

# Bachelor of Arts in Arabic

## Course Handbook

**Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies**

Academic Year 2023-24

**Course Co-ordinator** – Professor Christian Sahner

This handbook applies to students starting the Bachelor of Arts in Arabic in Michaelmas term 2023. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

*The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available [here](#) and [here](#). If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns please contact Edmund Howard via [academic.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk](mailto:academic.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk).*

*The information in this handbook is accurate as at 11<sup>st</sup> November 2023 however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained [here](#). If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed. General faculty wide information can be found in the General Undergraduate Handbook found [here](#).*

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## Introduction

Students will study either Arabic or Arabic with a subsidiary language.

The aims of **Arabic** are:

1. to give you a thorough grounding in written and spoken Modern Standard Arabic;
2. to introduce you to selected texts in both classical and modern Arabic;
3. to provide you with a general knowledge of the historical development of Middle Eastern and Islamic cultures and societies;
4. to enable you to deepen your knowledge of literature, history, religion or learn another discipline through a Further (examined in one 3-hour written examination) and a Special Subject (examined in 1 extended essay and one 3-hour written examination);
5. to develop your general skills of description, interpretation and analysis of literary, historical, religious and cultural material.

The aims of **Arabic with a subsidiary language** are:

1. to give you a thorough grounding in written and spoken Modern Standard Arabic;
2. to introduce you to selected texts in both classical and modern Arabic;
3. to provide you with a general knowledge of the historical development of Middle Eastern and Islamic cultures and societies;
4. to give you a firm grounding in a second language (other than a Modern European language) with which Arabic is historically and culturally connected, and to introduce you to the literature of that language;
5. to develop your general skills of description, interpretation, and analysis of literary, historical, religious, and cultural material.

## Outline

### Year 1

Arabic Prelims comprise three written examination papers of 3 hours each plus one Oral/Aural examination.

- Arabic I: Translation and Precis into English
- Arabic II: Comprehension, Composition and Grammar
- Arabic III: Oral/Aural Examination
- Islamic History & Culture (only taken by Arabic main, not EMEL)

Students will take 10 hours of language classes per week, as detailed below and will also be expected to prepare for these classes and consolidate their learning in their own time. The course integrates the four language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking in Modern Standard Arabic. Periodic tests are set, and are intended to provide feedback on your progress.

#### Language classes in Year 1

Elementary Arabic	2 hours/5 days a week, all terms
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#### Lectures and Tutorials in Year 1

The Islamic History and Culture paper covers the Middle East from Late Antiquity to the present and is taught through lectures and tutorials as detailed below. You will write a total of 10 essays (4 in each of Michaelmas and Hilary Terms and 2 in Trinity Term).

Tutorials	1 hour, bi-weekly Michaelmas and Hilary terms, and weeks 1 – 4 Trinity term.
Islamic History lectures	1 hour, once a week in Michaelmas and Hilary terms, and weeks 1 – 4 of Trinity term
Islamic Culture Lectures	1 hour, once a week in Michaelmas term and weeks 1 – 4 of Trinity term

#### Papers for Prelims

The exam regulations for Prelims can be found [here](#).

## Year 2

You will spend Year 2 (approximately September to June) studying Arabic in the Arab World, on a course approved by the Faculty Board. All students currently attend an approved course in Jordan or Tunisia.

Information on the centres for Arabic language study is available from the Year Abroad Coordinator, currently Husam Haj Omar, who is being supported by Marco Brandl, and from returning students. Please also refer to the Year Abroad handbook which can be found [here](#).

Addresses are given below. You must finalise plans for your year abroad, in consultation with the Year Abroad Coordinator, early in Trinity Term, Year 1. **You must have passed Prelims in order to attend the Year Abroad.**

Addresses of centres offering courses recognised by the Faculty Board (this information is correct as of September 2023):

Institut Français du Proche-Orient (I.F.P.O), Amman,  
Jabal Amman  
3, Ibrahim A. Zahri Street  
Amman 11183  
Jordan  
Tel: +962 (0)46 111 71

Qasid Institute  
22 Queen Rania Street next to Mukhtar Mall  
Tel: +962 6 515 4364  
E-mail: info@qasid.com

Bourguiba Institute of Modern Languages (IBLV)  
47 Avenue de La Liberté,  
Tunis 1002, Tunisia  
Tel : +216 71 832 418  
E-mail: iblv@iblv.rnu.tn

## Year 3

On your return from the Year Abroad, you may either continue with Arabic as your only language or you may take a subsidiary language.

Candidates wishing to take a subsidiary language would normally be expected to achieve a good 2:1 in the Return from Year Abroad Collection. If candidates score below that, they must contact the course coordinator for Arabic and individual situations will be assessed contextually. You must have previously obtained the conditional agreement of your college tutor and the Course Coordinators of Arabic and of the subsidiary language. You must also inform the administration team by sending an email to [undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk)

The deadline for requests to take a subsidiary language is 12 noon 31<sup>st</sup> August. Your choice will be confirmed by the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> week Michaelmas Term. **It is your responsibility to contact your college administrator and inform them of the change of degree from “Arabic” to “Arabic with Persian/Turkish/Akkadian etc”.**

If you continue with **Arabic as your only language, the degree will be called “BA Arabic”** and you will study the compulsory FHS papers detailed below.

- Arabic Unprepared Translation into English and comprehension
- Composition in Arabic
- Arabic Oral/Aural Examination
- Arabic Literature
- Islamic History, 570 – 1500
- Islamic Religion
- Dissertation

In addition to the compulsory papers above, you will take the following three papers:

- Y3, a Further Subject
- Y4, a Special Subject examined in two papers (a three-hour examination and an extended essay).

These are selected from a choice listed in the Handbook.

**Students should note that not all Further Subjects and Special Subjects may be available in a given year.** A meeting is organised by the course co-ordinator in week 6 of Michaelmas Term for third-year students to discuss available papers with tutors.

## Arabic with a subsidiary language

If you take a **subsidiary AMES language** (see the list below), your degree will be called “**BA Arabic with Persian/Hebrew/etc**” You will take three papers in **the additional** language and its culture and literature along with the compulsory Arabic FHS papers listed below which will differ according to language (please consult the relevant Handbooks related to these subsidiary languages, e.g., the Handbook for Persian/ Hebrew/etc).

- Arabic Unprepared Translation into English and comprehension
- Composition in Arabic
- Arabic Oral/Aural Examination
- Arabic Literature
- Islamic History, 570 – 1500
- Islamic Religion
- Dissertation

**Students should note that not all subsidiary languages may be available in a given year.** If you would like to take a subsidiary language you must contact the course coordinator for that language to discuss the availability and practicalities of teaching. You **MUST** obtain their written permission and send this in an email to [undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk) before the deadline for requests to take a subsidiary language, 12 noon 31<sup>st</sup> August. Your choice will be confirmed by the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> week Michaelmas Term. **It is your responsibility to contact your college administrator and inform them of the change of degree from “Arabic” to “Arabic with Persian/Turkish/Akkadian etc”.**

- Akkadian
- Aramaic and Syriac
- Classical or Modern Armenian
- Classics (for Joint Honours Classics with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies: either Latin or Greek)
- Biblical and Rabbinic, Medieval, or Modern Hebrew
- Early Iranian
- Hindi/Urdu
- Persian
- Turkish

In Year 3, **all** students will broaden and deepen their command of written and spoken Modern Standard Arabic and will begin to acquire an overview of Arabic literature from the seventh to the seventeenth centuries, of twentieth-century and contemporary Arabic literature and of the historical and cultural development of Middle Eastern and Islamic societies. You will attend the lectures, tutorials and language classes detailed below.

