

Rationale:

The Arab world is increasingly a significant influence in contemporary world politics and the world economy. There is also a rich history of contributions to the development of knowledge going back well over a millennium. The 5th most common language in the world, Arabic is spoken by over 300 million people as either a native language or a common lingua franca in 29 countries. There is also a growing presence of Arabic speakers and Muslims in the United States, now numbering a million or more and comprising the fastest growing immigrant group. Accordingly, one major goal of this **undergraduate minor in Arabic Language, Religion, and Culture** is to foster in students the development of international awareness, respect for diversity, and critical, objective thinking with respect to Arab and Islamic culture, broadly speaking, which encompasses a large part of the world's population. In addition to developing high intermediate spoken and written competence in Modern Standard Arabic, students will explore the notions of Arab and Islamic identity and the roles these play in the world today. The other major goal is to prepare students for promising job opportunities, especially in the humanitarian, military, and diplomatic fields, as well as to facilitate communication with Arabic speakers in the U.S. and abroad in other contexts, such as education, health, and business. An opportunity is available to study for 3 weeks during the summer in an Arabic speaking country led by a Ball State University faculty member through the KIIS program (Kentucky Institute for International Studies).

Program Description:

Undergraduate Minor in Arabic Language, Religion, and Culture 24 Credits

This minor facilitates achievement of high intermediate proficiency in spoken and written Modern Standard Arabic according to Foreign Service Institute standards, and introduces students to the cultural commonalities, including Islam, across the pan-Arab world, in addition to its religious and cultural diversity. Students will also explore the notions of Arab and Islamic identity and their significance in the world today.

Requirement Narrative:

There are 21 credits of required courses, of which 18 are in Arabic language. One required 3 credit course is in Religious Studies. Beginners with little to no knowledge of Arabic will be placed in AR 101. For those who have more knowledge of Arabic coming into the program, placement in the language sequence will be determined by a proficiency test administered by the Department of Modern Languages and Classics. Students who place above any 100 or 200 level Arabic language course may receive credit for one or more 100 or 200 level courses earlier in the sequence if they pass the next more advanced Arabic course with a grade of C or better.

Course List:

- AR 101 Beginning Arabic 1 (5 credits) (Prerequisites:)
- AR 102 Beginning Arabic 2 (5 credits) (Prerequisites:AR 101 Min Grade: D-;)
- AR 201 Intermediate Arabic 1 (4 credits) (Prerequisites:AR 102 Min Grade: D-;)
- AR 202 Intermediate Arabic 2 (4 credits) (Prerequisites:AR 201 Min Grade: D-;)
- RELS 275 Islam (3 credits) (Prerequisites:)
- 3 credits from directed electives (3 credits) (Prerequisites:)

Directed Electives:

RELS 110 World Religions (3 credits) (Prerequisites:)

- AR 205 Language and Culture of the Arab World (3 credits) (Prerequisites:)
- RELS 208 The Qur'an (3 credits) (Prerequisites:)
- AR 301 Advanced Arabic 1 (3 credits) (Prerequisites:AR 202 Min Grade: D-;)
- AR 302 Advanced Arabic 2 (3 credits) (Prerequisites:AR 301 Min Grade: D-)
- AR 334 Ethnic, Cultural, and Linguistic Diversity in the Arab World (3 credits) (Prerequisites:AR 202 Min Grade: D-)
- AR 335 Special Topics in Arabic Civilizations and Cultures (3 credits) (Prerequisites:AR 202 Min Grade: D-)
- AR 400 Arabic Study Abroad (3 TO 9 credits) (Prerequisites:)