ARABIC (ARAB)

ARAB 031 Elementary Arabic I
This is the beginners course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). It will introduce you to the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in the standard means of communication in the Arab World. The course is proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. Evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, dictations, grammar and translation exercises). We anticipate that by the end of this course (ARAB 031) students will range in proficiency from Novice High to Intermediate Low on the ACTFL scale; in other words (using the terminology of the government’s Foreign Service Institute), from ‘incipient survival’ to ‘full survival’ in the native-speaking environment.
For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 032 Elementary Arabic II
This course is a continuation of ARAB 031/631.
For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisite: ARAB 031
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 033 Intermediate Arabic III
This is the continuation of the Elementary course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). This course is also proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. This is the continuation of ARAB031 and ARAB 032, the elementary course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). This course is also proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. As in ARAB 031-032, evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, grammar and translation exercises). We anticipate that students range from Intermediate Low to Intermediate High according to the ACTFL scale.
For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisites: ARAB 032 or equivalent.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 034 Intermediate Arabic IV
This course is a continuation of ARAB 033/633.
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisite: ARAB 033
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 035 Advanced Intermediate Arabic I
This is a proficiency-based course which continues from the first intermediate course, ARAB 033/034. Emphasis continues to be on all four language skills: Speaking, Listening, Reading, & Writing. The readings for the class are chosen from actual texts from both medieval and modern Arabic in a variety of fields and subjects. Students will be expected to give classroom presentations and to write short essays in Arabic. Evaluation will be both Achievement- and proficiency-based.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisite: ARAB 034
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 036 Advanced Intermediate Arabic II
This course is a continuation of ARAB 035/635.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisite: ARAB 035
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 037 Advanced Arabic and Syntax I
Advanced syntax through the reading of Arab grammarians. Development of reading in bulk. Emphasis on classical Arabic read in works by medieval and modern writers. This course is designed to give the student experience in reading whole works in Arabic and giving reports on them.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisites: ARAB 036/636 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 039 Colloquial Arabic
A one-semester, introductory course to the spoken Arabic of one of the regions of the Arab world, chosen according to the dialect of instructor. One-term course offered either term
Prerequisite: ARAB 032
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 041 Beginning Arabic I
This is a beginner course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). It will introduce you to the speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in the standard means of communication in the Arab world. The course is proficiency-based, implying that all activities are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. Evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, dictations, grammar and translation exercises). We anticipate that by the end of this course (ARAB 041) students will range in proficiency from Novice High to Intermediate Low on the ACTFL scale; in other words (using the terminology of the government’s Foreign Service Institute), from ‘incipient survival’ to ‘full survival’ in the native-speaking environment.
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: See the LPS Course Guide. **This course does not fulfill the College/Wharton language requirement.
ARAB 042 Beginning Arabic II
For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisites: ARAB 041 or permission of the instructor. See the LPS Course Guide. **This course does not fulfill the College language requirement.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: See the CLPS Course Guide. **This course does not fulfill the College language requirement.

ARAB 043 Continuing Arabic III
This is the continuation of ARAB041 and ARAB 042, the elementary course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). This course is also proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. As in ARAB 041-042, evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, grammar and translation exercises). Completion of this course fulfills the College of Liberal and Professional Studies language requirement in Arabic but not for the School of Arts and Sciences. However, it should be emphasized that you will need a longer period of study to achieve proficiency in Arabic. We anticipate that students range from Intermediate Low to Intermediate High according to the ACTFL scale.
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: See the CLPS Course Guide. **This course does not fulfill the College language requirement.

ARAB 044 Continuing Arabic IV
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisites: ARAB 043 or permission of the instructor See the LPS Course Guide. **This course does not fulfill the College language requirement.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: See the LPS Course Guide. **This course does not fulfill the College language requirement.

ARAB 133 Intensive Intermediate Arabic I&II
This is a six-week intensive course offered in the summer through LPS; see the Penn Summer Course Guide. This is the continuation of ARAB031-32 or ARAB 131, the elementary course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). This course is also proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing the student in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. As in ARAB 031-032 or ARAB 131, evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, grammar and translation exercises). Completion of this course fulfills the College of Arts and Sciences language requirement in Arabic. However, it should be emphasized that the student will need a longer period of study to achieve proficiency in Arabic. We anticipate that students range from Intermediate Low to Intermediate High according to the ACTFL scale.
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Course usually offered summer term only
Activity: Lecture
2 Course Units
Notes: Offered through the College of Liberal and Professional Studies Summer Session I.