Arabic Literature Lectures	2 hours per week Michaelmas and Hilary terms
Arabic Literature Tutorials	6 Tutorials over Michaelmas and Hilary terms, organised by the Faculty
Islamic History (Middle East 600 – 1500) Lectures	3 hours per week Michaelmas and weeks 1 – 4 Hilary terms (not available to EMEL students)
Islamic History (Middle East 600 – 1500) Tutorials	6 Tutorials over Michaelmas and weeks 1 – 4 of Hilary terms, organised by the Faculty

Islamic Religion Lectures	3 hours per week, weeks 5 – 8 of Hilary term and all of Trinity term
Islamic Religion Tutorials	6 tutorials over weeks 5 – 8 of Hilary term and all of Trinity term, organised by the Faculty
Further Subject teaching (BA Arabic only)	Classes weekly, 4 tutorial, 4 essays Trinity term only

**Language classes for Year 3**

Language Development	2 hours every week
Oral Arabic	2 hours every other week
Arabic Listening Lab	2 hours every other week
Language Tutorials	4, 1-hour tutorials every term



## Year 4

In Year 4 **all** students will write a dissertation. Hilary Term of Year 4 will normally be devoted to these. The dissertation is an opportunity to undertake original research on a topic of a student's own choosing. Students will have 2 (EMEL students) or 3 (AMES students) tutorials to discuss method, bibliography, and other aspects at the beginning of the term, then review what they have come up with near the end of the term with the same tutor. However, it is important to underline that this is the students' project. They will be solely responsible for the final draft, which will not be read by their tutors. EMEL students will write a similar but distinct Bridging Essay.

Students ought to begin thinking about their dissertations and supervisors in the TT of their third year, when there will be a workshop on the process, organised by the course co-ordinator.

A guide to Undergraduate Dissertations can be found [here](#). Please note that Students may not ordinarily seek supervisors from other Faculties or departments within the University without consulting the course co-ordinators and their personal tutor. Note that the deadline for the approval of your dissertation title is 12 noon Monday 0<sup>th</sup> week of Hilary term. The form can be found [here](#) and should be submitted to [undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk)

Arabic student will take Special Subject in Michaelmas term and that the Arabic as a subsidiary language students will take the literature/culture papers of their subsidiary language here.

In Trinity Term of Year 4, students will take a total of 9 examinations and will submit their dissertations by 12 noon Friday of week 10 of Hilary Term.

### Language Classes for Year 4

Language Development	2 hours once a week
Oral Arabic	2 hours every other week
Arabic Listening Lab	2 hours every other week
Language Tutorials	4, 1-hour tutorials every term

### Papers for FHS

The exam regulations for FHS can be found [here](#).

**Please also note that the deadline for exam entry is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> week Michaelmas term. This is done via Student Self Service. Be aware that late entries are subject to a charge of £65 each.**

## Compulsory Papers (Final Honours School)

### ***Arabic Unprepared Translation into English and Comprehension***

**Taught by Mr Taj Kandoura, Dr Otared Haidar, Dr Husam Haj Omar, Dr Ashraf Abdou**

Terms in which language is taught and hours of teaching: Years 3 and 4, through all three terms. 2 hours of language development per week and bi-weekly tutorials. In year 4 teaching will stop in week 5 of Trinity Term to allow time for exam revision.

The course serves language papers 1 and 2 and develops the skills of speaking, writing and listening in Modern Standard Arabic through analysis of a variety of authentic materials, enabling you, for Paper 1 (Arabic Unprepared Translation etc.) to translate from various registers of Arabic into English, and to summarise or otherwise demonstrate comprehension of Arabic passages in English.

In the examination, students will be asked to translate one piece of Modern Standard Arabic and one piece of pre-modern Arabic into English, to answer questions (in English) on a passage of Modern Standard Arabic and to write a summary of no more than 120 words in English based on a passage of Modern Standard Arabic. Students are advised to look at past papers to familiarise themselves with the examinations. Students taking EMEL have different requirements; please see the EMEL section below (p.18).

Students are advised to purchase or access via the Nizami Ganjavi Library the following reference grammars to use alongside the FHS Arabic language course:

- John Haywood and H. M. Nahmad, *A New Arabic Grammar of the Written Language* (London: Lund Humphries, 1990; Reprint)
- Wolfdietrich Fischer, *A Grammar of Classical Arabic* (tr. Jonathan Rodgers) (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002)
- Kristen Brustad, et al., *Al-Kitaab, Part 3* (Georgetown University Press, 2007)
- James Dickins and Janet C. E. Watson, *Standard Arabic: An Advanced Course* (Cambridge University Press, 1999)

### ***Composition in Arabic***

**Taught by Mr Taj Kandoura, Dr Otared Haidar, Dr Husam Haj Omar, Dr Ashraf Abdou**

Terms in which language is taught and hours of teaching: Years 3 and 4, through all three terms. 2 hours of language development per week and bi-weekly tutorials. In year 4 teaching will stop in week 5 of Trinity Term to allow time for exam revision.

In this examination, students will translate one passage (out of a choice of two) of English into idiomatic Modern Standard Arabic and write an essay of no more than 400 words in Modern Standard Arabic responding to one of three prompts. Students are advised to look at past papers to familiarise themselves with the examinations. Students taking EMEL have different requirements; please see the EMEL section below (p.18).

### ***Oral/Aural Arabic***

**Taught by Mr Taj Kandoura, Dr Otared Haidar, Dr Husam Haj Omar, Dr Ashraf Abdou**

Throughout Years 3 and 4, there are 2 hours per week devoted to spoken Modern Standard Arabic, alternating weekly between aural and oral.

Oral work prepares students to demonstrate aural comprehension of Arabic and the ability to read aloud in Arabic supplying correct grammatical and other vocalisation, and to present a prepared topic in Arabic and hold a guided conversation on it. The medium of instruction and examination is Modern Standard Arabic, but educated dialect may also be used as appropriate. The oral examination in year 4 consists of two sections, a listening test lasting approximately 40 minutes and a conversation test lasting approximately 15 minutes. The topics for discussion will be released 24 hours prior to the exam. Candidates will be required to present and discuss their chosen topic from 3 options, and discussion will proceed to general conversation with the examiners.

### ***Arabic Literature***

**Taught by Professor Tahera Qutbuddin (Classical); Professor Mohamed-Salah Omri (Modern)**

In Michaelmas and Hilary Terms of Year 3, students will attend 2 weekly lectures in each of Classical and Modern Literature and 3 tutorials and write 3 essays in each of Classical and Modern.

This paper is mandatory for students of Arabic with a subsidiary language, Arabic and Islamic Studies and EMEL.

The Classical half of the paper is a survey of prose (Michaelmas term) and poetry (Hilary term) from the pre-Islamic up to the late medieval period. Tutorial assignments may include the literary analysis and translation of set texts, discussion of further and secondary reading, and essays. Topics covered include major poetic genres (mourning poetry and love poetry) and developments in story-telling (legends, fables and the *maqāma*). Students will focus on prose texts in Michaelmas Term and on poetry in Hilary Term.

