

The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies (The Middle East and Central Asia)

Professor Amin Saikal, BA PhD ANU
Director

The Middle East and Central Asia

The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies (The Middle East and Central Asia) — CAIS — formerly known as the Centre for Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies was opened in February 1994. It is the first of its kind in Australia, and is the only Centre of learning that focuses on the predominantly Muslim regions of the Middle East and Central Asia together as a major point of attention in the post-Cold War world. The Centre's areas of coverage are: the Arab world, including North Africa, and Iran and Turkey, as well as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan and Pakistan.

CAIS is a teaching and research Centre, with organic links to The Faculties and professional association with the Institute of Advanced Studies.

The primary objectives of the CAIS are fourfold:

- to promote Arab, Islamic, Middle Eastern and Central Asian studies, in both undergraduate and postgraduate domains, at a national level
- to coordinate research by Australian and international academics and specialists
- to provide a pool of expertise for public and private sectors
- to strengthen Australia's ties with the Middle Eastern and Central Asian regions.

The Centre integrates the study of Arab, Middle Eastern and Central Asian culture, civilisation, politics, history and economics, and places these within the broader framework of the changing global order. It examines the role of religion — especially Islam — and fosters the study of the most relevant languages, particularly Arabic and Persian, and looks at gender politics. It also focuses on issues pertinent to Australia's interests in, and the development of its commercial, scientific and industrial ties with these dynamic regions.

In addition to its undergraduate courses, the Centre offers Graduate Diploma by coursework, MA by coursework and sub-thesis, and supervision for MPhil and PhD research on a wide range of topics relating to its areas of coverage. The Centre runs a seminar program with visiting speakers and also hosts an annual lecture by a prominent specialist on Islamic civilisation, as well as hosting frequent international conferences.

The undergraduate courses offered by the Centre may be included in Arts majors, but are also of relevance to students of Asian Studies, or students in other disciplines who are interested in gaining a knowledge of the Middle East or Central Asia.

The Persian courses can be undertaken as single courses, or as an Arts major within the Bachelor of Arts course or combined BA degree options.

The Arabic courses can be undertaken as single courses, or as a language major within the Bachelor of Asian Studies, Faculty of Asian Studies or as an "out-of-faculty" major in the single Bachelor of Arts degree. It is not available to Arts students undertaking a combined degree option.

The Centre currently offers courses in Middle Eastern and Central Asian politics, and two of the major languages of the regions of its coverage Persian and Arabic — although the introduction of the Turkish language is expected in either second semester 2001 or first semester 2002. While a number of these courses are offered through the Centre, some of them are offered in conjunction with Political Science (School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts), and the Faculty of Asian Studies.

The Centre is responsible for the delivery of three Political Science courses: Politics in Central and West Asia POLS2070; Politics in the Middle East POLS2031, Politics in Russia POLS2069 and the free choice course New States of Eurasia: Emerging Issues in Politics and Security MEAS2001.

New States of Eurasia: Emerging Issues in Politics and Security

MEAS2001
(6 units)

Offered 2002 & subsequent years
Second semester

Two lectures and one tutorial per week for eleven weeks

Lecturer: Dr Kirill Nourzhanov

Prerequisite: First year courses to the value of 12 units from Arts or Asian Studies, or with permission of the Director of the Centre.

Syllabus: The Soviet Union has been replaced by Russia and fourteen newly independent states trying to maintain sovereignty and internal cohesion. The new states, under the influence of Russia, increasingly China, other regional powers and in a number of cases, international competition for their extensive energy resources, and armed conflicts, have widely experienced economic decline, terrorism, religious fundamentalism, civil violence and independence movements of minority groups. The West today perceives post-Soviet Eurasia, with a population of approximately 300 million, as a zone of chronic instability posing threats to regional and global security.

The course will seek to analyse topical developments and highlight long-term trends in security dilemmas of the former Soviet Union. Emphasis will be on the issues of ethno-nationalism, territorial disputes, and conflict management. The course will discuss security developments at multiple levels of analysis, ranging from state policies to sub-state actors and transnational issues, but special attention will be given to regional security complexes involving Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.

