia between two powers: between Rome and Persia, then Byzantium and Islam. This class will shake up the usual “between-two-worlds” paradigm, which places Armenia and Armenians in the crosshairs of world powers. Instead, we will study Armenians as active participants in world dramas, at the center of global developments. Our main goal will be to draw upon a variety of sources to tell the story of Armenia and Armenians: histories, poems, art, coins, buildings, etc.

WAR, GENOCIDE, & AFTERMATH COMP PERSPECTIV

MDES UN3357, Professor Khatchig Mouradian

Monday: 4:10-6:00 PM

This course examines how societies grapple with the legacy of mass violence, through an exploration of historical texts, memoirs, textbooks, litigation, and media reports and debates on confronting the past. Focusing on case studies of the Herero Genocide, the Armenian genocide during WWI, and the Holocaust and the Comfort Women during WWII, students investigate the crime and its sequelae, looking at how societies deal with skeletons in their closets (engaging in silence, trivialization, rationalization, and denial to acknowledgment, apology, and repair); surveying responses of survivors and their descendants (with particular attention to intergenerational transmission of trauma, forgiveness, resentment, and the pursuit of redress); and dissecting public debates on modern day issues that harken back to past atrocities.

CONTEMPORARY CULTURE IN ARAB WORLD

MDES UN3920, Professor Joseph Massad

Tuesday: 4:10-6:00 PM

This seminar, designed for seniors, aims to acquaint students with the notion and theoretical understanding of culture and to introduce them to a critical method by which they can study and appreciate contemporary culture in the Arab World. The seminar will survey examples of written and cinematic culture (fiction and autobiography), as well as music, dance, and literary criticism

in the contemporary Arab world. Students will be reading novels, autobiographies and literary criticism, as well as watching films and listening to music as part of the syllabus. All material will be in translation. Films will be subtitled. Songs will be in Arabic.

ARABIC PRISON WRITING

CLME UN3928, Professor Muhsin Al-Musawi

Tuesday: 2:10-4:00 PM

This course studies the genealogy of the prison in Arab culture as manifested in memoirs, narratives, and poems. These cut across a vast temporal and spatial swathe, covering selections from the Quran, Sufi narratives from al-Hallaj oeuvre, poetry by prisoners of war: classical, medieval, and modern. It also studies modern narratives by women prisoners and political prisoners, and narratives that engage with these issues. Arabic prison writing is studied against other genealogies of this prism, especially in the West, to map out the birth of prison, its institutionalization, mechanism, and role. All readings for the course are in English translations.

HONORS THESIS SEMINAR PART I

MDES UN3960, Professor Alison Vacca

Thursday: 12:10 -2:00 PM

Prerequisites: minimum GPA of 3.5 in MESAAS courses. The MESAAS honors seminar offers students the opportunity to undertake a sustained research project under close faculty supervision. The DUS advises on general issues of project design, format, approach, general research methodologies, and timetable. In addition, students work with an individual advisor who has expertise in the area of the thesis and can advise on the specifics of method and content. The thesis will be jointly evaluated by the adviser, the DUS, and the honors thesis TA. The DUS will lead students through a variety of exercises that are directly geared to facilitating the thesis. Students build their research, interpretive, and writing skills; discuss methodological approaches; write an annotated bibliography; learn to give constructive feedback to peers and respond to feedback effectively. The final product is a polished research paper in the range of 40-60 pages. Please note: This is a one-year course that begins in the fall semester (1 point) and continues through the spring semester (3 points). Only students who have completed both semesters will receive the full 4 points of credit.

THE WAYS OF 'ILM: Scholarly Traditions in the Classical Islamic World (700-1300)

CLME GU4210, Professor Elaine van Dalen

Thursday: 12:10-2:00 PM

This course covers the epistemologies and main theological and philosophical standpoints of a wide range of Islamic intellectual traditions. It will explore how different groups of scholars accumulated knowledge of God and the universe in the Classical Islamic world, a period which in many ways can be considered formative for contemporary Islam. We focus on various bodies of knowledge as these were developed from the 7th-c. 13th centuries AD. Each week covers a

separate theological, philosophical, or scientific tradition, after which the class will explore the tensions and syntheses between various competing worldviews.

ARABIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY: GLOBAL DIMENSIONS

CLME GU4226, Professor Muhsin Al-Musawi

Wednesday: 2:10-4:00 PM

This course draws a map of Arab thought and culture in its multiple engagements with other cultures. It works globally along two lines: a theoretical one that accommodates conceptualizations of self-narrative in relation to shifting categories of center and margin; and a thematic one that selects a number of Arabic autobiographical texts with strong thematic concerns that cut across multiple cultures. Although Europe sounds at times more conspicuous in early 20th century autobiography, the Afro-Asian and Latin American topographical and historical itinerary and context are no less so, especially in writings we associate with societal and cultural transformations. More than historical accounts, these intellectual itineraries speak for the successes and failures of the secular ideology of the Arab nation-state. They convey the struggle of intellectuals-- as self-styled leaders, for an ideal state on the ruins of the past. The course studies a number of autobiographical works; memoirs and reminiscences that are meant to rationalize and reproduce a writer's experience. Probably self-censored, these serve nevertheless as trajectories for a secular journey rather than one from denial to affirmation. Staunchly established in modernity and its nahdah paradigms, most of these writings are secular itineraries that rarely end in a search for faith. They are the journeys of a generation of Arab intellectuals who are facing many crises, but not the crisis of faith. They provide another look at the making of the Arab intelligentsia- and probably the Afro-Asian and Latin American one, since the early 20th century, and help us discern not only achievements on the level of education and public service, but also the mounting discontent with failures that have been wrapping the formation of the nation state. No prior knowledge of Arabic language is required.

Indo-Islamic Culture in Literature

MDES GU4825, Professor Timsal Masud

Thursday: 10:10-12:00 PM

This course will focus on the Indo-Islamic literary traditions in South Asia, and particularly in what is now India and Pakistan, focusing on Urdu literature from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The course will emphasize the rhetorical and performative history of poetic forms in the subcontinent (including the forms of the Ghazal and Nauha, among others) and will consider how classical poetic tropes continue to inform contemporary mass culture in India and Pakistan—particularly in the song lyrics of Hindi/Bollywood cinema. The course will also consider more contemporary prose genres of Urdu-language writing (in English translation), including the literature of the Partition and the works of contemporary authors such as Naiyer Masud and Saima Iram.

Through a comparative study of texts in different genres and at different moments in history, students will consider questions such as: What aspects of contemporary literary culture in India and Pakistan can be traced to early establishment of Islamic culture in the region? How have the poetic conventions of Indo-Islamic poetry continued to resonate? How did the interaction of Hindu and Muslim literary, musical, visual, and religious cultures in the Mughal era help to generate the rich profusion of literature and music and cultural tolerance in this period?

Most of our readings in this course will be Urdu literature in English translation. We will also, however, read some secondary sources in order to help us better understand the primary sources.

THEORY AND METHODS I

MDES GR5000, Professor Wael Hallaq

Monday: 4:10-6:00 PM

The main purpose of this course is to acquaint students with different theories and methodological approaches to reading and interpretation of texts. This course may not be taken as Pass/D/Fail.

MESAAS RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

MDES GR6008, Director of Graduate Studies

Thursday: 4:10-6:00 PM

This course provides a structured setting for stand-alone M.A. students in their final year and Ph.D. students in their second and third years to develop their research trajectories in a way that complements normal coursework. The seminar meets approximately biweekly and focuses on topics such as research methodology; project design; literature review, including bibliographies and citation practices; grant writing. Required for MESAAS graduate students in their second and third year.

READINGS SUFI TEXTS

MDES GR6236, Professor Wael Hallaq

Tuesday: 4:10-6:00 PM

This seminar is based entirely on the primary sources of Ṣūfism, including the writings of Qushayrī, Nūrī, Muḥāsibī, Sarrāj, Ghazālī, Hujwīrī, Ibn ‘Arabī, Suhrawardī, Sha‘rānī, and al-Ḥakīm al-Tirmidhī. We will explore how the leading Ṣūfīs saw themselves and the ways in which they articulated their identity. This is also articulated in the ways they organized their works and constructed the biographies of their ethical exemplars. We will study their major concepts and descriptions of their own experiences, and then theorize their subjective formations as “hermeneutics of the subject.” Inasmuch as this seminar is about how we study and view Ṣūfism, it is also as much about the various ways this conception of the world can inform a basis of a set of critiques of modernity and its epistemologies and practices.

