August 1, 2018

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Craig H. Kennedy, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
RE: Bachelor of Arts in Arabic and Islamic Civilizations in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

RECOMMENDATION:
That the Board of Trustees approve the Bachelor of Arts in Arabic and Islamic Civilizations in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

BACKGROUND:
The Bachelor of Arts in Arabic and Islamic Civilizations (AIC), in the department of Literatures, Cultures and Languages, will equip students with working knowledge of Arabic in its three main variants (MSA, Classical and Colloquial). Besides language courses, ranging from Beginner to Advanced (Classical), the program offers a variety of content courses which cover the fundamental aspects of Classical Islamic Civilization as well as the modern and contemporary Arab World. The target audience are students interested in the Arabic speaking world, its cultural heritage and its contemporary social and intellectual life. Heritage students will find a suitable venue to explore the roots of Arabo-Islamic culture and its more modern aspects. Students wishing to pursue studies in the humanities in other disciplines are also a potential target audience, given the intertwining of Arabic culture with most other world literatures, from Norman to Chinese.

Students graduating from the AIC program will have gained professional competence in spoken and written Arabic; they will be capable of expressing themselves in a variety of social situations in correct Arabic and to express complex abstract ideas. They will also have command over the canon of Arabic literature (Classical and Modern) and over fundamental cultural aspects of the Arabo-Islamic Civilizations. The program stresses the plural aspects of the Arab world, focusing on the different linguistic, cultural and religious tradition that came to shape it.
Request for New UConn Undergraduate Degree Program

General Information

Name of proposed academic degree program: Arabic and Islamic Civilizations
Name of sponsoring Department: Literatures, Cultures and Languages
Name of sponsoring College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Campus: Storrs
Contact person: Gustavo Nanclares
Type of Proposal: New Degree
Type of Degree: B.A
Anticipated Initiation Date: August 2018
Anticipated Date of First Graduation: May 2019
CIP Code: 16.1101 (Arabic Language and Literature)

Background & Description

The B.A. in Arabic and Islamic Civilizations (AIC) will equip students with working knowledge of Arabic in its three main variants (MSA, Classical and Colloquial). Besides language courses, ranging from Beginner to Advanced (Classical), the program offers a variety of content courses which cover the fundamental aspects of Classical Islamic Civilization as well as the modern and contemporary Arab World. The target audience are student interested in the Arabic speaking world, its cultural heritage and its contemporary social and intellectual life. Heritage students will find a suitable venue to explore the roots of Arabo-Islamic culture and its more modern aspects. Students wishing to pursue studies in the humanities in other disciplines are also potential target audience, given the intertwinement of Arabic culture with most other world literature, from Norman to Chinese.

Reasons for the Proposed Program

UConn does not offer a Major in Arabic, and the proposed program will cover this gap.

Curriculum & Program Outline

The Arabic and Islamic Civilizations major requires a minimum of 24 credits of Arabic (ARAB) and Arabic and Islamic Studies (ARIS) courses, plus a minimum of 12 credits of related courses from programs other than Arabic and Islamic Civilizations. A minimum of 12 major credits must consist of Arabic and Islamic Civilizations courses taken in residence. Only 6 may be transfer credits. AP credits may not be used toward the major.

Pre-requisites: four semesters of formal Arabic at the 1000 level, or equivalent proficiency.
Proficiency must be approved by major advisor.
The Arabic and Islamic Civilizations major requires a minimum of 24 credits of Arabic (ARAB) and Arabic and Islamic Studies (ARIS) courses, plus a minimum of 12 credits of related courses from programs other than Arabic and Islamic Civilizations. A minimum of 12 major credits must consist of Arabic and Islamic Civilizations courses taken in residence. Only 6 may be transfer credits. AP credits may not be used toward the major.

Pre-requisites: four semester of formal Arabic at the 1000 level, or equivalent proficiency. Proficiency must be approved by major advisor.

Arabic and Islamic Civilizations majors must complete a minimum of twelve courses, for a total of 36 credits, distributed as follows:

1) ARIS 3000 or comparable proficiency in Classical Arabic with approval of the major advisor.

2) One course from Group A:
   A) Language: ARAB 2170, ARAB 3102, ARAB 3212

3) Two courses from each of Groups A and B, for a total of 12 credits:
   B) Literature: ARAB 3550W, ARAB 3551, ARAB 3559, ARAB 3570
   C) Culture: ARAB 2751, ARAB 3751, ARAB 3771, ARAB 3772

4) Four courses or 12 additional related credits are required at the 2000-level or above from programs other than Arabic and Islamic Civilizations. Related courses can belong to many subject areas and must always be approved by the advisor. These may include:
   - Courses in any modern or classical language.
   - Any English, Linguistics, or Philosophy course.
   - Any Communication Sciences course that is directly related to second language acquisition or the Arab World
   - Any History, Political Science, Art History, Anthropology, Sociology, Economics, or Geography course that deals with Islamic culture or the Arab world.

Enrollment in a study abroad program in an Arabic-speaking country is recommended but not mandatory for Arabic and Islamic Civilizations majors. With advisor’s consent, any of the above courses may be replaced by an appropriate ARAB 3293 course from study abroad programs. Up to 12 credits taken in study abroad programs may count toward the major. Students can enroll in either UConn-sponsored or non-UConn-sponsored programs. In either case, students must consult with the advisor to determine which courses will receive credit.

To satisfy the Information Literacy Competency and Writing in the major requirements, all students must take ARAB 3550W.
B.A. in Arabic and Islamic Civilizations

**Learning Outcomes**

Students graduating from AIC program will have gained professional competence in spoken and written Arabic; they will be capable of expressing themselves in a variety of social situations in correct Arabic and to express complex abstract ideas. They will also have command over the canon of Arabic literature (Classical and Modern) and over fundamental cultural aspects of the Arabo-Islamic Civilizations. The program stresses the plural aspects of the Arab world, focusing on the different linguistic, cultural and religious tradition that came to shape it. Students will become familiar with these various traditions, exploring through a variety of courses the many faces of the Arabo-Islamic world from Iberia to China. Students will have the option to enroll in courses covering both the modern and the classical Arabic tradition, or to focus on either of the two.

**Enrollment & Graduation Projections**

The courses that we have been offering in ARAB over the years, both language and culture courses, have had very good enrollments. The new upper division courses that we have offered this year have had very acceptable enrollments for brand new courses, especially since some of them are taught in Arabic and require a high degree of proficiency in the language. Based on these enrollments and the interest expressed by students, we believe that the program will grow to have 40-50 majors in 5 years with a graduation rate of about 10 majors per year.

**Financial Resources**

This major program is part of the Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages (LCL). The salaries of the faculty and any other needs for the program are secured as part of the department’s budget and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**Facilities//Equipment/Library/Special Resources**

No special facilities or equipment required. The program faculty are housed in LCL and have their offices in Oak Hall. The Program has obtained some funding from the Abrahamic Initiative at Global Affairs. Funding has been used throughout the 2017-18 academic year for the acquisition of a library in Arabic and Islamic Studies. The Library has also a small budget for new acquisitions in this area.

**Program Administration**

This program is administered through the Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. The Chair of the program is Professor Nicola Carpentieri, a newly hired professor for Arabic and Islamic Civilizations who started at UConn in August 2017.

**Faculty**

Nicola Carpentieri, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor  
Maha Darawsha - Lecturer  
Hazza Abu Rabia - Adjunct lecturer

**Similar Programs in Connecticut or Region**

Yale University: Arabic and Islamic Studies