The set texts for the modern component of this paper are designed to illustrate how modern Arabic literature emerged initially from its classical antecedents such as the *maqāma*, and went on to develop rapidly the themes, genres and language which have made this one of the richest literatures of the postcolonial world. The course begins with extracts from two of the pioneers of modernity in modern Arabic prose, Muhammad al-Muwaylihi and Jibran Khalil Jibran, and continues with a selection of short stories and poetry written between 1929 and 1994. The paper is taught in a combination of lectures and seminar-style classes. They offer close readings of the set texts and put them in their literary and social contexts. Tutorial assignments include the further literary analysis of set texts as well as additional primary texts, and discussion of secondary reading, all through student essays. All set texts for both parts of the paper will be supplied.

### ***Islamic History 570 - 1500***

**Taught by Professor Christian Sahner**

In Year 3, students will attend an hour-long lecture and a two-hour discussion class each week in Michaelmas Term and the first half of Hilary Term, as well as 6 tutorials and write 6 essays.

This paper is mandatory for students of Arabic as the sole language and Arabic with a subsidiary language; EMEL students are not required to take this course, but the lectures are recommended for those who are interested. It provides a chronological and thematic introduction to the history of the pre-modern Middle East (including Spain and North Africa) from Late Antiquity until ca. 1500. Its primary goal is to train students to think critically about the rise of Islam, the formation of classical Islamic civilisation, and the surrounding non-Muslim cultures of the region. Discussion classes are

focused on the reading of primary sources in Arabic and English, along with key scholarly books and articles. Throughout the twelve-week course, students will write six essays on a variety of topics. These range from the Byzantine and Sasanian legacy in Islam, to the life of the Prophet Muhammad, the conversion of non-Muslims, tensions between Sunnis and Shi'is, the Mongol conquest, and Islamic historiography. Arabic set texts and primary texts are supplied and there is a bibliography of secondary reading.

### ***Islamic Religion***

**Taught by Professor Fitzroy Morrissey & Dr Nora K. Schmid**

In Year 3, students will attend a total of 36 hours of lectures and seminars in Hilary and Trinity Terms and 6 tutorials and write 6 essays.

This paper is mandatory for students of Arabic as the sole language, Arabic with a subsidiary language, and EMEL. It is an introductory survey of the Islamic religious tradition, especially in Arabic. Lectures will provide an initial overview of important genres, themes, and concepts, while the reading seminars will be devoted to translating and analysing complementary primary sources. Tutorials and associated essays will involve some additional primary texts and current scholarship.

One-third of the final exam will consist of translation from Arabic into English. The other two thirds of the final examination will consist of essay questions.

## Further Subjects

Teaching for Further Subjects, usually in weekly classes or seminars with tutorials and essays every other week, is normally given in Trinity Term of Year 3. Exceptions will be noted in the list of options.

- Themes in Modern Arabic Literature: Literature and Nation
- Qur'an
- Art and Architecture in the Early Modern Empires of Islam
- The Middle East in the Age of Empire, 1830–1970
- Mountains, Religion, and Revolution in the Islamic World
- Wisdom in Classical Arabic Literature
- Society and Culture in the Middle East
- Sufism

### ***Themes in Modern Arabic Literature: Literature and Nation***

#### **Taught by Dr Yousif Qasmiyeh**

This class will be taught in weekly two-hour classes, including lectures and seminar-style classes with 4 tutorial essays. “Nation” is one of the most enduring and contentious concepts of our time. Social sciences and history have made use of nation and nationalism extensively and to important effect. However, it is in literature where concepts of nation and national identity are best observed. This has to do in part with the representational nature and the imaginative side to both. It has been argued, notably by Anderson, that literature, particularly the novel, is the medium through which nation has been represented, imagined and performed. The aim of the module is to explore the complexity and the diversity of nation and nationalism mainly through the novel.

Across the Further Subject, we will be looking at the processes and the art of representing the nation in seminal Arabic novels. Each refers us to a particular case of nation and nationalism and thus focuses our attention on the specificities of the nation-state; but also draws in other manifestations of nation and nationhood in the wider Arab World, such as pan-Arab nationalism and Islamic loyalties. We will be exploring Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon and Algeria through the eyes of the writers Naguib Mahfuz, Ahlam Mosteghanimi, Ghassan Kanafani, and Hanan al-Shaykh. Students are encouraged to explore additional configurations of the nation in other writers and even other cultural media in their tutorials.

### ***Qur'an***

#### **Taught by Dr Nora K. Schmid**

Students will attend weekly classes combining informal lectures and tutorial discussions. They will write four essays over the course of the term. This Further Subject will allow students to explore the Qur'anic corpus and its interpretation by later Muslims, going in much greater depth than the Islamic Religion paper. The paper will begin by reviewing recent debates on the controversial question of where and when the Qur'anic corpus originated and achieved textual closure. We will then turn to a detailed, textually based study of some of the Qur'an's principal theological doctrines and themes, such as eschatology (the end of the world and the afterlife) and monotheism. Throughout, we will pay some attention to how the later Islamic tradition has interpreted and, arguably, creatively transformed foundational Qur'anic concepts – for instance, by extending the idea of *shirk* (meaning the illicit “association” of other beings with God) to include not only the outright worship of deities other than Allāh but also various spiritual flaws exhibited by nominally Muslim believers.

### ***Art and Architecture in the Early Modern Empires of Islam***

**Course Co-ordinator: Professor Zeynep Yürekli-Görkay.**

Trinity Term, seven weekly classes in Weeks 1–7 + four tutorials for essays.

This paper covers the art and architecture of the early modern period in the eastern Islamic world from the beginning of the fifteenth century to the end of the seventeenth century. Weekly discussion sessions in Weeks 1–7 focus on the material presented in pre-recorded lectures, as well as assigned readings, which are made available online in advance. Tutorials are based on four essay topics chosen from a list. Last year's material (including pre-recorded lectures, assigned readings and essay topics) can be found here: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/228771/pages/art-and-architecture-in-the-early-modern-empires-of-islam>. Weekly topics may change from year to year.

### ***The Middle East in the Age of Empire, 1830-1970***

**Course Coordinator: Professor Eugene Rogan**

In Hilary Term of Year 3, students will attend 8 hours of lectures. In Trinity Term of Year 3, students will attend 4 tutorials and write 4 essays. This course will introduce students to the modern history of the Middle East and North Africa, focusing on the social and political history of the Arab world in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. From the occupation of Algiers in 1830 to the partition of the Ottoman empire in 1919, the Arab world struggled to come to terms with its changing position in a new imperial world order. The struggle to establish state sovereignty and national self-determination would prove no easier in the twentieth century. The course emphasises how Arab men and women adapted to changing circumstances and articulated their aspirations. The region will be approached from its 'peripheries' in the Gulf and North Africa, beginning with the changing commercial and political relations between British India and the coasts of the Arabian Peninsula, and between the Maghrib and southern Europe, in the early nineteenth century, and concluding with the independence of the Gulf states in 1971. Along the way, we shall consider the internal transformation and eventual breakup of the Ottoman empire, European colonisation of North Africa, the emergence and ambiguities of Arab nationalism, the struggle over Israel and Palestine, and the Suez war, the Algerian revolution, and the 'Black September' expulsion of the PLO from Jordan.