SETTLERS AND NATIVES

MDES GR6410, Professor Mahmood Mamdani

Tuesday: 10:10 AM-12:00 PM

This course is designed to introduce the student to key debates in the study of societies marked by the centrality of settler-native relations: We shall focus on four key debates: (a) how to conceptualize extreme violence, as criminal or political; (b) the relationship of perpetrators to beneficiaries; (c) the significance of human rights institutions, from the Nuremberg Court to the International Criminal Court to the question of decolonization; and (d) the making of a political community of survivors after catastrophe. The class will be organized around several case studies: (a) Ireland; (b) the Americas; (c) Haiti; (d) Australia; (e) the Nuremberg Court; (f) South Africa; and (g) Israel / Palestine.

DISSERTATION COLLOQUIUM

MDES GR8008, Professor Gil Hochberg

Thursday: 4:10-6:00 PM

The dissertation colloquium is a non-credit course open to MESAAS doctoral students who have completed the M.Phil. degree. It provides a forum in which the entire community of dissertation writers meets, bridging the departments' different fields and regions of research. It complements workshops outside the department focused on one area or theme. Through an encounter with the diversity of research underway in MESAAS, participants learn to engage with work anchored in different regions and disciplines and discover or develop what is common in the departments post-disciplinary methods of inquiry. Since the community is relatively small, it is expected that all post-M.Phil. students in residence will join the colloquium. Post M.Phil. Students from other departments may request permission to join the colloquium, but places for non-MESAAS students will be limited. The colloquium convenes every semester, meeting once every two weeks. Each meeting is devoted to the discussion of one or two pre-circulated pieces of work (a draft prospectus or dissertation chapter). Every participant contributes at least one piece of work each year.

STUDY GENDER/SEXUALITY-ARAB WORLD

MDES GR8280, Professor Joseph Massad

Tuesday: 4:10-6:00 PM

This course aims to familiarize graduate students with the different methods and approaches that US and European scholars have used to study gender and sexuality in other societies generally, and the way they study them in the context of the Arab World specifically. The course will also explore how Arab scholars have also studied their own societies. We will survey these different approaches, both theoretical and empirical, outlining their methodological difficulties and limitations. Readings will consist of theoretical elaborations of these difficulties and the methodological and empirical critiques that the field itself has generated in order to elaborate

how gender and sexuality in the Arab World have been studied, or more accurately, not studied, and how many of these methodological pitfalls can be avoided.

Languages

ELEMENTARY HINDU-URDU I

MDES UN1601, Professor Aftab Ahmad

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 4:10-5:15 PM

An introduction to the most widely spoken language of South Asia. Along with an understanding of the grammar, the course offers practice in listening and speaking. The Hindi (Devanagari) script is used for reading and writing. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

INTERMEDIATE HINDI-URDU I

MDES UN2601, Professor Rakesh Ranjan

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 1:10 PM-2:15 PM

Prerequisites: (MDES UN1601) and (MDES UN1602) MDES UN1601-UN1602 or the instructor's permission. Continuing practice in listening, speaking, and grammatical understanding. Along with the Hindi (Devanagari) script, the Urdu (Perso-Arabic) script is taught in the class; both scripts are used for reading and writing. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

HINDI FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS I

MDES UN1608, Professor Rakesh Ranjan

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 2:40-3:45 PM

This is an accelerated course for students of South Asian origin who already possess a knowledge of basic vocabulary and limited speaking and listening skills in Hindi. They may not have sufficient skills in reading and writing but are able to converse on familiar topics such as: self, family, likes, dislikes and immediate surroundings. This course will focus on developing knowledge of the basic grammar of Hindi and vocabulary enrichment by exposing students to a variety of cultural and social topics related to aspects of daily life; and formal and informal registers. Students will be able to read and discuss simple texts and write about a variety of everyday topics by the end of the semester. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ADVANCED HINDI I

MDES GU4624, Professor Rakesh Ranjan

Tuesday/Thursday: 10:10 AM-12 PM

Advanced Hindi I and II are third year courses in the Hindi-Urdu program that aim to continue building upon the existing four language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) along

with grammar and vocabulary in a communicative approach. The objective of these courses is to strengthen students' language skills and to go beyond them to understand and describe situations and the speech community, understand and discuss Hindi literature and films, news items, T.V. shows and current events. Students will also be given opportunities to work on their areas of interest such as popular culture, professional and research goals in the target language. Students will be expected to expand their vocabulary, enhance grammatical accuracy and develop cultural appropriateness through an enthusiastic participation in classroom activities and immersing themselves in the speech community outside. This course will be taught in the target language. All kinds of conversations such as daily life, on social/public interests' topics as well as on academic interests, will occur in the target language. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