ARAB 135 Intensive Advanced Intermediate Arabic I&II
This is a six-week intensive course offered in the summer through LPS; see Penn Summer Course Guide. It continues from the first intermediate course, ARAB 033/034 or ARAB 133. Emphasis continues to be on all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will be expected to give classroom presentations and to write short essays in Arabic. Evaluation will be both achievement-based and proficiency-based. There is no Oral Proficiency Interview at the end of this session, but we anticipate that by the end of this, third year students will range in proficiency from Intermediate High to Advanced Mid on the ACTFL scale.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered summer term only
Activity: Lecture
2 Course Units
Notes: Offered through the College of Liberal and Professional Studies Summer Session I.

ARAB 180 Arabic in Residence
The Arabic House is dedicated to practicing Modern Standard Arabic outside of the classroom setting. The group meets two evenings per week for an hour of conversation practice, snacks, and mint tea. Conversations are both casual and group-led. Members are encouraged to bring any questions about their homework from class or about the Arabic language in general. Most activities are held in the Greenhouse of the Class of 1925 building located at 3941 Irving Street. Additional cultural activities may take place in Gregory, elsewhere at Penn or throughout Philadelphia. All students and Arabic enthusiasts, whether graduate or undergraduate, first-semester beginners or native speakers, are welcome to attend. Dedicated undergraduate students may choose to enroll for credit (Arabic 180).
Activity: Seminar
0.5 Course Units

ARAB 235 The Adab Tradition
Taught by: Fakhreddine, H.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
ARAB 331 Advanced Spoken Standard Arabic
The course will concentrate on the reading and speaking skills at the advanced level. Students will be assigned reading and audio-visual materials on which to prepare oral classroom presentations. Final examination in the course will be based on performance in the oral proficiency interview.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisite: ARAB 036/636
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 333 Readings in the Qur'an and Tafsir
This course has two goals: to introduce undergraduate students to reading the Qur'an in Arabic, and to enhance the speaking, listening, and writing skills in MSA. Through the reading and study of selected major Qur'anic narratives and commentary (tafsir), students will become familiar with Qur'anic vocabulary, style, recitation practices, and other intricacies of the Qur'anic text. All students will also memorize a short sura of their choice and practice reciting it in an aesthetically appropriate manner (typically suras 1, 112, 113, or 114). Taught in MSA with writing assignments in MSA.
Taught by: Lowry
Course offered spring; even-numbered years
Prerequisites: ARAB 35 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ARAB 432 Arabic Readings in Belles-Lettres
This course aims to improve reading skills and vocabulary by introducing students to extensive passages taken from a variety of Arabic literary genres from all periods. Taught in MSA with writing assignments in MSA.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisite: Proficiency in ARAB 036/636
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ARAB 433 Arabic Readings in the Social Sciences and the Media
This course trains students to be proficient with written materials and media in MSA. This class will explore the Middle East through timely analysis of Arabic media as well as original analysis of the ideological, intellectual, social, cultural, and religious background to current events, including the Arab Spring and its aftermath. It is intended that, upon completion of this course, students will be able to work independently with a variety of media texts at different levels. Taught in MSA with writing assignments in MSA.
Course offered spring; odd-numbered years
Prerequisites: Completion of ARAB 036/636 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 434 Readings in Arabic Literature
Course not offered every year
Prerequisite: Reading knowledge of Arabic
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ARAB 436 Introduction to Pre-Modern Arabic Texts
This course aims to provide incoming graduate students and advanced undergraduate students with an introduction to issues in Arabic grammar and syntax that commonly arise in pre-modern Arabic texts. Students will also be introduced to, and expected to consult, the standard reference works used as aids in reading such texts. Students will be expected to prepare a text or set of texts assigned by the instructor for each session. It is intended that, upon completion of this course, students will be able to work independently with a wide variety of pre-modern Arabic texts. Although the texts in this course are pre-modern, the course reinforces MSA reading skills.
Taught by: Lowry
Course offered fall; even-numbered years
Prerequisites: Completion of ARAB 036/636 Advanced Intermediate Arabic; or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: May be taken twice for credit with instructors permission.

