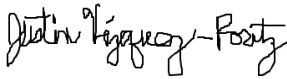New York City College of Technology, CUNY

CURRICULUM MODIFICATION PROPOSAL FORM

This form is used for all curriculum modification proposals. See the Proposal Classification Chart for information about what types of modifications are major or minor. Completed proposals should be emailed to the Curriculum Committee chair.

Title of Proposal	Academic Minor in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies
Date	February 7th, 2021
Major or Minor	Major
Proposer's Name	Khalid Lachheb
Department	Humanities
Date of Departmental Meeting in which proposal was approved	18th Feb. , 2021
Department Chair Name	Ann Delilkan
Department Chair Signature and Date	2-21-2021
Academic Dean Name	Justin Vazquez-Poritz
Academic Dean Signature and Date	9/21/21
Brief Description of Proposal (Describe the modifications contained within this proposal in a succinct summary. More detailed content will be provided in the proposal body.	Proposing the creation of a 12-15 credit Academic minor in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies.
Brief Rationale for Proposal (Provide a concise summary of why this proposed change is important to the department. More detailed content will be provided in the proposal body).	The Academic minor in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies is housed in the Department of Humanities and includes coursework from the Humanities, Social Science, and Architectural Technology. The 12-15-credit minor degree is designed to provide students with not only necessary and sufficient Arabic language skills, but also an opportunity to explore Arab history and culture. Elective courses in Islamic Art, Music, Ethnic relations, and history reveal rich intersections among linguistic, historical, and multicultural dimensions. Students gain intercultural understanding, improving their competitiveness in the international job market. The required and elective courses of this minor fulfill many General Education requirements.

Proposal History (Please provide history of this proposal: is this a resubmission? An updated version? This may most easily be expressed as a list).	This is the initial submission on 2/17/21 of this Academic minor curriculum modification proposal. The proposal is revised on 9/13/21.

Please include all appropriate documentation as indicated in the Curriculum Modification Checklist.

For each new course, please also complete the New Course Proposal and submit in this document.

Please submit this document as a single .doc or .rtf format. If some documents are unable to be converted to .doc, then please provide all documents archived into a single .zip file.

ALL PROPOSAL CHECK LIST

Completed CURRICULUM MODIFICATION FORM including:	
• Brief description of proposal	X
• Rationale for proposal	X
• Date of department meeting approving the modification	X
• Chair's Signature	x
• Dean's Signature	X
Evidence of consultation with affected departments List of the programs that use this course as required or elective, and courses that use this as a prerequisite.	x
Documentation of Advisory Commission views (if applicable).	N/A
Completed Chancellor's Report Form.	

EXISTING PROGRAM MODIFICATION PROPOSALS

Documentation indicating core curriculum requirements have been met for new programs/options or program changes.	
Detailed rationale for each modification (this includes minor modifications)	

Draft Proposal for an Academic Minor in Arabic Language and Cultural studies Sponsored by Humanities Department

Major Curriculum Modification

Rationale

The Academic minor in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies gives students a foundation in the Arabic language, including speaking, reading, writing, and listening, as well as the opportunity to advance their knowledge of Arab cultures. Arabic speakers are in great demand. The U.S. State Department has named Arabic a "critical language." Being proficient in the language can open many doors for careers in government, law, international relations/diplomacy, business, hospitality, health professions, and education. This minor provides students at City Tech with an opportunity to explore multicultural dimensions of their professional studies related to the global Arabic diaspora. It broadens their options for careers in art and culture, education, magazines, museums, advertising, tourism, youth programs, communications, Arabic consulates, nonprofits, and the United Nations.