URDU FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS I

MDES UN1614, Professor Aftab Ahmad

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 2:40-3:45 PM

Prerequisites: a knowledge of basic vocabulary and limited speaking and listening skills in Urdu. This is an accelerated course for students of South Asian origin who already possess a knowledge of basic vocabulary and limited speaking and listening skills in Urdu. They are not expected to know how to read and write in Urdu but are able to converse on familiar topics such as self, family, likes, dislikes and immediate surroundings. This course will focus on developing knowledge of the basic grammar of Urdu and vocabulary enrichment by exposing students to a variety of cultural and social topics related to aspects of daily life; and formal and informal registers. Students will be able to read and discuss simple Urdu texts and write about a variety of everyday topics by the end of the semester. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ADVANCED URDU

MDES GU4640, Professor Aftab Ahmad

Tuesday/Thursday: 6:10-8 PM

Prerequisites: Two years of prior study in Urdu or one year of Urdu for Heritage Speakers I&II courses at Columbia University, or approval of the professor. This is a one-semester course in advanced Urdu language. It will be taught in the fall semester. The goal of the course is to develop students' linguistic skills i.e. listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural skills in Urdu, and give students in-depth exposure to some of the finest works of classical and modern Urdu prose. Special emphasis will be given to developing a high-register vocabulary. Necessary grammar points will also be explained for developing an accurate and nuanced understanding of the Urdu language. After completing this course, students will be able to read and enjoy Urdu classics and critical academic texts related to various disciplines i.e. old tales, short stories, essays, history, satire, criticism, politics, current issues etc. along with effective speaking skills suited to active interaction in the speech community and a more advanced academic discussion for undergraduate and graduate students. Students will develop an in-depth understanding of

South Asian society and culture as well. This course will prepare students to take MDES GU4635 Readings in Urdu Literature I.

ELEMENTARY SANSKRIT I

MDES UN1401, Professor Jay Ramesh

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 9:10-10 AM

This course constitutes the first half of a year-long introduction to Classical Sanskrit, the translocal language of religious, intellectual, and literary life in South Asia for nearly two millennia. Assuming no prior experience with the language, this introductory sequence provides students with the grammar, reading strategies, and cultural context necessary to begin accessing the language's many rich textual traditions, including scripture (sruti), epic (itihasa), poetry (kavya), drama (na?aka), systematic thought (sastra), and more.

INTERMEDIATE SANSKRIT I

MDES UN2401, Professor Jay Ramesh

Tuesday/Thursday: 10:10 AM-12 PM

Prerequisites: Elementary Sanskrit II or instructor permission. This course constitutes the first half of a year-long reading course designed to give students the tools necessary for advanced study in Classical Sanskrit. Readings in epic (itihasa), poetry (kavya), systematic thought (sastra), and commentary (vyakhyana) will introduce students to a variety of important genres and their distinctive conventions. A focus upon the Sanskrit tradition's own categories of analysis—grammatical, commentarial, and prosodic—will enable students to begin to make sense of original Sanskrit texts as generations of the tradition's own readers have. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ADVANCED SANSKRIT I

MDES GU4810, Professor Jonathan Peterson

Tuesday/Thursday: 2:10-4 PM

This course constitutes the first half of a year-long advanced reading course in Classical Sanskrit. In 2021-2022, the focus of Advanced Sanskrit will be the genres of literary theory (alankāraśāstra) and belles-lettres (kāvyā). Lending equal attention to literary theory and literary practice, this course will introduce students to iconic works of Sanskrit literature along with the interpretive frameworks whereby they were analyzed, relished, and appraised. Literary excerpts may be drawn from an array of subgenres, including courtly epic (mahākāvya), epic drama (nāṭaka), literary prose (gadya), and individual verses (muktaka). Rigorous analysis of primary texts will be supplemented by occasional discussions about what implications the disciplined reading of kāvyā may hold for practices such as translation, comparative literature, and transdisciplinarity. Prerequisites: Intermediate Sanskrit II or instructor's permission.

