

Arabic is the fifth most common language, with over 300 million native speakers. It is one of the six official languages of the U.N.



Hebrew has 9 million speakers worldwide. It is the language of the Bible and it was not spoken for centuries, until it was revived 140 years ago.



Turkish is the native language of 80 million people. Turkey is home to some of the earliest advanced civilizations in human history.

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Study Abroad

One of the best ways to become proficient in a language, to expand cultural interests, and to meet different people including native speakers is to live and study abroad. Northwestern's classrooms extend well beyond the Evanston campus. Study Abroad Programs have historically been offered in:

- Egypt (Arabic)
- Israel (Hebrew)
- Jordan (Arabic)
- Morocco (Arabic)
- Turkey (Turkish)

Notably, Arabic, Hebrew, and Turkish are considered "important" or "critical" languages by the U.S. Department of State. There are many grants, fellowships, and scholarships available to students who develop language and cultural expertise in the countries where the languages are spoken. Review our students' Study Abroad Experiences on our website! To view updated opportunities, go to: https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad



Northwestern

Program in **Middle East and North African Languages**

MENA Languages Program

ARABIC

HEBREW

TURKISH

Both new language learners and heritage speakers have excelled in our Program and have received many awards, grants, fellowships and scholarships.



Our Program immerses students in both the languages and the rich cultures of the region. We offer language tables, holiday celebrations, cultural festivals, authentic meals, guest speakers, and film events. The vast scope of cultural exposure expands how our students see, understand, talk about, and interact with the world.



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Why Study Arabic, Hebrew, or Turkish?

The Middle East and North African (MENA) region stretches from Morocco to Iran. It is one of the linguistically most diverse regions. We teach the three most commonly spoken languages of the region: Arabic, Hebrew, and Turkish.



Proficiency in a MENA language presents unparalleled opportunities to address the complex political and economic questions involving the MENA region and the world. It also is a real asset for the private and nonprofit sectors, as well as businesses which seek to better understand emerging markets and institutions in the Middle East. Knowledge of a MENA language prepares students for many pursuits, including archeology, business, government, history, journalism, law, political science, and technology, to name just a few.

Our courses can satisfy requirements for:

- WCAS Foundational Disciplines
- A Minor or Major in MENA Studies, German, German Studies, Hebrew or Jewish Studies
- The Minor in Arabic
- The ISP Certificate of Distinction in Foreign Language.

ARABIC COURSES

- First-Year Language Sequence
- Second-Year Language Sequence
- Third-Year Language Sequence
- Colloquial Arabic (Egyptian | Levantine)
- Media Arabic
- Language & Culture (Arab Immigration | Cairo: The Seven Layers of Civilization)
- Current Events: Arab Society thru Online Media
- Translation in Practice
- Classic Arabic Texts (One Thousand and One Nights)
- Reading Classical Arabic Texts: Manuscripts
- Arabic Prose (Arab Woman | I am an Arab)

HEBREW COURSES

- First-Year Language Sequence
- Second-Year Language Sequence
- Third-Year Language Course (Fun Stuff)
- Third-Year Culture and Literature Courses (The Four-Dimensional Jerusalem | Parents & Children in Israeli Society | Between Two Writers: Sayed Kashua and Etgar Keret)
- Current Events: Israeli Society thru Online Media
- Fourth-Year Culture and Literature Courses (Biblical Stories & Contemporary Poems)

TURKISH COURSES

- First-Year Language Sequence
- Second-Year Language Sequence (Capstone course is Istanbul: Gateway between East & West)