Within the CUNY system, undergraduate minors with a focus on Arabic Language and Culture are offered at:
- Hunter College
  http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/classics/arabic/arabic-minors
- Queens College
  https://www.qc.cuny.edu/Academics/Degrees/DAH/CMAL/Pages/MiddleEasternStudies.aspx
  College of Staten Island
  http://csicuny.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Divisions-Schools-Departments-and-Programs/Division-of-Humanities-and-Social-Sciences/Department-of-World-Languages-and-Literatures/Arabic/Arabic-Minor
- City College of New York
  http://ccny.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2017-2018/Undergraduate-Bulletin/The-College-of-Liberal-Arts-and-Science/Department-of-Classical-and-Modern-Languages-and-Literatures/Curriculum-for-Minors-in-French-Italian-Spanish-Spanish-Linguistics-and-Classical-Studies/Arabic-Minor

Undergraduate minors in Arabic language and Cultural Studies are offered at several colleges across the country, too, including but not limited to the following:
- George Mason University
  https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social- sciences/modern-classical-languages/arabic-minor/
- Northern Arizona University
  https://nau.edu/global-languages/undergraduate-programs/minors/arabic-minor/
- Georgetown University
  https://www.qatar.georgetown.edu/academics/programs/majors-minors-and-certificates/arabic-language-program-and-arabic-minor/

- Boston University
  https://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/programs/world-languages-literatures/minor-arabic/
- Montclair State University
  http://catalog.montclair.edu/programs/arabic-minor/

This minor is proposed in response to the General Education Committee's recommendation for the creation of new minors at City Tech.

  The Academic minor in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies is housed in the Department of Humanities and includes coursework from the Department of Humanities, the Department of Social Science, and the Department of Architectural Technology. Advising for the academic minor will be conducted by Prof. Khalid Lachheb, who will be the Coordinator of the minor. The 12-15-credit academic minor is designed to provide students with the necessary and sufficient skills to master the Arabic language, and the opportunity to explore aspects of the history and culture of Arabic-speaking countries (e.g., art, music, ethnic relations, and Islamic civilization). This program gives students an opportunity to consider new career possibilities related to their studies that would be enhanced by competency in Arabic Language and Culture. To give a hypothetical example, a graduate in Architectural Technology (BTech or BArch), Business and Technology of Fashion (BS), or Communication Design (BFA), with an Academic minor in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies might be an attractive candidate for a firm contracted to build and/or set up a company in Dubai, given the candidate's ability to speak Arabic and knowledge of Islamic customs and culture.

The required and elective courses of this minor fulfill General Education requirements. The Academic minor will also give students the opportunity to gain intercultural understanding and make them more competitive in the international market.

The Department of Humanities expects that students in all majors will benefit from the addition of this minor. Degree seekers in the allied health professions, for example, will gain valuable skills in intercultural understanding and language competency when working with Arabic speaking populations.

Description of the Proposed Academic Minor

This Academic minor consists of three required courses (ARB 1101, ARB 1102 Elementary Arabic II and ARB 2201 Intermediate Arabic I), plus any two additional courses from a selection of eight electives. The required courses are foundational, and they are found in comparable Arabic and Cultural Studies minors.

While any two listed elective courses will fulfill the remaining 6 credits required to earn the minor, the eight electives offered include ample options for meeting students' preferences and academic interests. A student with interests leaning towards art and design can choose ARTH 1110 (Islamic Art) and ARTH 1101 (History of Art: Prehistoric to Gothic), and/or ARCH 1121 (History of World Architecture to 1900).

Students interested in history and the study of culture and civilization may choose HIS 1501 (The Origins of Islamic Civilization), HIS 1503 (The Modern Middle East and North Africa), and/or HIS 1502 (The Islamic Empires).

Required and Elective Courses for the Academic Minor

Students take 12-15 credits to earn a Minor, picking 2 Required Courses (6 credits) and 2 Electives courses (6 credits), for a total of 12 credits. If they place at ARB 1101 level, they must pick 3 Required Courses (9 credits) and 2 Electives (6 credits), for a total of 15 credits. In the rare case that students place at ARB 2201 level, they would take 9 credits of electives to make up the minimum 12 credits required for the Minor. Students choosing the 2-credit elective course ARCH 1121 (History of World Architecture to 1900) must take enough electives to meet the 12-credit minimum for the minor.