INTERMEDIATE TAMIL I

MDES UN2101, Professor Jay Ramesh

Monday/ Wednesday: 10:10 AM-12 PM

Prerequisites: MDES W1101-W1102 or the instructor's permission. Further develops students' written and oral proficiency in order to allow them to function adequately in a Tamil-speaking environment. Of particular interest to students planning to conduct scholarly research or fieldwork in a Tamil-speaking context. Develops the students' appreciation for the rich culture of the Indian subcontinent where Tamil is spoken. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ELEMENTARY SWAHILI

SWHL UN1101, Professor Abdul Nanji

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 10:10-11 AM

Essentials of grammar, basic vocabulary, practice in speaking and reading Swahili the most widely used indigenous language of East Africa. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

INTERMEDIATE SWAHILI I

SWHL UN2101, Professor Abdul Nanji

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 9:10-10 AM

Prerequisites: SWHL W1101-W1102 or the instructor's permission. A review of the essentials of Swahili grammar; detailed analysis of Swahili texts; practice in conversation. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ADVANCED SWAHILI I

SWHL 3301, Professor Abdul Nanji

Monday/ Wednesday: 12:10-2 PM

Prerequisites: SWHL UN2101-UN2102 or the instructor's permission. An introduction to the advanced syntactical, morphological, and grammatical structures of Swahili grammar; detailed analysis of Swahili texts; practice in conversation. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

FIRST YEAR ARABIC I

MDES UN1210

Section 1, Professor Nasr Abdo

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 10:10-11:15 AM

Section 2, Professor Rym Bettaieb

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 11:40 AM-12:45 PM

Section 3, Professor Reem Faraj

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 4:10-5:15 PM

Section 4, Professor May Ahmar

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 2:40-3:45 PM

An introduction to the language of classical and modern Arabic literature. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

FIRST YEAR ARABIC II

MDES UN1211, Professor Oujidane Absi

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 10:10-11:15 AM

Prerequisites: First Year Arabic I or instructor permission. An introduction to the language of classical and modern Arabic literature. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

SECOND YEAR ARABIC I

MDES UN2201

Section 1, Professor Rym Bettaieb

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 10:10-11:15 AM

Section 2, Professor Nasr Abdo

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 8:50-9:55 AM

Section 3, Professor May Ahmar

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 4:10-5:15 PM

Prerequisites: MDES W1210-W1211 or the equivalent. A continuation of the study of the language of contemporary writing. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

SECOND YEAR ARABIC II

MDES UN2202, Professor Oujidane Absi

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 11:40 AM-12:45 PM

Prerequisites: MDES W1210-W1211 or the equivalent. A continuation of the study of the language of contemporary writing. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ARABIC FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS I

MDES UN2208, Professor Youssef Nouhi

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 10:10-11:15 AM

Prerequisites: Instructor permission. This is an intensive course that combines the curriculum of both First and Second Year Arabic in two semesters instead of four, and focuses on the productive skills (speaking and writing) in Modern Standard Arabic (Fusha). Students are exposed intensively to grammar and vocabulary of a high register. After successful completion of this course, students will be able to move on to Third Year Arabic. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

THIRD YEAR ARABIC I

MDES GU4210, Professor Youssef Nouhi

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 8:50-9:55AM

NOTE: There are 2 sections of Third Year Arabic I. Section 001 follows the standard curriculum building all 4 language skills, as described below. Section 002 follows a reading-intensive curriculum, with less emphasis on listening and writing while still conducted in Arabic, and is intended for those preparing for advanced research in modern or classical Arabic texts. Students in the regular third-year Arabic track improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through close reading, compositions, class discussions, and presentations in Arabic on topics such as cultures of the Arab world, classical and modern Arabic literature, and contemporary Arabic media. Review of grammatical and syntactic rules as needed. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

FOURTH YEAR MODERN ARABIC I

MDES GU4212, Professor Taoufik Ben-Amor

Monday/ Wednesday: 10:10 AM-12 PM

Through reading articles and essays by Arab thinkers and intellectuals, students will be able to increase their fluency and accuracy in Arabic while working on reading text and being exposed to the main themes in Arab thought. The course works with all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Arabic is the language of instruction. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