Objectives:

1. To acquaint students with the societal, political, military and geographical bonds and rivalries that shape Eurasian countries today.
2. To reach a better understanding of how people and governments are coping with the legacies of the Soviet era and building new relationships with their neighbours and other countries.
3. To examine security issues of Eurasia on its own terms, not as a sub-set of the dominant system of international relations.
4. To assess critically the existing interpretations of trends in Eurasian security based on the notions of 'power vacuum' and the 'New Great game'.

Proposed assessment: Essay (3,000 words) 50%; final Examination (or second optional essay) 40% and tutorial assessment (based on attendance, reading, performance) 10%

Preliminary Reading

- Batalden, Stephen K. and Sandra L. Batalden, *The Newly Independent States of Eurasia: Handbook of Former Soviet Republics*, Phoenix, AZ: Oryx, 1993
- Coppieters, B., Alexei Zverev and Dmitri Trenin (eds), *Commonwealth and Independence in Post-Soviet Eurasia*, London; Portland: Frank Cass, 1998
- Bremmer, Ian and Ray Taras (eds.), *New States, New Politics: Building the Post-Soviet Nations*, Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997
- Bertsch, Gary K. (ed.), *Crossroads And Conflict: Security and Foreign Policy in the Caucasus And Central Asia*, New York; London: Routledge, 2000.

This is a designated course in the Bachelor of Arts (International Relations)

Arabic

Convener: Dr Nijmeh Hajjar, Licence ès Lettres, LicInfDoc, CAPES Beirut; LicJourCom Brussels; PhD Syd

Arabic is the mother language of over 250 million people in the Middle east (West Asia and North Africa), and one of the six official languages of the United Nations. Arabic is also the language of the Qur'an with special importance to all Muslims in the world numbering over one billion people.

Arabic is the language of an ancient civilisation, which contributed greatly to human knowledge. Its influence is strongly felt on such languages as Persian, Turkish, Urdu, Indonesian and Malay, among others. And many European languages still preserve hundreds of words from Arabic origin in various fields of knowledge. Arabic is also the living medium of a contemporary dynamic literature and culture. Its rich and magnificent poetry, classical and modern, is especially captivating.

Bachelor of Arts students may undertake this major as an out-of-Faculty major. As Arabic is not an Arts major it is not available to BA students undertaking a combined program unless you are enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Asian Studies combined

program. In this instance, the Arabic major becomes the Asian Studies language major.

An Asian Studies major in Arabic requires the completion of a minimum of 48 units (normally 8 courses) comprising 12 units at first year level (2 courses) and 36 units at later year level (6 courses). Students must include ARAB2007 Media Arabic B and ARAB2006 Contemporary Arabic Literature B.

The sequence of courses for the Arabic major is dependent on the student's reading and language ability.

1. Major for beginners:

Two introductory language courses plus Classical Arabic A and B; Media Arabic A and B and Contemporary Arabic Literature A and B.

2. Major for post-beginners:

Classical Arabic A and B; Media Arabic A and B; Contemporary Arabic Literature A and B plus 2 courses.

With the permission of the Convener, a student with appropriate language competence may enter the major without the Introductory Arabic courses at first year level.

Summary of courses offered in the Arabic major in 2002

	Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Session — Jan–Feb 2003
First Year	Introductory Arabic A ARAB1002	Introductory Arabic B ARAB1003	
Later year	Media Arabic A ARAB2003	Media Arabic B ARAB2007	Applied Arabic ARAB2010 (18 units)
	Year in the Arab World ARAB3500	Year in the Arab World ARAB3500	
	Year in the Arab World Project ARAB3501	Year in the Arab World Project ARAB3501	

See also the Arabic Program entry under the Faculty of Asian Studies for further details.

FIRST YEAR COURSES

Introductory Arabic A

ARAB1002
(6 units)

First semester
Four class hours a week
Coordinator: Dr Hajjar

Syllabus: This course assumes no previous knowledge of the language. It covers the Arabic script and sound system and basic grammar rules. The teaching uses an audio-visual and audio-lingual approach, and is designed to develop the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in an integrated way by the use of dialogues in realistic situations, class interaction and oral and written drills.

Prescribed text

- Hajjar, Nijmeh, *Living Arabic in Context: Arabic for Beginners*, Stage 1, ANU, 2001
- The textbook is accompanied by an audio tape, which is available in the Language Centre. The lecturer will provide supplementary material.

