

**From:** [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)  
**To:** [Brenner, Naomi](#); [Smith, Jeremie S.](#)  
**Cc:** [Savage, Shari](#); [Heysel, Garrett](#)  
**Subject:** Revisions Arabic Major and Minor  
**Date:** Thursday, November 15, 2018 1:08:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Revision Arabic major & minor.docx](#)

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Dear Naomi and Jeremie,

On Tuesday, November 6, the Arts and Humanities 1 Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed proposals to revise the Arabic Major and Minor.

The Panel did not vote on the proposals but would like some points addressed first. Many of these are fairly punctual. The curriculum map/program goals & major assessment plan may need more reworking. For your convenience, I am cutting/pasting the feedback underneath my email as well attaching it as a separate Word document.

If you have any questions about the feedback of the Panel, do not hesitate to contact Shari Savage (faculty chair of the A&H1 Panel; cc'd here), or me.

When you are ready, please feel free to send me updated documents that addresses the feedback of the Panel & I will then resubmit these to the Panel.

Best,  
Bernadette



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Revision of Arabic major

- Cover letter: Should it refer to August 2019 at the top?
- P. 2: Correct that revised major will be 33-35 credits. According to the revised advising sheet this will be a 33 credit major.
- P. 3: Two passages: "Colloquial Arabic (4111 renamed 2111)" & "a two-semester sequence (4111-4112 renamed 2111-2112)": "renamed" should be replaced by "renumbered."
- P. 3: Table with revised names: Not clear why 2104 is included, since there is no title change (except for the Arabic numeral being substituted for the Roman numeral, but that change will not be implemented by the Registrar's Office—Roman numerals are to be used in titles and Arabic numerals in transcript abbreviations).

- P. 4: The current prerequisites for Arabic 4111 and 4112 are supposed to be included at the top of the page but are not.
- P. 4: The following statement is unexplained, “Changing the prerequisites aims to ensure that heritage language speakers already familiar with the dialect of Arabic taught take the second course (Arabic 2112) rather than the first course (Arabic 2111).” Without further explanation, it appears to be a non-sequitur.
- P. 5: Current advising sheet:
  - The following sentence should be corrected: “18 of the total 33 credit hours must be acquired through instruction at OSU.” The total is currently 36 hours, not 33.
  - On the departmental website, two more courses are included for the section “Translated Arabic Literature/Culture”: 2241 and 3601. Furthermore, the title of the section should likely include the word “culture” (like on the departmental website). The advising sheet simply refers to “Major Literature in Translation.”
  - For the electives, the departmental website specifies that a minimum of 2 Arabic language courses need to be taken. That information is not included on the advising sheet.
  - Arabic 5162 was withdrawn in 2016 and should be removed.
- P. 6: Revised advising sheet:
  - The following sentence should be corrected: “The Arabic major consists of a minimum of 33 credit hours, but may include as many as 35 hours depending on course selection.” The major will not be 35 hours. Indeed, Arabic 4108 is incorrectly identified as being a 5 credit course (under Arabic Language Elective). Arabic 4108 is a 3 credit course.
  - The following sentences should be corrected: “A minimum of C- in any course counting toward the minor is required. Half of the total hours in the minor must be acquired through instruction at OSU.” The advising sheet is for a major, not a minor.
  - Next to the section title “Arabic Language Elective,” remove the reference to 3-5 credits. Instead it should say: pick one course 3 credits.
  - For the Arabic Electives section: Do students still need to take some of these courses in the language (as is currently the case)?
  - Arabic 5162 was withdrawn in 2016 and should be removed.
  - Arabic 5703 is neither in the course catalog nor in the list of limbo courses maintained by the Registrar’s Office [https://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/SchedulingContent/Limbo\\_Courses\\_Report.pdf](https://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/SchedulingContent/Limbo_Courses_Report.pdf). However, it does not appear the course has been withdrawn either. What is the status of this course?
  - Question about statement at the bottom: “Students with advanced language skills will have to substitute 4000-5000 level courses for their language requirements.” What section does that refer to: Only the three required language courses? Also the Arabic language elective?
- Pp. 7-8: Curriculum map: The Panel wonders if the department might like to rephrase Goal #1: “Students achieve intermediate high competency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to Modern Standard Arabic.” Indeed:
  - Some of the courses listed as fulfilling Goal 1 are actually not Modern Standard Arabic courses: Arabic 2111 and 2112 are colloquial Arabic.