SPOKEN ARABIC I

MDES GU4218, Professor Reem Faraj

Tuesday/ Thursday: 2:10-4 PM

Prerequisites: (MDES UN2201) and (MDES UN2202) \$10 Arabic Materials Fee; \$15 Language Resource Fee. This is an introductory course to Levantine Arabic for students who have completed two years of Standard Arabic studies, at the Intermediate level. The course is designed to further develop fluency in oral communication, through building students' familiarity with a less formal register of Arabic, namely the Levantine dialect. The course will convert and recycle some of the previous Standard Arabic knowledge to the dialect, by comparing their prior knowledge to its dialectal counterpart; while at the same time developing students' new communicative skills in a diverse range of contexts that are essential in any conversational interaction. The course will build students' abilities to interact effectively in various areas where Levantine Arabic is spoken. In addition to varied thematic topics, the course exposes students to cultural aspects specific to the region. Additionally, the course will work on both constructing students' knowledge of dialectal diction as well as other grammatical features of the dialects. Even though the course is designed for communication in the four skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking), the emphasis will be mostly on speaking and listening. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ELEMENTARY MODERN ARMENIAN I

MDES UN1301, Professor Charry Karamanoukian

Monday/ Wednesday: 4:10-6 PM

In Elementary Armenian I, students learn the Armenian script and the basic grammar that will enable them to communicate about topics relating to themselves and their immediate surroundings: family, school, daily occupations, describing people, expressing likes and dislikes, requesting and giving information about themselves and others, proper forms of greetings, etc. They also begin to read signs, advertisements, and develop the skills to read texts like short stories and Armenian fables. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

INTERMEDIATE MODERN ARMENIAN I

MDES UN2301, Professor Charry Karamanoukian

Tuesday/ Thursday: 4:10-6 PM

Prerequisites: MDES UN1301 and MDES UN1302 or the equivalent. A continuation of the study of reading, writing and speaking of Armenian. In Intermediate Armenian I, students learn to communicate about a wide range of topics. Such topics include biographical narration, cooking and recipes, health and well-being, holidays and celebrations, travel and geography, etc. At this level, students continue to develop their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening while perfecting the grammatical concepts to which they were introduced in the first year. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ADVANCED MODERN ARMENIAN I

MDES GU4910, Professor Charry Karamanoukian

Friday: 11:10 AM-1 PM

Advanced instruction in the Armenian dialect. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

1ST YEAR MODERN HEBREW: ELEMENTARY I

MDES UN1401, Professor Illan Gonen

Section 1, Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 8:50-9:55 AM

Section 2, Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 10:10-11:15 AM

This is an introductory course for which no prior knowledge is required. Equal emphasis is given to listening, speaking, reading, writing and grammar. Daily homework includes grammar exercises, short answers, reading, or paragraph writing. Frequent vocabulary and grammar quizzes. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

2ND YEAR MODERN HEBREW: INTERMEDIATE I

MDES UN2501, Professor Danielle Katz-Shenhar

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 11:40 AM-12:45 PM

Prerequisites: 1st Year Modern Hebrew II or the equivalent and instructor's permission. Equal emphasis is given to listening, speaking, reading and writing. Regular categories of the Hebrew

verb, prepositions, and basic syntax are taught systematically. Vocabulary building. Daily homework includes grammar exercises, short answers, reading, or short compositions. Frequent vocabulary and grammar quizzes. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW: INTENSIVE GRAMMAR REVIEW

MDES UN2516, Professor Illan Gonen

Monday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 11:40 AM-12:55 PM

This course focuses on Modern Hebrew grammar, and verb conjugation in particular. It is designed for students with substantial knowledge of Modern Hebrew. Over the semester, students will systematically review the grammatical patterns of regular verbs (shlemim), and learn the grammatical patterns of the irregular verbs (gzarot), as well as several other grammatical topics. After successful completion of this course, the foreign language requirement will be fulfilled (for students of Columbia College and other academic units that require a 4th-semester proficiency). Successful completion of this course also allows students to register in third-year Modern Hebrew.