### ***Mountains, Religion, and Revolution in the Islamic World***

**Course Coordinator: Professor Christian Sahner**

This further subject explores the history of revolutionary movements in remote, inaccessible regions of the medieval Islamic world, especially mountains. Its goal is to investigate how geography and the natural environment affected the reach of empires in marginal areas; the capacity of such areas to violently resist imperial power and found breakaway states; and how new forms of Islam premised on opposition and dissent often arose among remote populations. The paper is diachronic, spanning the seventh to thirteenth centuries CE. It is also comparative, focusing on three key areas, including the Islamic West, Syria, and northern Iran around the Caspian Sea.

### **Wisdom in Classical Arabic Literature**

#### **Taught by Professor Tahera Qutbuddin**

Wisdom is an important theme in Classical Arabic literature and infuses most of its genres, religious and secular, articulating counsel and musings on life and death, virtue and vice, politics and piety, mundane and sublime. In this paper, we read excerpts from some of its best-known texts: The Qur'an, recounting the counsel of the prophet-sage Luqmān to his son (Surah 31, Luqmān); orations of pious counsel, sing. *khutba*, and wisdom sayings, sing. *ḥikma* (ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib, d. 40/661); "Mirror for Princes" animal fables translated from Old Persian/Sanskrit (*Kalīla wa-Dimna*, Ibn al-Muqaffa', d. ca. 137/755); various types of poetry—ascetic poetry, *zuhdiyyāt* (Abū al-ʿAtāhiya, d. 211/826), gnomic lament openings (Mutanabbī, d. 343/954), Sufi mystical poetry (Ibn al-Fāriḍ, d. 632/1235, Poem of the Way)—philosophical wisdom (*Tahdhīb al-akhlāq*, Miskawayh, d. 421/1030); and political/social satire in Shadow Plays, *Khayal al-Ẓill* (Ibn Dāniyāl, d. 710/1310). In our readings of these texts, we examine their aesthetic sensibilities as well as social, political, and religious underpinnings. Texts from additional genres and by other authors are read in translation. Two classes include a lecture each on the development of Classical Arabic prose and poetry.

### **Society and Culture in the Middle East**

#### **Taught by Professor Walter Armbrust**

Society and Culture in the Middle East is an undergraduate version of the graduate option Social Anthropology of the Middle East. The paper surveys anthropological literature on the region, touching on both "classic" ethnography and works published within the last few years. Social anthropology, identical with "cultural anthropology" as it is often called in the United States, is predicated on a long and often critical engagement with both a method ("fieldwork," or "participant observation") and a concept ("culture"). Readings touch on longstanding preoccupations of anthropology such as family, kinship, gender and religion, as well as more contemporary topics such as anthropology of nationalism, the state, neoliberalism and revolution. Vernacular language materials relevant to the scholarly literature can be provided. These include films, television shows and music, mostly in Egyptian colloquial (in a few instances available with subtitles); students may also find it beneficial to link anthropological themes to literature.

In Hilary Term Students will attend weekly lectures delivered jointly by Professor Armbrust and colleagues in the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography. Four tutorials and essays can be done in Hilary Term in conjunction with the lectures, or in Trinity Term. Students should attend the entire 8-week lecture series in Hilary Term whether they do the tutorials in Hilary Term or in Trinity Term. Students will be expected to write an essay for each tutorial.

### **Sufism**

#### **Taught by Professor Fitzroy Morrissey**

This paper offers students the opportunity to concentrate deeply on Sufism, the mystical dimension of Islam. Special attention will be given to the philosophical Sufism of the later Middle Ages, particularly the Sufi metaphysics of Ibn al-ʿArabī and his followers. We will read extracts from *Fuṣūṣ al-ḥikam* and its commentaries, assess the impact of Ibn ʿArabian thought in the Arab and Persianate worlds in the late medieval and early modern periods, and consider the relationship between this kind of philosophical Sufism and philosophy, *kalām*, and the law. The paper will be taught through eight seminar-style lectures, with an emphasis on the close reading of primary sources in Arabic, and four tutorials, for which students will prepare essays.

## Special Subjects

Teaching for Special Subjects will normally be given in Michaelmas Term of Year 4. The type and amount of teaching and tariff of written work varies between subjects but normally consists of weekly lectures and 6 tutorials with associated essays. The extended essay is due on the last Friday before the beginning of HT; the list of questions is published at the end of MT Week 4.

- Islam and the Study of Religion – Available from MT 2024
- Mass Media in the Middle East
- Art and Architecture in the Age of the Caliphates (ca. 622-1000)
- Islamic Law

### ***Islam and the Study of Religion***

#### **Taught by Professor Nicolai Sinai (available from MT 2024)**

This paper will be taught in Michaelmas Term of Year 4. Students will attend weekly classes combining informal lectures and tutorial discussions. They will write six essays over the course of the term.

The concept of religion is notoriously difficult to define and has emerged as a heavily contested category in recent debates. Some authors go so far as to argue that the concept serves to conceal substantial theological commitments that ought to have no place in descriptive historical scholarship or that it indefensibly subjects non-Western cultures to an alien conceptual matrix. Islamicate culture provides a fascinating test case for the question of whether the notion of religion is indeed nothing more than a construct of modern Western discourse, as maintained, e.g., in Brent Nongbri's 2013 monograph *Before Religion*. Beginning with the Qur'an, Muslims confronted a rich array of existing religious communities and traditions, including not only Judaism and Christianity but also Iranian religions such as Manichaeism and Zoroastrianism as well as the rich cultic and theological life of India. Muslim scholars also took a keen interest in the rituals of pre-Islamic Arabian polytheism, which served as an effective counterfoil to Qur'anic monotheism. The hypothesis to be examined throughout this paper is that from this wide range of exposure emerged the most conceptually sophisticated and empirically rich efforts at a descriptive account of human religion prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The paper will begin by discussing some recent publications that problematise the concept of religion and will then survey the gestation of this concept in modern European thought and review how 19<sup>th</sup>-century Western scholars taxonomised the religion of Islam. From roughly Week 4 onwards, we will be studying a number of pre-modern Islamic texts that engage with the extraordinary religious plurality of the Middle East and may be taken to presuppose or articulate different understandings of religion as an analytically identifiable sphere of human culture. These case studies include the Qur'an, Arabophone philosophers such as al-Fārābī (d. ca. 950) and the Jewish thinker Maimonides (d. 1204), the polymath al-Bīrūnī (d. after 1050) and his work on Indian religion, and al-Shahrastānī's (d. 1153) celebrated *Book of Religions and World Views* (*Kitāb al-Milal wa-l-Niḥal*)



***Art and Architecture in the Age of the Caliphates (ca. 622-1000).***

**Taught by Professor Alain George. Other participating staff may include Dr Umberto Bongianino and Dr Luke Treadwell.**

Please contact Professor Alain George with queries. In Michaelmas Term of Year 4, students will have weekly seminars and 4 tutorials, and write 4 essays. The course explores the rise and first classical phase of Islamic art in the age of the Umayyads and Abbasids through the study of mosques, palaces, calligraphy, and coinage.