Incompatibility: SWAA1002 Introductory Arabic A

Introductory Arabic B

ARAB1003
(6 units)

Second semester
Four class hours a week
Coordinator: Dr Hajjar

Prerequisite: Introductory Arabic A SWAA1002 or ARAB1002 or permission of Coordinator

Syllabus: This course extends Introductory Arabic A. Students will develop their conversational skills, study samples of modern Arabic literature and the press, and undertake translation from and into Arabic. As in the previous course, grammar is explained in its functional aspect using basic structures of Arabic in realistic situations.

Prescribed text

- Hajjar, Nijmeh, *Living Arabic in Context: Arabic for Beginners*, Stage 1, ANU, 2001
- The textbook is accompanied by audio and video tapes, which are available in the Language Centre. The lecturer will provide supplementary material.

Incompatibility: SWAA1003 Introductory Arabic B

LATER YEAR COURSES

Applied Arabic

ARAB2010
(18 units)

Summer session 2003

Four hours of lectures in the morning and workshops and activities in the afternoon five days per week. The course will be held in Beirut, Lebanon in January and February for a period of six weeks. Emphasis is on acquisition of conversational skills in Arabic. Themes covered include: education, and literature, culture and society, politics and economics and trade and tourism.

Coordinator: Dr Hajjar

Lecturer: Dr Hajjar (and possible contribution from a local lecturer)

Prerequisite: Introductory Arabic B SWAA1003 or ARAB1003 or equivalent

Syllabus: (a) Reading and listening to, selections from modern Arabic literature and materials from the Arabic press, printed and broadcast. (b) Conversational practice

Proposed assessment: 2,000 word essay in Arabic on a workshop topic.

Classical Arabic A

ARAB2004
(6 units)

First semester
Four hours a week

Coordinator: Dr Hajjar

Prerequisite: Introductory Arabic B SWAA1003 or ARAB1003 or equivalent

Syllabus: This course is devoted to the study of the language and style of classical Arabic literature. It covers more advanced grammar, and students will study samples of classical Arabic works including secular and religious texts.

Prescribed text

☐ Yellin, A & Billig, L. (eds.), *An Arabic Reader*, Johnson Reprint

Incompatibility: SWAA2004 Classical Arabic A

Classical Arabic B **ARAB2008** (6 units)

Second semester
Four hours a week

Coordinator: Dr Hajjar

Prerequisite: Introductory Arabic B SWAA1003 or ARAB1003 or equivalent

Syllabus: This course develops the materials of Classical Arabic A.

Prescribed text

☐ Yellin, A & Billig, L. (eds.), *An Arabic Reader*, Johnson Reprint

Incompatibility: SWAA2008 Classical Arabic B

Contemporary Arabic Literature A **ARAB2005** (6 units)

First semester
Four hours a week

Coordinator: Dr Hajjar

Prerequisite: Introductory Arabic B SWAA1003 or ARAB1003 or equivalent

Syllabus: This course is devoted to reading texts from modern Arab writers, both fiction and non-fiction, with continuing development of conversational skills.

Prescribed text

☐ Photocopied materials from a selection of modern Arabic texts will be provided.

Incompatibility: SWAA2005 Contemporary Arabic Literature A

Contemporary Arabic Literature B **ARAB2006** (6 units)

Second semester
Four hours a week

Coordinator: Dr Hajjar

Prerequisite: Introductory Arabic B SWAA1003 or ARAB1003 or equivalent

Syllabus: This course is devoted to reading texts from modern Arab writers, both fiction and non-fiction, with continuing development of conversational skills.

Prescribed text

☐ Photocopied materials from a selection of modern Arabic texts will be provided.

Incompatibility: SWAA2006 Contemporary Arabic Literature B

Media Arabic A **ARAB2003** (6 units)

First semester
Four class hours, and one hour in the language laboratory a week

Coordinator: Dr Hajjar

Prerequisite: Introductory Arabic B SWAA1003 or ARAB1003 or equivalent

Syllabus: This course is devoted to the language and style of the Arabic press and radio. The material covers ordinary news items, print-

ed or broadcast. The course provides students who have mastered basic grammar, with an introduction to the language of the Arabic media and develops their basic listening and interpreting skills.

