



MENA LANGUAGES | FALL 2019 MAKING CONNECTIONS ACROSS CULTURES

Welcome to our very first newsletter. MENA Languages offers courses in four of the most commonly spoken languages in the MENA region: Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. Although we teach four distinct languages, the Program strives to bring our language learners and faculty together to explore the cultures of the region as a whole.

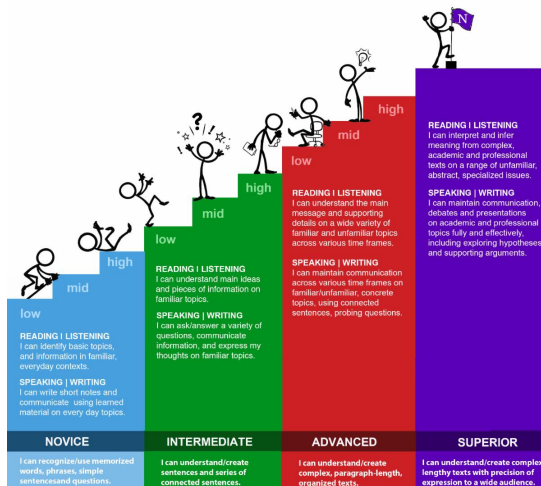


The Program's [Website](#) is live!

Explore our new website and find everything from the Program's [Mission Statement](#), to a summary of [Study-Abroad Opportunities](#), to an overview of [Language Proficiency Goals](#), to a description of our [Award-Winning Faculty](#).

We're busy this Fall

Almost 100 students are taking a MENA Languages course this quarter. The Program has hosted a dozen [Language Tables](#), two [Movie Nights](#), and a Study-Abroad Information Session. Interested in joining us? Check out our [winter courses](#).



Studying Languages at NU

Relish the experience of learning a new language. Of the more than 20 foreign languages which WCAS offers, the MENA Languages Program offers four of them. See Northwestern's Council on Language Instruction's [helpful guide](#) to studying languages at NU, or contact the [Program](#) for more information on how to start or continue your MENA Languages journey. We teach and evaluate our students according to the [ACTFL](#) scale which has five proficiency levels, and more details can be found [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

Our new Faculty Member in Persian

We also welcome Maziyar Faridi to our



Our new Faculty Member in Arabic

Please welcome Dr. Rana Raddawi (left) to our program. Dr. Raddawi has 17 years of teaching experience at the undergraduate and graduate level. She holds a Ph.D. in translation studies from Sorbonne University, Paris, in Arabic, English, and French. She is fluent in English, Arabic, French, Portuguese and Turkish; a professional trainer for teachers and interpreters; and a certified interpreter and translator. Her research interests relate to second language acquisition and pedagogy, cross-cultural studies, and translation and interpretation. Dr. Raddawi is teaching first- and second-year Arabic for us this year.

program. Maziyar is a Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative Literary Studies and English at Northwestern University and on track to finish his dissertation this spring. Maziyar is a native speaker of Persian, fluent in English, and has studied French, Arabic, and Latin. He is teaching second-year Persian for us this year.

Award for supporting Turkish

Dr. Oya Topçuoğlu received a monetary award for her professional development from the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program at Northwestern. The award is in recognition of her tireless efforts on campus as an instructor and advocate for Turkish language and culture. Congratulations, Oya.

Our new Program Assistant

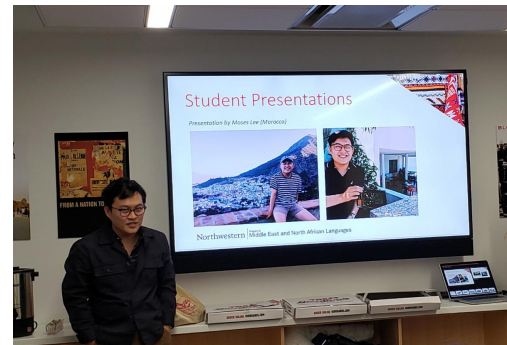
Our program is in excellent hands with our new program assistant Charlene Mitchell. She has been with us for only a few weeks and has already taken over most of our administrative duties. Welcome and thank you from all of us!

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM



Interactive Learning Opportunity

Students in Dr. Hanna Tzucker Seltzer's third-year Hebrew class had a chance to speak in Hebrew to artist Yonatan Blumenfeld and ask questions about living in Jerusalem as part of Dr. Seltzer's course on Jerusalem. Yonatan Blumenfeld, an Israeli musician, screenwriter, theater director, and famous [slam poet](#), talked about the challenges of growing up in Jerusalem and his work in civil and human rights. Interested in meeting Yonatan



Study Abroad Experiences

Together with the [Global Learning Office](#), our Program hosted a study abroad information session. Many of our students spoke about their experiences abroad: Dominic Balestrieri-Fox (Turkey); Mara Kelly (Jordan); Hannah Ni'shuilleabhain (Turkey); Moses Lee (Morocco); Carter Rothman (Jordan); and Jojo (Joanna) Levy, Seth Bernstein, and Oliver Loshitzer (Israel). Their presentations made clear that total immersion turbocharges language learning,

Blumenfeld in person this spring? Stay tuned.

including slang and colloquialism; and it also teaches students how to survive in an entirely new culture.

And finally, a Snapshot of some of our Language Tables



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