Students must earn a C or better in all minor coursework in order to be granted a minor designation on their transcripts.

THREE REQUIRED COURSES

ARB 1101 (WCGI) Elementary Arabic I
ARB 1102 (WCGI) Elementary Arabic II
ARB 2201 (WCGI) Intermediate Arabic I
ARB XXXX

ELECTIVE COURSES (choose 2-3 courses to reach a total of 15 credits)

SOC 1104 (Race and Ethnic Relations) (USED)
ARCH 1121 (History of World Architecture to 1900) (2 credits)
ARTH 1110 (Islamic Art (WCGI)
ARTH 1101 (History of Art: Prehistoric to Gothic) (WCGI)
MUS 1212 (Introduction to World Music) (WCGI)
HIS 1501 (The Origins of Islamic Civilization) (WCGI)
HIS 1502 (The Islamic Empires) (WCGI)
HIS 1503 (The Modern Middle East and North Africa) (WCGI)

*WCGI = World Cultures and Global Issues, Common Core
*USED = US Experience in its Diversity, Common Core

Programmatic Learning Outcomes

Students will:
- Demonstrate the ability to converse in Arabic in linguistically, socially, and culturally appropriate ways.
- Develop critical and analytical thinking by meeting benchmarks in linguistic competency.

- Understand the complexities of Arab culture and language to demystify difficulties associated with translating norms and values of the Arab world.
- Demonstrate cultural competency based on the study of Arabic language and Arab history and culture.
- Encounter authentic Arabic artifacts through exposure to Arabic texts, art works, buildings, songs, and history.
- Analyze and present different views/perspectives on assigned readings.

Sample Curriculum Map

Below are two samples of curriculum map for a student majoring in:

1. BTech in Architectural Technology with an academic minor in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies

Gen Ed Requirements for Architectural Technology	Courses for Proposed Academic Minor
Foreign Language sequence	ARB 1101
Foreign Language Sequence	ARB 1102
Foreign Language Sequence	ARB 2201
World Cultures and Global Issues	HIS 1501
Additional Flexible Common Core	ARTH 1110

2. BS in Business and Technology of Fashion with an academic minor in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies

Gen Ed Requirements for Architectural Technology	Courses for Proposed Academic Minor
World Cultures and Global Issues	ARB 1101
World Cultures and Global Issues	ARB 1102
Liberal Arts Elective	ARB 2201
Additional Flexible Common Core	HIS 1503
US Experience in its Diversity	SOC 1104

As the two Samples of Curriculum Map illustrate, an Academic Minor in Arabic language and Cultural Studies can be completed in all BS degrees and most BTech degrees within the required credits of the degree program.

Assessment: General Statement

To assess student learning outcomes, an exit survey will be administered for students completing the minor to provide the opportunity to share overall feedback and thoughts with the academic community, about the minor and how they benefitted from it. Enrollment trends will also be tracked, as well as rates of completion and grade distributions. Comparisons of graduation and

retention rates and time to graduation for students declaring the minor might also be compared with those of the overall student population. Additionally, grade distributions for the classes taken by students declaring the minor could be compared with those of the general population of students who take these classes.

Diversity and Inclusive Education Syllabus Statement

This course welcomes students from all backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. In accordance with the City Tech and CUNY missions, this course intends to provide an atmosphere of inclusion, respect, and the mutual appreciation of differences so that together we can create an environment in which all students can flourish. It is the instructor's goal to provide materials and activities that are welcoming and accommodating of diversity in all its forms, including race, gender identity and presentation, ethnicity, national origin, religion, cultural identity, socioeconomic background, sexuality and sexual orientation, ability, neurodivergence, age, etc. Your instructor is committed to equity and actively seeks ways to challenge institutional racism, sexism, ableism, and other forms of prejudice. Your input is encouraged and appreciated. If a dynamic that you observe or experience in the course concerns you, you may respectfully inform your instructor without fear of how your concerns will affect your grade. Let your instructor know how to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups. We acknowledge that NYCCT is located on the traditional homelands of the Canarsie and Lenape peoples.
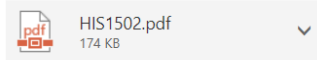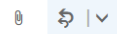
Annex:

1. **Arabic courses sequence:**

2. Support Letters

Peter Parides
Today, 2:34 AM

📄 **HIS1502.pdf**
174 KB

Download

Dear Khalid,

Thank you for sharing this proposal with me. I think this Minor is a great idea long overdue. I suspect, and hope, that it will attract a large number of students. As such, I fully support its approval. The only suggestion I would offer is to include among the course offerings HIS 1502-The Islamic Empires, a history course that we recently created but have yet to offer. I've attached the course outline. I will share the proposal with the rest of my department to see if there are other comments or suggestions.

Best,

Peter

_____
Peter Parides, PhD
Associate Professor of History and Chair
Department of Social Science
New York City College of Technology, CUNY

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CITY TECH

Lucas M. Bernard, PhD
Chair & Associate Professor
Department of Business
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LBernard@citytech.cuny.edu

February 12th, 2021

Dear Prof. Delilkan,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of your proposed *Minor in Arabic and Cultural Studies*.

It is no secret that the "West" has a long and complicated fascination/preoccupation with the "Arabic world." I place these words in quotes because they are so vaguely defined. From the religious obsessions with control of the "Holy land," which gave rise to the Crusades, to the discovery of oil in the early 20th Century, to the romantic, mysterious, and sensual clichés seen in artistic portrayals, to the contemporary post-911 "news," the world has been bombarded with "information" about the "Arabic world" for centuries. In the words of Edward Said, "The Orient and Islam have a kind of extra-real, phenomenologically reduced status that puts them out of reach of everyone except the Western expert. From the beginning of Western speculation about the Orient, the one thing the orient could not do was to represent itself. Evidence of the Orient was credible only after it had passed through and been made firm by the refining fire of the Orientalist's work." To the common person, the "Oriental world," the "Arabic world," the "Middle East," the "Levant," etc. are all synonymous – regions of endless conflict at once dangerous and essential to the West. The very vocabulary, e.g., the "Near East" (near to where?), the national boundaries (often drawn by 19th Century European colonialists), and the "cinematic" depictions, e.g., the 1962 film *Lawrence of Arabia*, have all served the interests of particular parties. But the "Arabic world" is far richer than these stereotypes and political conflicts. It is a world rich in art, in music, in poetry, and culture.

The "Arabic world" is, indeed, essential. Thus, it behooves any educated person to have some actual knowledge of this place and culture, this language which has been adopted by so many, from Berbers and Phoenicians to Egyptians and Kurds, and to learn some of the real facts. What better way to accomplish this than with a *trancriptable* certification in "Arabic and Cultural Studies?" For those majoring in almost anything, this proposed minor has the potential to be an interesting addition to any student's transcript.

The Business Department can even support the proposed minor as one of our faculty, Dr. Nazanin Hedayat Munroe, is an acknowledged expert on Islamic Art and Textiles.

For the above reasons, I wholeheartedly endorse your proposed program and am delighted to support it.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.
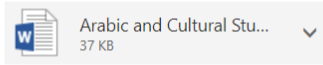
Sincerely,

Lucas Bernard

Khalid Lachheb
Yesterday, 1:02 PM
Sanjive Vaidya; Ann Delilkan ⌄

↩ Reply all | ⌄

📄 Arabic and Cultural Stu...
37 KB   ⌄

Download

Dear Professor Sanjive Vaida ,
I hope you are doing well!
The Humanities Department is proposing a Minor in **Arabic and Cultural Studies** combining multiple courses from different departments: Social Studies, Business, Humanities, and Architectural Technology.
We are happy to share with you the proposal of this Minor whishing your feedback, encouragement and support.
All best,
Khalid

Khalid Lachheb, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Humanities Department
The City University of New York
New York City College of Technology
300 Jay St., Rm., A 630