

# **Fall 2026 Courses**

## **PREMODERN ISLAMIC WORLDS**

**MDES UN1003, Professor Elaine van Dalen**

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

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 Wael Hallaq**

**Tuesday: 4:10-6:00 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.

### **South Asia at the Crossroads of Empires**

**MDES UN2042, Professor Isabel Huacuja Alonso**

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

In this course we will study the late colonial and early post-colonial periods of South Asian history together. Some of the events we will cover include: the climax of anti-colonial movements in South Asia, WWII as it developed in South and Southeast Asia, the partition of British India, the two Indo-Pakistan wars, and the 1971 Bangladesh War. While we will read selected secondary literature, we will focus on a range of primary sources, including original radio broadcasts and oral history interviews. We will also study artistic interpretations of historical developments, including short stories and films. In this course, we will strive to remain attentive to the important changes engendered by colonialism, while simultaneously recognizing the agency of South Asians in formulating their own modernities during this critical period. We will also seek to develop a narrative of modern South Asian history, which is attentive to parallel and/or connected events in other regions.

### **Gender & Empire**

**HIST BC2803, Professor Anupama Rao**

**Monday/Wednesday: 2:40-3:55 PM**

This course provides a political and social history of India from the 16th-19th century, focusing on the Mughal empire. Two central concerns: first, the Mughal regnal politics towards their rival imperial concerns within India and West Asia (the Maratha, the Rajput, the Safavid, the Ottoman); and second, the foreign gaze onto the Mughals (via the presence of Portuguese, English, and French travelers, merchants, and diplomats in India). These interlocked practices (how Mughals saw the world and how the world saw the Mughals) will allow us develop a nuanced knowledge of universally acknowledged power of the early modern world. Partially fulfills Global Core Requirement.

### **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.

### **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,****TBA**

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 Novel in Africa****MDES GU4122, Professor Jennifer Wenzel****Wednesday: 2:10-4:00 PM**

The main task of this course will be to read novels by African writers. But the novel in Africa also involves connections between the literary genre of the novel and the historical processes of colonialism, decolonization, and globalization in Africa. One important question we'll consider is how African novels depict those historical experiences in their themes and plots—we'll read novels that are about colonialism, etc. A more complex question is how these historical processes relate to the emergence of the novel as an important genre for African writers. Edward Said went so far as to say that without imperialism, there would be no European novel as we know it. How can we understand the novel in Africa (whether read or written) as a product of the colonial encounter? How did it shape the process of decolonization? What contribution to history, whether literary or political, does the novel in Africa make? We'll undertake a historical survey of African novels from the 1930s to the present, with attention to various subgenres (village

novel, war novel, urbanization novel, novel of postcolonial disillusion, Bildungsroman). We'll attend to how African novelists blend literate and oral storytelling traditions, how they address their work to local and global audiences, and how they use scenes of characters reading novels (whether African or European) in order to position their writing within national, continental, and world literary space.

### **Cold War Arab Culture**

**CLME GU4231, Professor Muhsin Al-Musawi**

**Wednesday: 2:10-4:00 PM**

This course studies the effects and strategies of the cold war on Arab writing, education, arts and translation, and the counter movement in Arab culture to have its own identities. As the cold war functioned and still functions on a global scale, thematic and methodological comparisons are drawn with Latin America, India and Africa.

### **Medicine and Disease in the Pre-Modern Islamic World**

**MDES GU4239, Professor Elaine van Dalen**

**Thursday: 2:10-4:00 PM**

Throughout the classical and post-classical periods, medical actors from different social and intellectual backgrounds aimed to make sense of the human body and disease, and worked to provide treatments and preserve health. In this class we will consider who these actors were, examining the categories of learned physicians versus practitioners and studying the role women played in health care. We will study practices of medical education and evaluate regulatory systems that determined access to the medical profession. We will also consider how physicians believed they could obtain knowledge about medical phenomena, and how they theorized human pathology, physiology, and epidemics. We will ask to what extent the theoretical, written treatises that survive today are representative of everyday medical practice in pre-modern West Asia. We inspect additional archeological evidence such as talismans and magic bowls in order to study popular and religious medical approaches. We will do this while tracing the development of the Greco-Arabic medical tradition alongside evolving Islamic theological views and Prophetic medicine, covering a period of roughly five centuries from the early 'Abbasid period to the Black Death in the 14th century

### **POLITICS IN INDIA**

**MDES GU4601, Professor Sudipta Kaviraj**

**Thursday: 12:10-2:00 PM**

This course will combine study of long-term historical sociology with more short term understanding of policies and their possible effects. Though its main purpose will be to provide students with an understanding of politics after independence, it will argue, methodologically, that this understanding should be based on a study of historical sociology – plotting long-terms

shifts in the structure of social power. The course will start with analyses of the structures of power and ideas about political legitimacy in pre-modern India, and the transformations brought by colonialism into that order. After a brief study of the nature of political order under the colonial state, the courses will focus primarily on the history of the democratic state after independence.

