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.
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-ʿarab*, *Tāǧ al-ʿarūs*). 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; scanion some conventions of Arabic poetry

**Fri. Aug. 25:** the *Muʿallaqa* of Imru’ l-Qays, lines 1-8, with the commentary of Zawzanī

**Wed. Aug. 30:** *Muʿallaqa*, continued

**Fri. Sept. 1:** *Muʿallaqa*, continued

**Wed. September 6:** *Muʿallaqa*, continued

**Fri. Sept. 8:** *Muʿallaqa*, continued

**Wed. Sept. 13:** *Muʿallaqa*, continued

**Fri. Sept. 15:** *Muʿallaqa*, continued

**Wed. Sept. 20:** *Muʿallaqa*, continued

**Fri. Sept. 22:** *Muʿallaqa*, continued

**Wed. Sept. 27:** *Muʿallaqa*, continued

**Fri. Sept. 29:** *Muʿallaqa*, continued

**Wed. Oct. 4:** *Muʿallaqa*, 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


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%