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.

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| **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** | 2-17-2021 |
| **Academic Dean Name** | Justin Vazquez-Poritz |
| **Academic Dean Signature and Date** | **2/17/21** |
| **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 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 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-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 on 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. |

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**

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| Completed CURRICULUM MODIFICATION FORM including: |  |
| • Brief description of proposal | X |
| • Rationale for proposal | X |
| • Date of department meeting approving the modification |  |
| • 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. | X |

**EXISTING PROGRAM MODIFICATION PROPOSALS**

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| 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. This minor also provides students at City Tech with an opportunity to explore multicultural dimensions of their professional studies related to the global Arabic diaspora. It offers them options for careers in art and culture, education, magazines, museums,advertising, tourism, youth programs, communications, Arabic consulates, nonprofits, and the United Nations. Undergraduate minors with a focus on Arabic Language and Culture are offered at Hunter College, Queens College, College of Staten Island, and City College of New York, within the CUNY system. Undergraduate minors in Arabic language and Cultural Studies are offered at several colleges across the country, too, including George Mason University, Ohio State University, Northern Arizona University, Georgetown University, University of Oregon, Boston University, and Montclair State University, among others. 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 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. The 12-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 two required courses (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 two required courses, plus 2-3 additional courses from the list of electives to reach a total of 12 credits. In the rare case that a student places at ARB 2201 level, then he or she would be expected to take 9 credits of electives to make up the Minor. A student who chooses the elective course ARCH 1121 (History of World Architecture to 1900, which carries 2 credit) needs to choose 2 other classes from electives, to be sure to have the minimum 6 credits needed for the minor. Students must earn a C or better in all minor course work in order to be granted a minor designation on their transcripts.

**TWO REQUIRED COURSES**

ARB 1102 (WCGI) Elementary Arabic II

ARB 2201 (WCGI) Intermediate Arabic I

**ELECTIVE COURSES (choose 2-3 courses to reach a total of 12 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 1211 (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

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

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

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| --- | --- |
| **Gen Ed Requirements for Architectural Technology** | **Courses for Proposed Academic Minor** |
| 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.





