

Queens College CUNY

Proposal for a General Education

COLLEGE OPTION LITERATURE COURSE

Please use one form per course proposal.

Instructions:			
1. Please save this document with the following file name: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <discipline>_<number>_Proposal.doc for example: French_41_Proposal.doc </div>			
2. Please provide a sample syllabus (using the provided template) with the following file name: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <discipline>_<number>_Syllabus.doc for example: French_41_Syllabus.doc </div>			
3. Send the proposal and the syllabus as an email attachment to the Academic Senate Administrative Coordinator, Brenda Salas (brenda.salas@qc.cuny.edu) and she will forward it to the UCC.			
Name and Email of Primary Contact	R. Shareah Taleghani rtaleghani@qc.cuny.edu		
Course Prefix and Number (e.g., ANTH 101, if number not assigned, enter XXX)	MES 245		
Course Title	<i>The 1001 Nights in World Literature and Film</i>		
Department(s)	CMAL		
Discipline	Middle East Studies	Credits:	3
Pre-requisites (if none, enter N/A)	English 110		
Co-requisites (if none, enter N/A)			
Catalogue Description	This course is a study of the origins, history, tales, and influences of <i>The 1001 Nights (Alf Layla wa Layla)</i> in both their medieval Arab-Islamic milieu and modern adaptations in world literature and film. Major goals of the course include understanding the original frame story and embedded tales in the literary and political context of the Abbasid era, analyzing the key themes of justice, mercy, fate, and faith as well as gender roles in the text, tracing major European translations of the text and their relationship to Orientalism, and investigating how modern authors and filmmakers have adapted <i>The 1001 Nights</i> to comment on varying historical, political, and social issues. All readings will be in English translation.		
For What majors, if any, does this course satisfy a requirement?	Middle Eastern Studies major (counts as one of four "core" courses) Arabic minor (counts as an elective)		
Note any interdisciplinary programs (e.g., Africana Studies, Women & Gender Studies, etc.) for which this course may satisfy a	Potential Media and Film Studies elective (previously taught as MES 240)		

requirement.	
If this course is regularly co-listed, please indicate the course(s) here, and whether the other course(s) meet general education requirements.	
Sample Syllabus	Syllabus Template Follows this form
<p style="text-align: center;">Indicate the status of this course being nominated:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> current course <input type="checkbox"/> revision of current course X <input type="checkbox"/> a new course being proposed </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Check below if applicable:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> This is a Capstone Course <input type="checkbox"/> This is a Synthesis course <input type="checkbox"/> This is already a "W" course <input type="checkbox"/> Seeking "W" designation </p>	

LEARNING OUTCOMES

In the *left column* explain the COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES that will address the learning outcomes in the right column.

A. All Queens College General Education courses

Queens College Option courses must meet all the learning outcomes in the right column. A student will:

This course focuses on teaching students to engage with literary texts, both classical and modern in a meaningful and analytical fashion. Knowledge is construed through close reading and analysis of both the original stories of the *1001 Nights* and modern essays, poetry, short stories, and novels inspired by the *1001 Nights*. Students interpret and analyze the texts by asking and responding to questions about the poetics and morals of the texts.

Students will also examine the relationship of these texts to their relevant political and historical contexts, including the medieval Arab-Islamic contexts (particularly the Abbasid era) of as well as multi-cultural influences on the original tales of the *Nights* as well as varying modern contexts in which the tales have been adapted. Such questions include how and to what effect are political authority, justice, faith, fate, race, and gender roles portrayed in the texts. Additionally, in examining the modern adaptations and/or Western texts and films inspired by or influenced by the *Nights*, students engage with the question of representation of the 'Orient.'

In order to contextualize the analysis and appreciation of the primary texts assigned, this course examines the multi-cultural origins and history of the *1001 Nights* (from India to Persia to the medieval Arab-Islamic world), positions the original tales in their Arab-Islamic contexts, examines the impact and influences of European translations of the *Nights* in order to comprehend the impact of the dissemination of the tales on world literature as a whole. In addition through close readings and

Address how, in the discipline (or disciplines) of the course, data and evidence are construed and knowledge is acquired; that is, how questions are asked and answered.

Position the discipline(s) in the liberal arts curriculum and the larger society

<p>questioning of the texts, students engage in critical thinking, including gaining an understanding of how Orientalist discourse has shaped Western conceptions of the Middle East and Islamic world up until today.</p>	
<p>B. QC College Option Literature Courses</p> <p>Queens College Option LIT courses <u>must meet all the learning outcomes</u> in the right column. A student will:</p>	
<p>Through reading assignments, class participation, weekly Exit Ticket assignments, and essay exams, students will learn to understand the relevance of original tales of the <i>1001 Nights</i> as well as modern adaptations. Through critical engagement with a variety of literary texts, students will develop their skills to express why readings such texts can increase cross-cultural understanding, develop intercultural tolerance, and change prevailing stereotypes.</p>	<p>LIT 1: Understand and be able to express the advantages of reading literature</p>
<p>In addition to the original <i>1001 Nights</i> frame story and embedded tales and the most popular “orphan stories” such as “Aladdin,” students will be required to read and critically engage with a variety of primary texts (novels, short stories, poetry, essays such as Mahfouz’s <i>Arabian Nights and Days</i> and Poe’s “The 1002nd Night”) as well as critical and theoretical texts (such as Said’s <i>Orientalism</i> and Clinton’s “Madness and Cure.”)</p>	<p>LIT 2: Engage in the practice of reading.</p>
<p>Through translated texts, students will acquire an appreciation for the original stories of the <i>1001 Nights</i> (generally categorized as folk tales but that also include poetry within the stories themselves) as well as modern adaptations from and meditations on the <i>Nights</i> that include poetry (Borges, Tennyson), essays (Borges), short stories (Poe, Tamir, Borges), and novels (Rushdie, Mahfouz, Sebbar).</p>	<p>LIT 3: Appreciate different genres, including narratives, poetry, essays, or drama in their original language or in English translation.</p>
<p>Through pre-assigned in-class discussion questions, weekly Exit Ticket writing assignments, a midterm essay exam, and a final essay exam with prompts and questions that engage students in critically analyzing the assigned materials, students will develop oral and written communication skills in order to better understand, appreciate, and compare</p>	<p>LIT 4: Through discussion and writing, develop and improve upon skills used in understanding and appreciating literature.</p>

the <i>1001 Nights</i> and more modern texts adapted from or inspired by it.	
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