Arabic Studies

Overview
Arabic is the fourth most commonly spoken language in the world after Mandarin, Spanish and English. It is the official language of more than 20 countries and one of the six official languages of the United Nations. If you minor in Arabic Studies, you study Arab language, politics, culture, society, literature, film and history. Our language courses emphasize speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, and content courses are interdisciplinary. Learning Arabic promotes cultural and international understanding and prepares you to be a global citizen.

Personalized Learning
Does learning Arabic seem daunting? Our supportive learning community is here to help. A wide range of activities will immerse you in the language and culture of the Arab world, making learning easier. You’ll form study groups with other students, work with tutors, practice with classmates and learn from faculty who are invested in student success.

Internships and Service Learning
You can teach language to children at the Regional Multicultural Magnet School in New London and recite Arabic poetry with faculty on the College’s Night of International Poetry. The College also organizes visits to New York City museums and cultural destinations, and you’ll practice Arabic calligraphy and henna in cultural workshops.

Special Opportunities
Each summer, 10 students of Arabic explore the rich culture of the Arab world during six weeks in Irbid, Jordan. On this trip, you engage with the local community and put your learning to the test by attending weddings, taking part in social gatherings and visiting bedouins’ camps.

Max Nicholas
International Relations, Arabic Studies

Q: Why Connecticut College?
A: Because of the emphasis on internationalizing a liberal arts education. The opportunities for finding unique intersections of conscious citizenship and international awareness are unlimited here. By learning Arabic and studying abroad in the Middle East, I hope to better the world I live in.

Q: What drew you to Arabic Studies?
A: This program was one of the main reasons I came to Connecticut College. The level of instruction is superb and the students are proud to enhance the international character of the campus. I’ve never met a group as joyfully invested in both their studies and extracurricular activities. We are a tight-knit community.

Q: Did you study abroad?
A: Twice: with the Arabic studies summer program in Jordan, and then during a semester in Jordan. Both gave me an amazing mix of complete language and culture immersion.

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Faculty

Waed Athamneh, Assistant Professor of Arabic Studies
B.A, M.A., Yarmouk University, Jordan; Ph.D., Indiana University
Modern Arabic poetry; 20th-century Arab politics; feminism in modern Arabic fiction

Hazza Abu Rabia, Visiting Instructor, Arabic
M.A., Hartford Seminary; M.A., University of Connecticut; Ph.D. candidate, University of Hartford
Arabic; Islamic studies

Selected Courses

Introductory Arabic; Intermediate Arabic; Politics and Ideology in Literature About the Middle East; Culture and Thought of the Modern Middle East; Modern Arabic Literature; The Arab Spring

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a private, highly selective liberal arts college with 1,850 students and more than 40 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as the option for students to self-design majors. The College offers a high level of intellectual challenge, a campus culture that supports students to tailor their educational experience to their own interests and goals, and a four-year career development program that teaches students how to translate a liberal arts degree into a first job or graduate school admission. Connecticut College is situated in the small New England seaport of New London.

Ethan Harfenist ’12
Lives in Jakarta, Indonesia, working as an editor and reporter for the Jakarta Globe. After graduation, he was granted a Princeton in Asia fellowship. Travels across Asia to learn and report about the people and the culture.

Pablo Jairo ’13
Travelled across the Middle East. Was invited to present a paper at MESSA Conference at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service in Doha, Qatar. Recently accepted to a graduate program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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