- Arabic 5611 and 5703 have no language prereq (one does not need to know Arabic to take the courses) but are said to fulfill the language competency at an advanced level.

More generally, it might be good to double-check that the other three goals are useful, concrete, assessable, and fulfilled by the appropriate courses.

- Pp. 9-13: Assessment Plan:
  - Please see comments also given for Islamic Studies Major: Portfolio assessment can be difficult, time-consuming, inconsistent, and unreliable, especially with smaller programs. Assessment should be something simple to implement. For example, the panel recommends choosing specific courses and utilizing rubrics to assess learning goals for specific assignments in those courses.
  - Moreover, under the suggested plan, for learning goals 2, 3, and 4: If for the Arabic electives section, students can take all language courses, then those learning goals 2, 3, and 4 would not be assessable for those students (since the plan indicates that “Instructors of all non-language Arabic courses at the 3000-level or higher will be required to identify one question or aspect of the final exam or final paper that relates to .....”).
  - The panel recommends using more measures for the first learning outcome aside from one final exam or project.
  - Make sure to adjust all dates for implementation schedule (should not refer to Autumn 2018).
- Sample 4-year plan: In Spring of Year 3, there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> GE Math slot, which is not necessary. On the other hand, there is no GE Cultures and Ideas/second Historical Study slot in the current plan.

#### Revision of Arabic minor

- Some elements mentioned for the major need to be corrected here as well:
  - Cover letter: Should it refer to August 2019 at the top?
  - P. 2: Correct that revised major will be 33-35 credits. According to the revised advising sheet this will be a 33 credit major.
  - P. 3: Two passages: “Colloquial Arabic (4111 renamed 2111)” & “a two-semester sequence (4111-4112 renamed 2111-2112)”: “renamed” should be replaced by “renumbered.”
  - P. 3: Table with revised names: Not clear why 2104 is included, since there is no title change (except for the Arabic numeral being substituted for the Roman numeral, but that change will not be implemented by the Registrar’s Office—Roman numerals are to be used in titles and Arabic numerals in transcript abbreviations).
  - P. 4: The current prerequisites for Arabic 4111 and 4112 are supposed to be included at the top of the page but are not.
  - P. 4: The following statement is unexplained, “Changing the prerequisites aims to ensure that heritage language speakers already familiar with the dialect of Arabic taught take the second course (Arabic 2112) rather than the first course (Arabic 2111).” Without further explanation, it appears to be a non-sequitur.
- P. 6: Revised advising sheet:
  - In both the left and right columns, the maximum credit for the minor should be

- corrected to 18. (The maximum is not 17.)
- Arabic 5703 is neither in the course catalog nor in the list of limbo courses maintained by the Registrar's Office  
[https://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/SchedulingContent/Limbo\\_Courses\\_Report.pdf](https://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/SchedulingContent/Limbo_Courses_Report.pdf)  
. However, it does not appear the course has been withdrawn either. What is the status of this course?
- P. 7: Departmental advising sheet:
  - The maximum credit for the minor should be corrected to 18. (The maximum is not 17.)
  - The following statement needs to be corrected: "Half of the total hours in the minor must be acquired through instruction at OSU." The statement that appears on the ASC advising sheet should be inserted instead. Indeed, whatever the number of credit hours of a minor, only 6 hours of transfer or EM credit can apply to a minor.
  - The Electives header, should indicate 3-5 credits (since one course in the list is 5 credits).
  - Arabic 5703 is neither in the course catalog nor in the list of limbo courses maintained by the Registrar's Office  
[https://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/SchedulingContent/Limbo\\_Courses\\_Report.pdf](https://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/SchedulingContent/Limbo_Courses_Report.pdf)  
. However, it does not appear the course has been withdrawn either. What is the status of this course?
  - Question about statement at the bottom: "Students with advanced language skills will have to substitute 4000-5000 level courses for their language requirements." What section does that refer to: Only the required language course? Also the Arabic language elective?