The program in Arabic Language & Muslim Cultures offers students the opportunity to develop proficiency in the Arabic language, to research and study texts in Arabic, and to develop cross-cultural competencies in order to analyze the cultural, social and aesthetic production of Muslim cultures and societies.

This is extremely important since Arabic is the world’s 5th most commonly spoken native language and there is currently a very high demand for, but low supply of, Arabic-speakers in the Western world. As a result, Arabic has recently been designated as a language of strategic importance by both Canadian and American governments.

Learning Arabic will open up various employment possibilities in areas such as the oil and gas industry, engineering, civil service and diplomatic relations, foreign intelligence and security, international trade, travel, translation, and many others.”

The ALMC program/courses will be of interest to a wide range of students including those looking to fulfill Arts or other program options and language requirements. They are of particular interest to students with an Arabic heritage or Muslim tradition, and anyone considering traveling to an Arabic speaking country to visit, engage in field research, conduct business, or for other personal interest or employment reasons.

Such courses are also useful and relevant to those with an interest in learning one of the world’s oldest languages to study the Quran as part of Islamic or other religious studies.

Watch for new courses and a minor in ALMC to be added soon.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Students should consult with the ALMC program to be placed in Arabic language courses corresponding to their ability. Native speakers are not eligible to take language courses by special assessment or to receive advanced credit for them.

E-mail slllc@ucalgary.ca in order to coordinate your placement/assessment, or visit the website: https://slllc.ucalgary.ca/placement/

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THE ARABIC LANGUAGE

Arabic is spoken by as many as 420 million speakers including more than 350 million native speakers in 22 Arab countries. It is one the oldest living languages and one of the six most populous languages of the world. It is also one of the six official languages of the United Nations and the liturgical language of 1.6 billion Muslims in the world today.

Classical Arabic is the language of the Quran. It has been used in poetry and literature since pre-Islamic Arabia and has shaped the cultural heritage of all Muslim societies and cultures that exist today. The knowledge of classical Arabic texts is of prime importance to students and researchers of history, classical and religious studies, philosophy, medieval studies, and comparative literature.

Modern Standard Arabic is used today in most political contexts and the media, as well as in almost all forms of modern literature and written material. To many students of contemporary global politics and international relations, proficiency in standard Arabic is essential. Within the city of Calgary alone, Arabic is among the three most frequently spoken and written languages.

Muslim cultures have produced diverse and distinct civilizations and societies expressed in literature, art, architecture, cinema, and everyday culture. There is an equally strong demand for courses about Muslim societies and cultures that are not confined to the Middle East, but stretch from Africa, through the Arab and Persianate world, and into Asia and the West.

ALMC 202 & 204 Beginners’ Arabic I and II
Comprehensive courses for students with no prior knowledge of the language. Includes training in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Modern Standard Arabic in its cultural context.

*Note: ALMC 202 is a pre-requisite for ALMC 204.*

ALMC 301 & 303 Intermediate Arabic I and II
Sequential courses that include further training in listening, speaking, reading and writing Modern Standard Arabic in its cultural context with the introduction of two regional dialects. Development of increased sophistication in language production and cultural understanding.

*Note: ALMC 301 is a pre-requisite for ALMC 303.*

ALMC 313 Reading Classical Arabic
An introduction to Arabic grammar and syntax through readings of classical sources.

*Pre-Requisite: ALMC 204*

ALMC 317 & 319 Muslim Civilizations I and II
ALMC 317 is a comparative study of Muslim civilization from Africa, the Arab and Persianate world, Asia and the West up to the end of the 18th century, while ALMC 319 focuses on Muslim civilization developments of the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

*Note: Taught in English; no knowledge of Arabic is required.*

ALMC 353 Arabic Language and Linguistics
An understanding of what is meant by ‘Arabic,’ by helping you to develop a structural understanding through the introduction of linguistic concepts and topics.

ALMC 357 Cinema of Muslim Societies
Exploration of the diversity of national and regional cinemas in predominantly Muslim societies of the world.

*Note: Taught in English; no knowledge of Arabic is required.*

ALMC 359 Literature of Muslim Societies
Study of literary texts within the context of the rich, diverse traditions and cultures of predominantly Muslim societies of the world.

*Note: Taught in English; no knowledge of Arabic is required.*

The Arabic Language and Muslim Cultures program is currently planning additional course offerings as well as a minor in ALMC studies.

Please check the website for these exciting new developments at: slucc.ucalgary.ca

Questions about courses or the program in Arabic Language and Muslim Cultures?

E-mail: slucc@ucalgary.ca