Prescribed text

☐ Ashtiany, J, *Media Arabic*, Edinburgh, 1993

Incompatibility: SWAA2003 Media Arabic A

Media Arabic B **ARAB2007** (6 units)

Second semester
Four class hours, and one hour in the language laboratory a week

Coordinator: Dr Hajjar

Prerequisite: Introductory Arabic B SWAA1003 or ARAB1003 or equivalent

Syllabus: This course develops further the materials of Media Arabic A.

Prescribed text

☐ Ashtiany, J, *Media Arabic*, Edinburgh, 1993

☐ The lecturer will provide supplementary material selected from the Arabic press and Arabic broadcasting services, to cover Arab and international current affairs.

Incompatibility: SWAA2007 Media Arabic B

Year in the Arab World **ARAB3500A/B*** (48 units)

Full year
Available only to students taking the Bachelor of Asian Studies (Arabic) degree

Prerequisites: Permission of Head of Centre

Syllabus

(i) An initial course in colloquial Arabic (Egyptian or Levantine);

(ii) Continuing Arabic language study, and an intensive program in Arabic during the last ten weeks;

(iii) Attendance at and reports on a series of seminars at academic institutions in Amman, Beirut, or Cairo; and

(iv) The preparation of an annotated translation (from Arabic into English) with an introduction in Arabic.

Incompatibility: SWAA3500 Year in Middle East (Arabic)

*N.B. If you who wish to take this course you must enrol in both ARAB3500A (First Semester) and ARAB3500B (Second Semester). This course continues over a full-year and is not divisible into semesters. You will not receive a final grade until the completion of Part B at the end of the year. If you drop Part A in First Semester, you must also drop Part B.

Year in the Arab World Project **ARAB3501** (6 units)

Either semester
Available only to students who have completed the Year in Middle East (Arabic) SWAA3500 or Year in the Arab World ARAB3500

Syllabus: This course involves further supervised work on the annotated translation begun during the year in the Arab World. The text will have been selected in consultation with the Centre, and the annotated translation should demonstrate that the student has gained mastery over the language used in discourse in his/her chosen area of study, and the ability to position a given text in the relevant scholarly literature.

Incompatibility: SWAA3501 Year in Middle East Project

Persian

Convener: Dr Seyed Mohammad Torabi, MA PhD Tehran

The Arts major in Persian requires a minimum of 42 units (normally 7 courses) consisting of 12 units at first year level (2 courses) plus 30 units at later year level (5 courses).

The sequence of courses for the Persian major is dependent on the student's reading and language ability.

1. Major for beginners:

Iranian History and Culture MEAS2000 plus six language courses.

Summary of courses offered in the Persian major in 2001

	Semester 1	Semester 2
First Year	Introductory Persian A PERS1001 Introductory Persian B PERS1002	Introductory Persian A PERS1001 Introductory Persian B PERS1002
Later year	Intermediate Persian A PERS2003 Intermediate Persian B PERS2004 Advanced Persian A PERS3005 Advanced Persian B PERS3006	Iranian History and Culture MEAS2000 Intermediate Persian A PERS2003 Intermediate Persian B PERS2004 Advanced Persian A PERS3005 Advanced Persian B PERS3006

FIRST YEAR COURSES

Persian Language — Introductory Persian A

PERS1001
(6 units)

Offered both semesters 2002

Four hours of lectures per week (may include language laboratory sessions).

Lecturer: Dr Torabi

Syllabus

- Sound system and script
- Grammar
- Study of selected texts
- Translation from and into Persian

Proposed assessment: Final examination 50%, attendance/class participation 25%, homework 25%.

Prescribed reading

□ A textbook, audio tape and supplementary materials will be available from the lecturer.

Persian Language — Introductory Persian B

PERS1002
(6 units)

Offered both semesters 2002

Four hours of lectures per week (may include language laboratory sessions).

Prerequisite: Introductory Persian A (or equivalent prior knowledge, with permission of the lecturer)

Lecturer: Dr Torabi

Syllabus

- More grammar
- Study of some suitable Persian texts
- Translation from and into Persian

Proposed assessment: Final examination 50%, attendance/class participation 25%, homework 25%.

Prescribed reading

□ A textbook, audio tape and supplementary materials will be available from the lecturer.

LATER YEAR COURSES

Iranian History and Culture

MEAS2000
(6 units)

Offered in 2002
Second semester

2. Major for post-beginners:

Iranian History and Culture MEAS2000 plus language courses dependent on language proficiency and additional courses to achieve the requirement for 42 units.