***Mass Media in the Middle East***

**Taught by Professor Walter Armbrust**

In Michaelmas Term of Year 4, students will attend weekly lectures, 6 tutorials and write 6 essays. Mass Media in the Middle East approaches the study of media in the region historically and ethnographically, under the assumption that all ways of understanding the modern history and present condition of the region benefit from an appreciation of socially embedded media practices. The syllabus is structured by an analytic tension between technological and social determinism, and by focusing on “new media moments” in a historical sense: not a presentist fixation on such phenomena as “the al-Jazeera effect” or so-called “Facebook revolutions,” but rather the local social, political and cultural effects of modern mechanical media that emerged globally over the past two centuries. Readings examine “orality and literacy,” printing (with some attention to its relation to older manuscript traditions), early sound recording, cinema, terrestrial television broadcasting, the audio cassette, satellite broadcasting, and digital media. Most of the scholarly literature can be linked to written or audio-visual media accessible in either the library or from the internet.

***Islamic Law***

**Taught by Professor Fitzroy Morrissey**

**Will be first taught in MT 2024**

This paper will be taught in Michaelmas term of Year 4. Students will attend weekly seminar-style lectures and tutorials and will write six essays over the course of the term. The paper offers students the opportunity to gain further exposure to Islamic legal literature following the introduction to Islamic law in the core Islamic Religion module. We will read works of Islamic legal theory (*uṣūl al fiqh*), both Sunni and Shi'i, including passages from the *Risāla* of al-Shāfi'i (d. 204/820), *Ikhtilāf uṣūl al-madhāhib* by al-Qāḍī al-Nu'mān (d. 567/1171), and al-Shāḥibī's (d. 790/1388) *al-Muwāfaqāt fī uṣūl al-sharī'a*. Students will consider, among other topics, the relationship between Islamic legal theory and theology and the ways in which particular jurisprudential principles (e.g. consensus, analogy, and the purposes of the law) are treated in these works. We will also read extracts from works on substantive law (*furū'*) and the differences between the schools (*ikhtilāf*), such as the *Muḥallā* of the Zāhirī Ibn Ḥazm (d. 456/1064), *Minhāj al-ṭālibīn* of the Shāfi'i jurist al-Nawawī (d. 676/1277), and the Mālikī Ibn Rushd's (d. 595/1198) *Bidāyat al-mujtahid*. Students will look at how jurists from the different legal schools treat specific questions of substantive law, such as the laws around marriage, interaction with adherents of other religions, and chess. They will be asked to analyse the ways in which the different schools argue for their rules and to consider the influence of historical context on the development of the law. The paper will also cover fundamental questions such as the meaning of “law” in an Islamic context and the extent to which Islam should be considered a “nomocratic” religion.

### How to sign up for a Further or Special Subject

The form to submit your choices can be found [here](#) (deadline 12 noon Monday, week 6 Hilary Term). Please ensure the form is signed by the staff member(s) teaching your chosen subjects. This is to ensure you are studying an appropriate choice and that there is sufficient teaching capacity available. Forms without these signatures will be rejected and as numbers are limited you may not get a place on your chosen subject. In order to spread the teaching load between staff members, options are nominally capped at 5 students each, although exceptions can be made depending on the yearly student intake, capacity of the individual tutor and the approval of the course coordinator.

## European and Middle Eastern Languages (EMEL) with Arabic

The course of Arabic study for EMEL differs from Arabic only in the number of papers taken. The content of the papers is the same as described above. Further information can be found in the EMEL handbook. Please contact [catherine.pillonel@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.pillonel@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk) for access to the relevant handbooks.

In Year 1, students do not take the paper Islamic History and Culture, but are encouraged to attend all or any of the lectures in this course if they do not clash with their Modern Languages timetable, as they will help in preparation for both the Year Abroad and FHS.

In Years 3 and 4, students do not take the paper Islamic History, and choose one option from the list of Further Subjects.

Instead of the dissertation, students will write an Extended or “Bridge/Bridging” Essay on a subject of their own choice that brings together Arabic and the Modern European language around a common topic, co-supervised to the same tariff as a dissertation by a tutor in MML and a tutor in AMES. You will receive 2 hours of tutorials from AMES and 2 hours from Modern and Medieval Languages during Hilary term specifically for your bridging essay.

Please note supervisors should normally come from within the AMES Faculty for the Bridging Essay. In exceptional circumstances, students may be supervised by other individuals, but students must seek and obtain **explicit** permission from both the potential supervisor, the Arabic Course Coordinator and their individual college tutor by the beginning of Michaelmas Term of Y4.

The two written Arabic language papers and the Arabic oral count as half papers at FHS, but you will follow the same course of study for them as students reading Arabic. The two written papers will be shorter; students doing EMEL will take two 1.5-hour papers. For Paper 1 (Unprepared Translation and Comprehension), EMEL students will translate one piece of Modern Standard Arabic and one piece of pre-modern Arabic into English. For Paper 2 (Composition in Arabic), EMEL students will translate one passage (out of a choice of two) of English into idiomatic Modern Standard Arabic. Students are advised to look at past papers to familiarise themselves with the examinations.

### Language Classes attended by EMEL students:

#### Year 1

Elementary Arabic	2 hours 5 days a week, all terms
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#### Year 2 – Year abroad

#### Year 3

Language Development	2 hours a week
Oral Arabic	2 hours every other week
Arabic Listening Lab	2 hours every other week
Arabic Language Tutorials	4, 1-hour tutorials every term

Islamic Religion Lectures	3 hours per week, weeks 5 – 8 of Hilary term and all of Trinity term
Islamic Religion Tutorials	6 tutorials over weeks 5 – 8 of Hilary term and all of Trinity term
Arabic Literature Lectures	2 hours per week, Michaelmas and Hilary terms
Arabic Literature Tutorials	6 Tutorials over Michaelmas and Hilary terms, organised by the Faculty
Further Subject teaching	Weekly lectures of 1 – 3 hours. Biweekly tutorials organised by the Further Subject tutor.

#### **Year 4**

Language Development	2 hours once a week
Oral Arabic	2 hours every other week
Arabic Listening Lab	2 hours every other week
Arabic Language Tutorials	4, 1-hour tutorials every term

Arabic as a Subsidiary Language with an AMES language (also known as Additional Arabic or Subsidiary Arabic)

**Language Paper for Subsidiary Arabic (as 2nd Language): Prose Composition and Unprepared Translation)**

This paper is compulsory. The classes are shared with postgraduate students.

**Year 1:**

In Y1, over three terms, your Arabic language teaching will be based on *Alif Baa* and volumes 1 and 2 of *al-Kitaab*. This will lead you through all the basic grammar of Modern Standard Arabic at elementary level.

**Classes, Lectures and Tutorials Year 1**

Arabic English Translation	6 hours of classes per week. All terms
Additional Arabic: Classical literary texts Lectures	3 hours per week during Trinity term
Additional Arabic: Classical literary texts Tutorials	4 hours during Trinity term

**You will need the following textbooks and reference works, which you should buy before the start of Y1.**

Al-Batal, M., Al-Tonsi, A. and Brustad, K. 2004. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-ʿArabiyya with DVD: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic Part One*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Washington D.C.: George Town University Press.

Al-Batal, M., Al-Tonsi, A. and Brustad, K. 2005. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-ʿArabiyya with DVDs: A Textbook for Arabic Part Two*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Washington D.C.: George Town University Press.

Al-Batal, M., Al-Tonsi, A. and Brustad, K. 2010. *Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Washington D.C.: George Town University Press.

Cowan, D. 1958 and reprs. *Modern Literary Arabic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (reference grammar).