HEBREW FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS I

MDES UN2517, Professor Danielle Katz-Shenhar

Monday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 10:10-11:25 AM

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. Hebrew for Heritage Speakers I forms part of a year-long sequence with Hebrew for Heritage Speakers II. The course is intended for those who have developed basic speaking and listening skills through exposure to Hebrew at home or in day-school programs but do not use Hebrew as their dominant language and have not reached the level required for exemption from the Columbia language requirement. Heritage speakers differ in the degree of their fluency, but their vocabulary is often limited to topics in daily life and many lack skills in reading and writing to match their ability to converse. The course focuses on grammar and vocabulary enrichment, exposing students to a variety of cultural and social topics in daily life and beyond. By the end of the semester students are able to read and discuss simple texts and write about a variety of topics. Successful completion of the year-long sequence prepares students to enroll in third-year modern Hebrew. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

READINGS IN HEBREW TEXTS II

MDES GU4502, Professor Naama Harel

Monday/ Wednesday: 12:10-2 PM

Prerequisites: MDES W4501 or the instructor's permission. Students must have a good familiarity with the Hebrew verb system, and the ability to read a text without vowels. This course focuses on central identities shaping Israeli society and is designed to give students extensive experience in reading Hebrew. Through selected readings of contemporary literary works and media texts, students will increase their proficiency in Hebrew and enhance their

understanding of Israeli culture and society. All readings, written assignments, and class discussions are in Hebrew. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

3RD YR MODERN HEBREW I

MDES GU4510, Professor Naama Harel

Monday/ Wednesday: 10:10 AM-12 PM

Prerequisites: 2nd Year Modern Hebrew II, Hebrew for Heritage Speakers II, or the instructor's permission. This course is designed to take students from the intermediate to advanced level. Students will further develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in Hebrew through an examination of a wide range of sources, including short stories, poems, visual arts, popular music, television shows and films. All readings, written assignments, and class discussions are in Hebrew. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ELEMENTARY PERSIAN I

MDES UN1701, Professor Saeed Honarmand

Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 3:10-4 PM

An introduction to the spoken and written language of contemporary Iran. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.\

INTERMEDIATE PERSIAN I

MDES UN2701, Professor Saeed Honarmand

Monday/ Wednesday: 10:10AM-12 PM

Prerequisites: Elementary Persian II or the equivalent. This course involves reading, writing, translating, conversation and grammatical foundations for Persian Language (PL). The materials are selected from two books: Āmuzesh-e Fārsi: Intermediate Level (required) and English-Persian Dictionary, plus verb system and charts (recommended). These books are assigned and have to be available to every student. There are also handouts, which will be provided throughout the course. This course serves as intermediate and makes students able to read and compose proper Persian language as well as the colloquial one. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ADVANCED PERSIAN I

MDES GU4710, Professor Saeed Honarmand

Monday/ Wednesday: 12:10-2 PM

While helping students advance their levels of oral and written expression, this course focuses on literature of the modern and medieval periods, with particular emphasis on the development of the modern novella and traditional and new forms of poetry. In addition to literature, students are introduced to a wide variety of genres from political and cultural essays and blogs to newspaper translations of the early 20th century. They will be further exposed to ta'rof in reference to a wide variety of socio-cultural contexts and be expected to use ta'rof in class conversations.

Students will be exposed to popular artists and their works and satirical websites for insight into contemporary Iranian culture and politics. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ELEMENTARY MODERN TURKISH I

MDES UN1901, Professor Zuleyha Colak

Monday/ Wednesday: 2:10-4 PM

An introduction to the written and spoken language of Turkey. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

INTERMEDIATE MODERN TURKISH I

MDES UN2901, Professor Zuleyha Colak

Monday/ Wednesday: 12:10-2 PM

A continuation of the study of the written and spoken language of Turkey, with readings of literary, historical, and other texts. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ADVANCED MODERN TURKISH I

MDES GU4910, Professor Zuleyha Colak

Tuesday/ Thursday: 2:40-3:55 PM

A continuation of the study of the written and spoken language of Turkey, with readings of literary, historical, and other texts. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ELEMENTARY WOLOF I

Wolof UN1101, Professor Mariame Sy

MTWR 12:10pm-1:00pm

Introduction to the basic grammatical structures of Wolof, a major language of West Africa spoken in Senegal and Gambia. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

INTERMEDIATE WOLOF I

Wolof UN2101, Professor Mariame Sy

Monday/ Wednesday: 2:10-4 PM

Prerequisites: WLOF W1101-W1102 or the instructor's permission. Further develops a student's knowledge of Wolof, a major language of West Africa spoken primarily in Senegal and Gambia. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

ADVANCED WOLOF I

Wolof UN3301, Professor Mariame Sy

Tuesday/ Thursday: 2:10-4 PM

Prerequisites: Two years of Wolof or instructor permission. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class