With the permission of the Convener, a student with appropriate language competence may enter the major at Intermediate Persian or Advanced Persian level.

This is a new major and new later-year courses will be developed in 2001 and offered in 2002.

Two lectures and one tutorial per week for eleven weeks

Prerequisite: First year courses to the value of 12 cp from Arts or Asian Studies, or with permission of the Director of the Centre.

Lecturer: Dr Torabi

Syllabus: This course broadly examines the cultural-social values and processes that have formed Iranian civilisation. The course comprises three sections: ancient, medieval and modern Iran. The student will be introduced to language, literature, art and society in Iran, ranging from ancient Persia to contemporary Iran. The course will seek to analyse a range of topics, which includes the history of Islam in Iran, and its implications for Iranian art and literature, and the expansion of local crafts in Medieval Iran. It will also provide an analysis of the socio-political aspects that came to create modern Iran, emphasising the move towards the constitutional revolution, the consequences of the fifty-year Pahlavi dynasty, and finally the Islamic revolution and its impact on Iranian society and culture.

Proposed Assessment: Essay (3000 words) 45%, final Examination (two hours) 40%, Tutorial assessment 15%

Preliminary reading

- Browne, E., *Literary History of Persia*, Cambridge: Cambridge Press, 1964, Volumes 2–4
- Frye, R. N., *The Golden Age of Persia*, London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1975, Chapter 1 'Past, Present and Future', pp. 1–2
- Adams, C. J. (ed.), *Iranian Civilization and Culture*, Montreal: McGill University Press, 1979

Persian Language — Intermediate Persian A

PERS2003
(6 units)

Offered both semesters 2002

Four hours of lectures per week (may include language laboratory sessions).

Prerequisite: Introductory Persian B (or equivalent prior knowledge, with permission of the lecturer)

Lecturer: Dr Torabi

Syllabus

- More advanced grammar
- Study of some Persian texts literary texts (particularly Persian prose)
- Advanced translation from and into Persian

Proposed assessment: Final examination 50%, attendance/class participation 25%, homework 25%.

Prescribed reading

□ A textbook, audio tape and supplementary materials will be available from the lecturer.

**Persian Language — Intermediate
Persian B**

**PERS2004
(6 units)**

Offered both semesters 2002

Four hours of lectures per week (may include language laboratory sessions).

Prerequisite: Intermediate Persian B (or equivalent prior knowledge, with permission of the lecturer)

Lecturer: Dr Torabi

Syllabus

(a) More advanced grammar

(b) Study of some Persian texts literary texts (particularly Persian prose)

(c) Advanced translation from and into Persian

Proposed assessment: Final examination 50%, attendance/class participation 25%, homework 25%.

Prescribed reading

A textbook, audio tape and supplementary materials will be available from the lecturer.

**Persian Language — Advanced Persian A PERS3005
(6 units)**

Offered both semesters 2002

Four hours of lectures per week (may include language laboratory sessions).

Prerequisite: Intermediate Persian B (or equivalent prior knowledge, with permission of the lecturer)

Lecturer: Dr Torabi

Syllabus: This course builds on the Introductory and Intermediate levels of Persian language and is aimed at developing the student's knowledge and improving their ability in reading, writing and speaking Persian. The grammar in this course will cover more about prefixes and suffixes as well as adverbs and prepositions. Selected texts will also be studied.

Proposed assessment: Final examination 50%, attendance/class participation 25%, homework 25%

Prescribed reading

Course materials will be available from the lecturer.

**Persian Language — Advanced Persian B PERS3006
(6 units)**

Offered both semesters 2002

Four hours of lectures per week (may include language laboratory sessions).

Prerequisite: Advanced Persian A (or equivalent prior knowledge, with permission of the lecturer)

Lecturer: Dr Torabi

Syllabus: This course will further develop the student's knowledge and improve Persian reading, writing and speaking skills. The course will deal with Persian literature, both prose and verse, including the three areas of Persian verse: the epic, the lyric and the dramatic, and consider poetic structure such as rhythm, rhyme and rank. Students will read selected texts from Persian prose and poetry.

Proposed assessment: Final examination 50%, attendance/class participation 25%, homework 25%.

Prescribed reading

Course materials will be available from the lecturer.