Dickins, James and Watson, Janet, 1999, repr. 2017. *Practical Arabic* (Students' Book): Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Year 2:**

In Year 2 you will receive two hours of language tutorials per week. These tutorials focus on developing the following three competencies: translation from classical Arabic into English; translation from modern Arabic into English; translation from English into modern Arabic, using Dickins and Watson, *Standard Arabic: An Advances Course*, as your textbook. This will equip you for the FHS Arabic Language paper.

In Y1 and Y2, language teaching will give you an applied competence in contemporary Arabic, while the Literature and Religion text papers will add historical understanding of the language.

**Classes, Lectures and Tutorials Year 2**

Language Tutorials Arabic Literary Texts Islamic Texts	2 hours per week, all terms
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## Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (Arabic)

### **Language Paper for Subsidiary Arabic (as 2nd Language): Prose Composition and Unprepared Translation)**

#### **Year 1:**

In Y1, over three terms, your Arabic language teaching will be based on *Alif Baa* and volumes 1 and 2 of *al-Kitaab*, and will lead you through all the basic grammar of Modern Standard Arabic at elementary level.

#### **Classes, Lectures and Tutorials Year 1**

Arabic English Translation	6 hours of classes per week. All terms
Additional Arabic: Classical literary texts Lectures	3 hours per week during Trinity term
Additional Arabic: Classical literary texts Tutorials	4 hours during Trinity term

**You will need the following textbooks and reference works, which you should buy before the start of Y1.**

Al-Batal, M., Al-Tonsi, A. and Brustad, K. 2004. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-ʿArabiyya with DVD: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic Part One*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Washington D.C.: George Town University Press.

Al-Batal, M., Al-Tonsi, A. and Brustad, K. 2005. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-ʿArabiyya with DVDs: A Textbook for Arabic Part Two*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Washington D.C.: George Town University Press.

Al-Batal, M., Al-Tonsi, A. and Brustad, K. 2010. *Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Washington D.C.: George Town University Press.

Cowan, D. 1958 and reprs. *Modern Literary Arabic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (reference grammar).

Dickins, James and Watson, Janet, 1999, repr. 2017. *Practical Arabic (Students' Book)*: Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Year 2:**

In Year 2 you will receive two hours of language tutorials per week. These tutorials focus on developing the following three competencies: translation from classical Arabic into English; translation from modern Arabic into English; translation from English into modern Arabic, using Dickins and Watson, *Practical Arabic*, as your textbook. This will equip you for the FHS Arabic Language paper.

In Y1 and Y2, language teaching will give you an applied competence in contemporary Arabic, while the Literature and Religion text papers will add historical understanding of the language.

**Classes, Lectures and Tutorials Year 2**

Language Tutorials	2 hours per week, all terms
Additional Arabic: Literary Texts (Modern)	2 hours of class per week, and 4 tutorials Hilary Term
Additional Arabic: Islamic Texts	16 hours of classes across Michaelmas Term

More information can be found in the [Classics Handbook](#).



## Subsidiary Arabic Language Teaching

### ***Arabic as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Language (Y1 and Y2)***

**Taught by Dr Husam Haj Omar and Dr Marco Brandl (Y1), Dr Marco Brandl (Y2)**

In Y1, over three terms, your Arabic language teaching will lead you through all the basic grammar of Modern Standard Arabic at elementary level. This will equip you to start reading the Classical Arabic set texts of the Arabic Literature paper in TT of Y1. In Y2, you will progress to intermediate level, revising the grammar of Y1 by practising translating into and out of MSA; meanwhile you will be reading Modern set texts for the Literature paper and further Classical Arabic texts for the Islamic Texts paper. The Y1 and Y2 language teaching will give you an applied competence in the contemporary language, to which the Literature and Islamic Text papers will add an understanding of the history of the language. You are strongly encouraged to arrange a period of summer study abroad after Y1, and are eligible to apply for help with funding it from the [James Mew Fund](#).

### ***Arabic as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Language Literary Texts***

**Taught by Professor Tahera Qutbuddin (Classical) and Professor Mohamed-Salah Omri (Modern)**

For Classical texts, students will attend weekly 2-hour lectures/seminars in Trinity Term of the first year. For Modern texts, students will attend weekly 2-hour lectures/seminars in Michaelmas Term of the second year. They will have 4 tutorials and write 4 essays in each of Classical and Modern. This paper is mandatory for students reading Arabic as a subsidiary language and Classics with Arabic.

The Classical Literature texts and further reading are focused on wisdom and wisdom literature and will follow the same course as the Further Subject in Wisdom in Classical Arabic Literature (see list of options papers above). The modern component of this paper provides an introduction to Modern Arabic Literature through original texts. Students will read a full play and three short stories written in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. English translations are also available.

### ***Arabic: Islamic Texts (for students of Arabic as a subsidiary language)***

**Taught by Dr Nora K. Schmid**

Students will attend 16 hours of classes, combining informal lectures, reading seminars, and tutorial discussions. These classes will take place throughout Michaelmas Term

This paper is mandatory for students reading Religion with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies with a focus on Islam (paper IS2, "Islamic Texts", taken MT of the second year of study) and for students who are reading Arabic as a subsidiary language and Classics with Arabic (paper 3, "Additional Arabic: Islamic Texts", taken in MT of the final year). The purpose of this paper is to introduce students to the interpretation of Islamic primary sources in Arabic. Classes will focus on the Qur'an and early Islam, on the emergence of Islamic law and legal hermeneutics (*uṣūl al-fiqh*), and on the Sufi tradition. Students will write at least one tutorial essay on each of these subjects

One-third of the final exam will consist of translation from Arabic into English. The other two thirds of the final exam will consist in essay questions.

## Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

**Language Teaching - Taught by Dr Otared Haidar, Dr Husam Haj Omar, Mr Taj Kandoura and Dr Marco Brandl (Y1) and Dr Marco Brandl (Ys 2&3)**

### Year 1

Elementary Arabic	2 hours, 5 day a week
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The goal of the Arabic language paper is to help you develop an assisted reading ability in texts germane to religion. By the end of the course, you will demonstrate this ability by translating set language passages into English with commentary, in addition to completing exercises that show that you have a basic grasp of grammar, syntax, reference and connotation. In Year 1, your primary focus will be to learn the fundamentals of Arabic grammar and vocabulary, with a focus on MSA. You will take about 10 hours of language classes per week, and will also be expected to prepare for these classes and consolidate your learning in your own time. Y1 Language is identical with the BA Arabic and BA EMEL Arabic Language Prelims.

### Year 2

Arabic Language Tutorials	2 hours per week, MT and HT
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The focus will shift more specifically onto Classical Arabic. Each term, you will attend two weekly tutorials during which you will develop more thoroughly your understanding of Classical Arabic grammar and vocabulary using a variety of authentic texts. Similar to the previous year, you will be expected to prepare for these classes, as well as consolidate the material learnt in your own time.

### Year 3

Arabic Language Tutorials	2 hours per week, TT
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We will shift our focus more specifically onto the texts that are relevant to your final examination; these will be a mixture of set texts and comparable material. Using a wealth of authentic literature, we will use our two weekly tutorials to translate from Classical Arabic into English, in addition to enhancing your ability to provide grammatical commentary on these texts as well as to vocalise them.