### **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.

### **The Ottoman Empire**

**MDES GU4953, Professor Khatchig Mouradian**

**Monday: 4:10-6:00 PM**

This 4000-level seminar explores the Ottoman Empire with emphasis on the long nineteenth century, while also tracing how the century that followed remained profoundly marked by the afterlives of its institutions, ideas, and the disruptions it set in motion. After an overview Ottoman history and historiography, and an exploration of recent digital humanities trends in Ottoman Studies, the course proceeds in three sections: 1) imperial reconfiguration and crisis, 2) revolution, war, and genocide, and 3) afterlives of empire. Case studies spotlight the empire's ethno-religious communities, including Arabs, Armenians, Assyrians, Greeks, Jews, Kurds, and Muslim refugees from the Balkans and the Russian Empire. Anchored in *The I.B. Tauris Handbook of the Late Ottoman Empire: History and Legacy*, the course aims to equip students

with the conceptual and historiographical tools needed to critically analyze the Ottoman past and its enduring legacies across the modern Middle East.

### **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, Alison Vacca**

**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.

### **SETTLERS AND NATIVES**

**MDES GR6410, Professor Mahmood Mamdani**

**Thursday: 12:10-2:00 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 Timothy Mitchell**

**TBA**

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.

### **Modern Middle East Research Seminar**

**MDES GR8101, Professor Timothy Mitchell**

**Tuesday: 4:10-6:00 PM**

This course is open to Ph.D. students and advanced M.A. students conducting research on aspects of the modern history, culture, and politics of the Middle East and adjacent regions. The course has two aims. The first is to provide an opportunity to read and engage with some of the most recent scholarship in the field, especially work published in the last five years, organized around a number of current academic debates. The second is to provide a seminar in which those preparing a master's paper, M.Phil. examination list, PhD. Prospectus, or a term paper intended for publication can develop and present a draft of their work. We will choose readings to accompany each presentation, focusing on recent scholarship that informs or extends the issues addressed in the research. The seminar will enable students to clarify and test the questions that shape their work and better situate them within current scholarship. The course is intended primarily for MESAAS students. Those from other departments are welcome, but require the permission of the instructor to enroll.

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## **Languages**

### **ELEMENTARY HINDI-URDU I**

**MDES UN1601, Professor Aftab Ahmad**

**Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 1:10-2:15 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 (alaṅkāraśāstra) 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.

**ELEMENTARY TAMIL I****MDES UN1101, Professor Jay Ramesh****Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 1:10-2 PM**

This course constitutes the first half of a year-long introduction to Tamil, the official language of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu as well as an official language of Sri Lanka and Singapore. In addition to being spoken by almost 80 million people worldwide, Tamil also has an impressive classical past, having served as a language of religious, intellectual, and literary life in South India for nearly two millennia. Assuming no prior experience with the language, this introductory sequence provides students with the grammar, language skills, and cultural context necessary for achieving their individual Tamil language goals, whether they be conducting fieldwork or scholarly research, chatting with relatives back home, or simply waxing poetic over an artful dosai. In order to cultivate students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension skills, this course draws upon a wide variety of teaching materials, including the core textbook, oral drills, audio recordings, short films, music videos, memes, and more. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

## **ELEMENTARY SWAHILI**

**SWHL UN1101, Professor Abdul Nanji**

**Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 9:10-10 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: 10:10-11 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 Ouijdane Absi**

**Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 1:10-2:15 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 Ouijdane 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 Nasr Abdo**

**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 Reem Faraj**

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

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 Oujidane Absi**

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

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.

#### **Advanced Readings in Qur'an and Hadith**

**MDES GU4221, Professor Taoufik Ben-Amor**

**Monday/ Wednesday: 10:10 AM-12 PM**

This is not a class in Theology. It is a class dealing with the Qur'an as a text and its linguistic and cultural significance. The readings will cover various Suwar (chapters) and excerpts dealing with a logical sequence of themes, starting with how the Qur'an defines itself, addresses its audiences, depicts and dialogues with other religions and religious groups, refers to itself as a historical

source, especially through storytelling, and ending with how it legislates. They will also cover a choice of Hadiths. By being exposed to such a range of texts, students will gain a basic knowledge of types and structure of Hadith and a general sense of Qur'anic styles, textual arrangements, terminology and concepts. Specifically, the assignments will guide students toward an ability to read these texts in detail by expanding their vocabulary, deepening their understanding of advanced grammar points, and by providing an opportunity to discuss the texts and write about them. Student will also acquire research skills by identifying and working with sources and references. Arabic is the language of instruction.

### **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 Yael Flusser**

**Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday: 10:10 AM-11:15 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 Yael Flusser**

**Monday/ Wednesday: 12:10-2 PM**

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/ Wednesday: 12:10-2 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: 2:10-4 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 Fikret**

**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 Fikret**

**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 Fikret**

**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.

### **READINGS IN OTTOMAN TEXTS I**

**MDES GU4926, Professor Dilek Oztoprak**

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

### **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