

# Attention!

This is a representative syllabus. The syllabus for the course you are enrolled in will likely be different.

Please refer to your instructor's syllabus for more information on specific requirements for a given semester.

**Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures**

**Arabic 621**  
**Origin and Development of Arabic-Islamic Concepts**

Instructor:

Office:

Office Hours:

E-mail:

Class location:

Schedule:

Course number:

Credit:

**DESCRIPTION**

An examination of Arabic-Islamic terminology.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

After centuries of studies of various aspects of the Islamic world, the original meaning of major Islamic concepts seems to be hopelessly lost in translation. If this observation seems to be invalid for a small number of scholars, it is more than valid for those “public” experts as well as for the mass of recipients of knowledge regarding Islam. Islam continues to be widely considered as exotic, strange and incomprehensible, mainly because its ideal structure was established in a totally different cultural context. This impression persists under circumstances of heightened interest in this religion and its world.

Major Islamic concepts were originally formulated in Arabic terms. They came into being not out of nothing, but were developed in an Arabic cultural context. They were subsequently adopted by the various languages of Muslim society. Their original meanings in Arabic and the way they were used in medieval Arabic writings should be studied so that they can be understood adequately. The goal of this course is to study a number of Islamic key concepts in Arabic and the clusters of terms related to them in order to uncover important connotations which are connected to their original meaning. The terms will be taken first as lexemes. Then the development of their meanings, as they occur in the Qur’an and early theological, juridical and philosophical writings as well as in Arabic literature, will be examined in order to uncover their original semantic fields and to what extent they changed.

**EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of this course, students will be able to understand the original meanings of important Islamic concepts and how they developed.

**PREREQUISITES**

Arabic 401 or permission of instructor.

## REQUIREMENTS, WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMINATIONS

### ATTENDANCE

Missing more than two classes will result in a grade reduction. In case of illness or family emergency the instructor should be informed before the missed class if possible. Doctors' excuses are not necessary. If you miss a class, it is essential to keep up with the readings.

### CLASS PARTICIPATION

The course will be run as a seminar. The required primary texts should be prepared at home to be discussed in class. Careful reading and background information are required. This course will consist of researching and discussing a number of Arabic-Islamic terms as they are entered in the classical Arabic lexica or found in the Qur'an or other primary sources. Thus most of the reading for the course will be done in these sources, focusing on the specific terms assigned for preparation on a weekly basis.

### ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Each student will have the opportunity to present a primary and a secondary text and lead the discussion on it. Students will be asked to prepare an outline and bibliography for the other class members. Students taking this course for undergraduate credit will make one such presentation; graduate students will be expected to make two of them.

### EXAMINATIONS

There will be take-home Midterm and Final Examinations. Both exams will require translation of texts related to the terms being studied. Students taking this course for undergraduate credit will select to translate one of the three texts assigned; students taking the course for graduate credit will translate their choice of two of the three texts.

The midterm exam will be done in the fifth week of classes. The final exam will be comprehensive, covering all of the course material. The dates of these exams cannot be changed. No make-up exams will be scheduled.

### STUDENT EVALUATION

Participation:	20 %
Oral Presentation:	25 %
Midterm Exam:	20 %
Final Examination:	35 %

Grading Scale: 94-100 = A; 90-93 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 84-86 = B; 80-83 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 74-76 = C; 70-73 = C-; 65-69 = D+; 60-64 = D; below 60 = E.

### TEXTBOOKS

#### **REQUIRED PRIMARY TEXTS (available in the Middle East/Islamica reading room, Main Library):**

Classical Arabic lexica, such as *Lisān al-'Arab*, *al-Qāmūs*, *Tāj al-'Arūs*

Philological sources, such as al-Farāhīdī's *Kitāb al-ʿAyn*, al-Jurjānī's *Kitāb at-taʿrīfāt*  
The Qurʾān

Major commentaries on the Qurʾān: Tabarī, Zamakhsharī, Rāzī.

**REQUIRED SECONDARY TEXTS (available either in the Middle East/Islamica reading room or on closed reserve, Main Library):**

Relevant articles of the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (EI<sup>2</sup>); *Encyclopedia of Islam*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (EI<sup>3</sup>); *Encyclopaedia of the Qurʾān* (EQ).