ARAB 437 History & Fiction in Arabic
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ARAB 531 Advanced Spoken Standard Arabic
The course will concentrate on the reading and speaking skills at the advanced level. Students will be assigned reading and audio-visual materials on which to prepare oral classroom presentations. Final examination in the course will be based on performance in the oral proficiency interview. Taught in MSA with writing assignments in MSA.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisite: ARAB 036/636 Advanced Intermediate Arabic; or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 533 Readings in Islamic Law
Taught by: Lowry
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Completion of ARAB036/636 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ARAB 534 Arabic: Reading Historical Manuscripts
Arabic language is used by many societies not only in communication but also in correspondence and in documenting the affairs of their daily lives. Arabic script is adopted by many groups who native languages are not Arabic, in writing their language before some moved to the Roman alphabet. In many historical documents specific style of writing and handwriting are dominant. This specificity is influenced by the dialectical variations, the historical development of each region and the level of Arabic literacy and use.
Taught by: Dinar
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ARAB 534 Arabic: Reading Historical Manuscripts
Arabic language is used by many societies not only in communication but also in correspondence and in documenting the affairs of their daily lives. Arabic script is adopted by many groups who native languages are not Arabic, in writing their language before some moved to the Roman alphabet. In many historical documents specific style of writing and handwriting are dominant. This specificity is influenced by the dialectical variations, the historical development of each region and the level of Arabic literacy and use.
Taught by: Dinar
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
ARAB 631 Elementary Arabic I
This is the beginner course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). It will introduce you to the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in the standard means of communication in the Arab World. The course is proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. Evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, dictations, grammar and translation exercises). We anticipate that by the end of this course (ARAB 002) students will range in proficiency from Novice High to Intermediate Low on the ACTFL scale; in other words (using the terminology of the government’s Foreign Service Institute), from ‘incipient survival’ to ‘full’ survival in the native-speaking environment.
For BA Students: Language Course
Two terms. student must enter first term.
Prerequisites: For the second semester: completion of the first semester or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 632 Elementary Arabic II
This course is a continuation of ARAB 031/631.
For BA Students: Language Course
Two terms. student must enter first term.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 633 Intermediate Arabic III
This is the continuation of the Elementary course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). This course is also proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. This is the continuation of ARAB 031 and ARAB 032, the elementary course in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). This course is also proficiency-based, implying that all activities within the course are aimed at placing you, the learner, in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning. As in ARAB 031-033, evaluation is done by the more traditional testing methods (vocabulary tests, grammar and translation exercises).
We anticipate that students range from Intermediate Low to Intermediate High according to the ACTFL scale.
For BA Students: Language Course
Two terms. student must enter first term.
Prerequisites: ARAB 033 or equivalent. For the second semester: completion of the first semester or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 634 Intermediate Arabic IV
This course is a continuation of ARAB 033/633.
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Two terms. student must enter first term.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 635 Advanced Intermediate Arabic I
This is a proficiency-based course which continues from the first intermediate course, ARAB 033/034. Emphasis continues to be on all four language skills: Speaking, Listening, Reading, & Writing. The readings for the class are chosen from actual texts from both medieval and modern Arabic in a variety of fields and subjects. Students will be expected to give classroom presentations and to write short essays in Arabic. Evaluation will be both Achievement- and proficiency-based. The test of speaking ability will
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Prerequisites: ARAB 033 or permission of instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 636 Advanced Intermediate Arabic II
This course is a continuation of ARAB 035/635.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Two terms. student must enter first term.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 637 Advanced Arabic and Syntax I
Advanced syntax through the reading of Arab grammarians. Development of reading in bulk. Emphasis on classical Arabic read in works by medieval and modern writers. This course is designed to give the student experience in reading whole works in Arabic and giving reports on them.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisites: ARAB 036/636 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 639 Colloquial Arabic
A one-semester, introductory course to the spoken Arabic of one of the regions of the Arab world, chosen according to the dialect of instructor.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ARAB 731 Topics in Islamic Studies
Topics vary from year to year in accordance with the interests and needs of students. Although this course typically focuses on premodern Arabic texts, the readings reinforce MSA reading skills.
Taught by: Lowry
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: ARAB 436 or equivalent

ARAB 733 Arabic Texts in Islamic History
This is a graduate seminar course in which different genres of premodern Arabic texts are covered at the advanced graduate level. Students in this course are expected to be able to read and prepare (vowel, parse, and translate) passages from Arabic texts on a weekly basis and to be able to discuss them critically during the class itself. Topics are chosen to reflect student interest. Recent and potential topics include: Geographers and travel accounts; biographical dictionaries; chronicles; heresiography; poetry; memoir and sira. Although this course typically focuses on premodern Arabic texts, the readings reinforce MSA reading skills.
Taught by: Cobb
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: ARAB 036 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
ARAB 734 Selected Topics in Arabic Literature
This is a survey of Arabic poetry from the Pre-Islamic era until today. Readings will be selected to trace major thematic and formal developments in Arabic poetry. Readings also include excerpts from modern critical scholarship on the topic in Arabic. The class aims to introduce students to the basics of academic research and writing in Arabic. The class is taught in MSA with oral presentations and writing assignments in MSA.
Taught by: Fakhreddine
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ARAB 735 The Adab Tradition
This is a survey of pre-modern Arabic prose. Selections will be made from major books of Adab, compilations of akhbār, the Qurʾān, the suras, and critical treatise. Readings will be accompanied by excerpts from modern critical scholarship on the topic in Arabic. The class is taught in MSA with oral presentations and writing assignments in MSA.
Taught by: Fakhreddine, H.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit