ARABIC STUDIES (559) • Founded: 1977

The concerns of this seminar are interdisciplinary and humanistic. In addition to Arabic language and literature, the range of interests includes topics of significance for Islamic studies: religion, philosophy, science, law and history of the Muslim world, and modern social and cultural history. The seminar affords an opportunity to members and guest speakers to discuss research in progress, and because members come from several disciplines, the substantive discussions draw upon various fields to expand the sources, help reformulate questions, and anticipate future publications.

CHAIR/S: **Muhsin al-Musawi**; **Matthew Lindfors Keegan** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Ruwa Mohammed Alhayek**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

October 9 — *"Between Arabia, al-Andalus, and Sicily, There Was Always the Maghrib!": Readings from Of Lost Cities: The Maghribī Poetic Imagination*
Nizar Hemes, University of Virginia

November 13 — *"The Measure of Your [Thinking] Is to Me Unknown:" Aḥmad Fāris al-Shidyāq's Theory of Comparison and Analogy in "Maqāmah on Chapter Thirteen"*
Rama Alhabian, Hamilton College

January 29 — *The Serpent and the Fox, and the Bird in the Jar: Two Eye-Popping Fables by al-Maʿarrī*
Kevin Blankinship, Brigham Young University

February 5 — *Eyes of Wonders: On the Inventions and Oddities in al-Mutanabbi's Poetry*
Ali Bin Tamim, Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (United Arab Emirates)

February 23 — *Why Wasn't Print Adopted in the Early Modern Middle East?: A New Perspective*
Nir Shafir, University of California San Diego

April 30 — *Dust That Never Settles: Literary Afterlives of the Iran-Iraq War*
Amir Moosavi, Rutgers University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Muhsin al-Musawi**, ma2188@columbia.edu; **Matthew Lindfors Keegan**, mlkeegan@barnard.edu