Bonner, Michael, *Jihad in Islamic History: Doctrines and Practice*, Princeton 2008.

Lewis, Bernard, "Siyāsa", in A. H. Green (ed.), *In Quest of an Islamic Humanism. Arabic and Islamic Studies in memory of Mohamed al-Nowaihi*, Cairo 1984, pp. 3–14.

Lewis, Bernard, *The Political Language of Islam*, Chicago 1988.

Najjar, Fauzi, "Siyasa in Islamic Political Philosophy", in Michael E. Marmura (ed.), *Islamic Theology and Philosophy. Studies in Honor of George F. Hourani*, Albany 1984, pp. 92–110.

Pines, Shlomo, "Shīʿite Terms and Conceptions in Judah Halevi's *Kuzari*", in *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*, 2 (1980): 165–251.

Additional texts may be assigned, as appropriate.

## DISABILITY SERVICES

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

## ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all

instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info\\_for\\_students/csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp)).

## **SCHEDULE:**

### **Week 1**

Introduction, Discussion of the Syllabus.

Religious Terminology: Allâh; imân, kufr, shirk, zandaqa; dîn

### **Week 2**

Religious Terminology: aslama/islâm; âya

Religious Terminology: ahl (- al-kitâb, - al-bayt, - al-sunnah wa-l-jamâ'a, many usages in idâfa)

### **Week 3**

Religious Terminology: dunyâ; âkhira; qadâ' wa qadar

Religious Terminology: fiqh; kalâm; tarîqa; usûl; ijma'

### **Week 4**

Religious Terminology: qur'ân; hadîth; sharî'a

Religious Terminology: wahy; tanzîl; hudûd; ijtihâd

### **Week 5**

Religious-Political Terminology: shî'a, sunna

#### **Reading:**

Pines, Shlomo, "Shî'ite Terms and Conceptions in Judah Halevi's *Kuzari*", in *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*, 2 (1980): 165–251.

#### **Midterm Examination (DATE)**

### **Week 6**

Religious-Political Terminology: jihâd

Religious-Political Terminology: amr (ulû'l-amr, amîr (al-mu'minîn); khalîfa/khilâfa; fitna; fasâd

#### **Reading:**

Bonner, Michael, *Jihad in Islamic History: Doctrines and Practice*, Princeton 2008.

### **Week 7**

Religious-Political Terminology: umma

Political Terminology: dawla; madîna

#### **Readings:**

Lewis, Bernard, "Siyâsa", in A. H. Green (ed.), *In Quest of an Islamic Humanism. Arabic and Islamic Studies in memory of Mohamed al-Nowaihi*, Cairo 1984, pp. 3–14.

Lewis, Bernard, *The Political Language of Islam*, Chicago 1988.

**Week 8**

Political Terminology: siyâsa; ra'îs;

Political Terminology: 'adl/qist; zulm

Reading:

Najjar, Fauzi, "Siyasa in Islamic Political Philosophy", in Michael E. Marmura (ed.), *Islamic Theology and Philosophy. Studies in Honor of George F. Hourani*, Albany 1984, pp. 92–110.

**Week 9**

Philosophical and Literary Terminology: hikma; husn; 'ilm, fann, adab, ma'rifa

Literary Terminology: khabar; qawl; shi'r; târîkh

**Week 10**

Sociological Terminology: ijtimâ'; 'imâra, 'imrân

**Final Examination (DATE)**

## Stafford Noble

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**From:** eca@osu.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 08, 2009 10:46 AM  
**To:** davis.77@osu.edu; noble.3@osu.edu  
**Subject:** HUM ARABIC Course # 621. Available for Scheduling

The Scheduling Office has entered the following into the course catalog: HUM ARABIC course # 621..

The course is now available for scheduling. If you have any questions about the scheduling process, please contact the University Registrar Office via email at:

[850@exchange.ureg.ohio-state.edu](mailto:850@exchange.ureg.ohio-state.edu)

NOTE: This is a system generated email message. Please do not reply directly to this message.