

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.

Arabic 5627: Classical Arabic Poetry (Autumn 2017)
Meeting Times:
Meeting Location:

Instructor:
Instructor Email:
Office:
Office Hours:

This course serves as a bridge between intermediate Arabic language study and the advanced study of Arabic literature. We will focus on several primary sources, all of them classics of the premodern Arabic poetic tradition, and read them with the help of standard premodern and modern Arabic commentaries. In so doing, we will gain a better understanding of the genres, meters, diction, conventions, and motifs of pre-modern Arabic poetry as well as skill in reading technical prose and using commentaries.

All primary readings will be made available via Carmen Courses. In trying to understand difficult words and constructions, we will refer primarily to Wright's *Grammar*, Lane's *Lexicon*, and the classical lexicons (e.g. *Lisān al-'arab*, *Tāǧ al-'arūs*). We will also keep a running list of rhetorical, grammatical, and other technical terms that we encounter in our readings.

Wed. Aug. 23: course introduction; scansion some conventions of Arabic poetry

Fri. Aug. 25: the *Mu'allaqa* of Imru' l-Qays, lines 1-8, with the commentary of Zawzani

Wed. Aug. 30: *Mu'allaqa*, continued

Fri. Sept. 1: *Mu'allaqa*, continued

Wed. September 6: *Mu'allaqa*, continued

Fri. Sept. 8: *Mu'allaqa*, continued

Wed. Sept. 13: *Mu'allaqa*, continued

Fri. Sept. 15: *Mu'allaqa*, continued

Wed. Sept. 20: *Mu'allaqa*, continued

Fri. Sept. 22: *Mu'allaqa*, continued

Wed. Sept. 27: *Mu'allaqa*, continued

Fri. Sept. 29: *Mu'allaqa*, continued

Wed. Oct. 4: *Mu'allaqa*, continued

Fri. Oct. 6: *Mu'allaqa*, continued
Wed. Oct. 11: *Mu'allaqa*, continued
Wed. Oct. 18: al-Ḥansā', selected elegies (*marāṭī*)
Fri. Oct. 20: Midterm Exam
Wed. Oct. 25: al-Ḥansā', selected elegies (*marāṭī*)
Fri. Oct. 27: al-Ḥansā', selected elegies (*marāṭī*)
Wed. Nov. 1: al-Ḥansā', selected elegies (*marāṭī*)
Fri. Nov. 3: Baššār ibn Burd
Wed. Nov. 8: Baššār ibn Burd
Fri. Nov. 10: al-Mutanabbī
Wed. Nov. 15: al-Mutanabbī
Fri. Nov. 17: al-Mutanabbī
Nov. 22-24: Thanksgiving Break
Wed. Nov. 29: Abū Nuwās
Fri. Dec. 1: Selected Andalusian poems
Wed. Dec. 6: Presentations
Dec. 14, 12:00-1:45: Final Exam

Grading

Attendance, preparation, and participation: 20%
Midterm exam: 20%
Final Exam (2 hours): 30%
6 Quizzes: 20% (lowest dropped; 4% per quiz)
Presentation (on a poem, or secondary literature on the tradition): 10%