Teaching in Years 2 and 3 prepares you for the FHS Arabic Language paper, which consists of translation into English from Arabic set texts that are relevant to Islamic Religion. The set texts are taken from Brünnow, Rudolph-Ernst, and Fischer, August, *Chrestomathy of Classical Arabic Prose Literature*, 8th edn., rev. Lutz Edzard and Amund Bjorsnos (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2008).

Candidates may also choose up to three of the following options (and must choose at least one) from the following:

- Sufism
- Qur'an
- Topics in Islamic Law
- Islam & Gender

More information is available in the Faculty of Theology and Religion Course Handbooks found [here](#).

## Collections

Collections are an integral part of the course and are an opportunity for you to assess your learning and identify any areas you may need to work on. Collections are usually sat in person within the Pusey Lane Building Friday of 0<sup>th</sup> week. The exception to this is the Additional Arabic Language collection which is usually sat in College.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Students</b>
MT	Islamic History	4	Arabic
MT	YA Return	3	Arabic/EMEL
HT	Islamic Religion	4	Arabic/EMEL
HT	Language	1	Y1
HT	Arabic: Composition in Arabic	4	Arabic/EMEL
TT	Language	1	Y1
TT	Arabic Literature	3	Arabic/EMEL
TT	Additional Arabic Language	4	COS/Subsid (in college)
TT	Arabic: Unprepared Translation into English and Comprehension	3	Arabic/EMEL

## Teaching Staff

- Dr [Ahmed Al-Shahi](#), Research Fellow (St Antony's)
- Professor [Walter Armbrust](#), Professor in Modern Middle Eastern Studies (St Antony's)
- Dr Ashraf Abdou, Lecturer in Arabic
- Dr [Umberto Bongianino](#), Departmental Lecturer in Islamic Art and Architecture (Wolfson)
- Dr Marco Brandl, Departmental Lecturer in Arabic/Modern Islamic Thought
- Professor [Alain Fouad George](#), I.M. Pei Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture (Wolfson)
- Dr [Otared Haidar](#), Lecturer in Arabic (Wadham)
- Dr [Husam Haj Omar](#), Lecturer in Arabic (St Antony's)
- Dr [Laura Hassan](#), Associate Faculty
- Professor Raihan Ismail, the His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani Professor in Contemporary Islamic studies (St. Antony's)
- Dr [Nadia Jamil](#) – on leave 2018-24, Senior Language Lecturer; Senior Researcher DocuMult Project Khalili Research Centre (Wolfson)
- Mr [Tajalsir Kandoura](#), Lecturer in Arabic (Pembroke)
- Professor Fitzroy Morrissey, Associate Professor in Islamic Studies and Law (Pembroke).
- Professor [Mohamed-Salah Omri](#), Professor in Modern Arabic Language and Literature (St John's)
- Professor [Philip Robins](#), Professor of Middle East Politics (St Antony's)
- Professor [Eugene Rogan](#), Professor in the Modern History of the Middle East (St Antony's)
- Professor [Christian Sahner](#), Associate Professor of Islamic History (New College).
- Dr [Nora K. Schmid](#), Departmental Lecturer in Islamic Studies
- Professor [Nicolai Sinai](#), Professor of Islamic Studies (Pembroke)
- Professor [Luke Treadwell](#), Samir Shamma Associate Professor in Islamic Numismatics (St Cross)
- Dr [Michael Willis](#), University Research Lecturer and H.M. King Mohammed VI Fellow in Moroccan and Mediterranean Studies (St Antony's)
- Professor [Tahera Qutbuddin](#), the Abdulaziz Saud AlBabtain Laudian Professor of Arabic (St John's)

## Examinations and Assessments

Please refer to the [Examination Regulations for Prelims and FHS in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#).

In Trinity Term of Year 1, students will sit 3 written examinations and 1 oral/aural examination. Students must pass all 4 papers to proceed into Year 2 of the course.

Please refer to the [conventions](#) for Prelims and FHS examinations for the papers to be taken, available on Canvas towards the end of Michaelmas Term.

In Trinity Term of Year 4, students will take a total of 9 examinations and will submit their dissertations in week 10 of Hilary Term.

Please refer to the [conventions](#) for FHS examinations for detail of compulsory papers, and papers for Arabic with Islamic Studies and History and Arabic with a subsidiary language.

## Deadlines

Date	Calendar date	Year of Course	Event	HOW
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Week Trinity Term	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	1	Provisional start date of Prelims examinations.	
30 <sup>th</sup> August	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	2	Requests to take a subsidiary language	Obtain the conditional agreement of your college tutor and the Course Coordinators of Arabic and of the subsidiary language. You must also inform the administration team by sending an email to <a href="mailto:undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk">undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk</a> .
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Week Hilary Term	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	3	Deadline for applications for approval for further subjects, special subjects.  Includes Joint Honours (EMEL) students taking Arabic.	<b>FHS Applications for approval form</b> Form to be sent to the Administration team at ( <a href="mailto:undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk">undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk</a> )  Find the options form on the <a href="#">Student Hub here</a> (SSO required). You can also request it by emailing the Administration team.
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> Week Michaelmas Term	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	4	Deadline for exam entry.	Via Student self service
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> Week Michaelmas Term	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	4	Question paper for Special Subject extended	Via Inespera

			essays available from the Faculty Office.	
Monday 0 <sup>th</sup> Week Hilary	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	4	Deadline for application for approval for dissertation title	<b>FHS Applications for approval form</b> The form will be distributed by the Academic Administration team towards the end of Michaelmas Term.
12 noon Friday 0 <sup>th</sup> Week Hilary Term	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	4	Deadline for submission of Special Subject extended essays.	Via Inspira
12 noon, Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Week Hilary Term	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024	4	Deadline for submission of dissertation.	Via Inspira
0 <sup>th</sup> Week Trinity Term	15 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	4	Oral examinations in Arabic. Timetables available about 5 weeks before. Prompts published via email 24 hours prior to examination	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Week Trinity Term	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	4	Provisional start date of FHS examinations	

### Canvas

Click [here](#) for the BA Arabic Canvas page. Canvas is the Oxford University virtual learning platform. Important documents are stored here such as the conventions and rubrics along with other useful information such as Dissertation guides.

## Set Texts and Recommended Readings

More information about libraries is available in the General Undergraduate handbook [found here](#).

(Recommended Reading is reading you should do in preparation for the course):

### Textbooks for Year 1 Arabic Language (BA Arabic and EMEL)

Alif Baa, (3<sup>rd</sup> edition).

Al-Kitaab fi Ta'allum al- 'Arabiyya, (Vol. I, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition).

Al-Kitaab fi Ta'allum al- 'Arabiyya, (Vol. II, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition).

### **Recommended reading for all students of Arabic Literature:**

Overall reference (Classical and Modern)

- Julie Scott Meisami and Paul Starkey (eds.). *Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature*. London; New York: Routledge, 1998 and reprints (2 vols.)
- The Qur'ān in a bilingual edition (many available, in print and online; N. J. Dawood in Penguin Classics is well indexed and easy to use)

For information on authors of Classical set texts

- Michael Cooperson and Shawkat M. Toorawa (eds.). *Arabic Literary Culture, 500-925*. Detroit; London: Thomson Gale, 2005 (Dictionary of Literary Biography, vol. 311), continued as:
- Roger Allen, Terri de Young, et al. (eds.). *Essays in Arabic Literary Biography, 950-1350*, and Joseph E. Lowry and Devin J. Stewart (eds.). *Essays in Literary Biography, 1350-1850*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2009

For problems and issues in Classical Arabic literature

- Julia Bray (ed.). *Writing and Representation in Medieval Islam*. London; New York: Routledge, 2006

For social and historical background

- Hugh Kennedy. *The Court of the Caliphs*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2004;
- Hugh Kennedy. *The Prophet and the age of the caliphates*. Third edition. London: Routledge, 2015;
- Adam Mez. *The Renaissance of Islam*. Salahuddin Khuda Bukhsh and D.S. Margoliouth (tr.). Patna: Jubilee Printing and Publishing House, 1937;
- Muhsin Al-Musawi. *The medieval Islamic republic of letters*. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 2015

### Students of Arabic and EMEL:

#### **Recommended Anthologies for Classical Arabic Literature (all set texts provided in class)**

Robert Irwin, *The Penguin Anthology of Classical Arabic Literature*, 2006 [**PACAL**]; the exact work with the same pagination is also published as *Night & Horses & the Desert: An Anthology of Classical Arabic Literature*, 2001]. [Read ahead of term](#).

Geert Jan van Gelder, *Classical Arabic Literature: A Library of Arabic Literature Anthology*, 2013 [**CAL**]. Online at SOLO. [Read ahead of term](#).

A.J. Arberry, *Arabic Poetry: A Primer for Students*, 2010 (reprint of 1965 1st ed.)

### Set texts for Modern Arabic Literature

1. M. al-Muwaylihi: *Hadith 'Isa ibn Hisham*, Chapter 2.
2. Khalil Jibran: extracts from *'Ara'is al-muruj* ("Marta al-Baniyya")
3. Mahmud Tahir Lashin: *Hadith al-qarya*
4. Yusif Idris: *Bayt min lahm*
5. Zakariyya Tamir: *Shams saghira*
6. Ghada al-Samman: *Qat`ra's al-qitt*
7. Abu 'l- Qasim al-Shabbi (*Fi zill wadi'l-mawt*)
8. Salah 'Abd al-Sabur (*Hajama al-tatar*)
9. Khalil Hawi (*al-Bahhar wa'l-darwish*)

### Additional Arabic: Literary Texts (all set texts provided in class)

Recommended Anthologies for Classical Arabic Literature:

- Robert Irwin, *The Penguin Anthology of Classical Arabic Literature*, 2006 [PACAL]; the exact work with the same pagination is also published as *Night & Horses & the Desert: An Anthology of Classical Arabic Literature*, 2001].
- Geert Jan van Gelder, *Classical Arabic Literature: A Library of Arabic Literature Anthology*, 2013 [CAL]. Online at SOLO.
- A.J. Arberry, *Arabic Poetry: A Primer for Students*, 2010 (reprint of 1965 1st ed.)

For background for Classical literature:

- J. Bray, "Arabic literature" = chapter 4 of *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, vol. 4, ed. Robert Irwin: *Islamic Cultures and Societies to the End of the Eighteenth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp.383-413.
- *The Cambridge History of Arabic Literature*. Cambridge: University of Cambridge Press, 1983-2008; multiple editors and volumes. Available on SOLO.

Modern set texts:

- Tawfīq al-Ḥakīm, *Ughniyat al-mawt*.
- Maḥmūd Ṭāhir Lāshīn, *Ḥadīth al-qarya*.
- Yūsuf Idrīs, *Bayt min laḥm*.
- Imīl Ḥabībī, *al-Kharaza al-zarqā' wa 'awdat Jubayna*.

### Recommended reading for [Islamic History](#):

- Cook, ed., *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, 2010
- Berkey, *The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society in the Near East*, 2003
- Kennedy, *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates*, 2004
- Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, 2014
- Lewis, *The Arabs in History*, 2002

### Recommended reading for [Islamic Religion](#):

- Brown, Jonathan A. C. *Hadith: Muhammad's Legacy in the Medieval and Modern World*. Oxford: Oneworld, 2009.
- Morrissey, Fitzroy. *A Short History of Islamic Thought*. London: Head of Zeus, 2021.
- Karamustafa, Ahmet T. *Sufism: The Formative Period*. Edinburgh: University Press, 2007.
- Schacht, Joseph. *An Introduction to Islamic Law*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1964.
- Sinai, Nicolai. *The Qur'an: A Historical-Critical Introduction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017.



**Recommended reading for [Islamic Art, Architecture and Archaeology](#) (both the Further Subject and the Special Subject):**

- Sheila S. Blair and Jonathan M. Bloom, *The Art and Architecture of Islam, 1250–1800*, New Haven and London: Pelican History of Art and Yale University Press, 1994.
- Sheila S. Blair and Jonathan M. Bloom, *Islamic Art*, London: Phaidon, 1997.
- Richard Ettinghausen, Oleg Grabar, Marilyn-Jenkins-Madina, *Islamic Art and Architecture 650–1250*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, Pelican History of Art, 2001.
- Markus Hattstein and Peter Delius, *Islam: Art and Architecture*, Cologne: Könemann, 2001.
- Robert Hillenbrand, *Islamic Art and Architecture*, London: Thames and Hudson, 1999.
- Robert Irwin, *Islamic Art in Context: Art, Architecture and the Literary World*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1997.
- Fairchild D. Ruggles, *Islamic Art and Visual Culture: An Anthology of Sources*, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

**Recommended reading for Islam and the Study of Religion:**

- Abbasi, Rushain. 2021. "Islam and the Invention of Religion: A Study of Medieval Muslim Discourses on *Dīn*." *Studia Islamica* (2021) 116: 1–106.
- Nongbri, Brent. *Before Religion: A History of a Modern Concept*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013.
- Smith, Jonathan Z. "Religion, Religions, Religious." In Jonathan Z. Smith, *Relating Religion: Essays in the Study of Religion*, 179–196. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.
- Smith, Wilfred Cantwell. *The Meaning and End of Religion*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991 (originally published New York: Macmillan, 1963).

**Recommended reading for [Qur'an](#):**

- Durie, Mark. *The Qur'an and Its Biblical Reflexes: Investigations into the Genesis of a Religion*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2018.
- Neuwirth, Angelika. *The Qur'an and Late Antiquity: A Shared Heritage*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- Reynolds, Gabriel S. *Allah: God in the Qur'an*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020.
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**Recommended reading for *Mountains, Religion, and Revolution in the Islamic World***

- Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World, 1972-73*
- Patricia Crone, *Pre-Industrial Societies: Anatomy of the Pre-Modern World*, 2003
- Patricia Crone, *The Nativist Prophets of Early Islamic Iran: Rural Revolt and Local Zoroastrianism*, 2012
- Farhad Daftary, *The Ismā'īlīs: Their History and Doctrines*, 2007
- Mercedes García-Arenal, *Messianism and Puritanical Reform: Mahdīs of the Muslim West*, 2006
- Xavier de Planhol, *The World of Islam*, 1959
- Hodge Mehdi Malek, *The Dābūyid Ispahbads and Early 'Abbāsīd Governors of Ṭabaristān: History and Numismatics*, 2004
- Kamal Salibi, *A House of Many Mansions: The History of Lebanon Reconsidered*, 1988
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***Set Texts for Themes in Modern Arabic Literature: Literature and Nation***

Set texts available in English and in Arabic

- Mahfuz, Naguib. *Miramar*. New York: Anchor Books, 1993.
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