

Past and Current Islamic/Arabic Manuscript Short Courses Offered by other Institutions

Supplementary information for Session 3. "Teaching with the Collection I: Manuscript Studies."
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[Arabic Manuscripts Workshop at Princeton University](#)

Co-organized by Princeton and UCLA, which house the two largest repositories of Islamicate manuscripts in North America, the workshop will equip emerging scholars with the basic tools to conduct research using original handwritten texts in Arabic script. Over the course of four days, participants will learn the basics of codicology, paleography, and manuscript production and circulation, and receive exposure to an expansive vision of current debates in Arabic manuscript research. Topics include anatomy of the codex, text blocks, colophons, audition notes, owners' notes, readers' notes, supports, inks, bindings, scribes and other craftspeople, scripts, canonical and informal; strategies for decipherment, technical terminology, transmission practices and patterns, digital collections; contemporary ethics and best practices.

[The Islamic Manuscript Association \(TIMA\)](#)

TIMA organises short courses to offer much-needed training to persons working with Islamic manuscripts. These courses on such topics as codicology, the palaeography of early Qur'anic scripts, managing the library and museum environment, disaster planning and management, and planning and managing digitisation projects are led by international experts. The Association has partnered with numerous institutions on its courses, including the University of Cambridge, the University of Hamburg's Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, the Turkish Ministry of Culture's Public Authority for Manuscripts, al-Azhar al-Sharif, Stanford University, the British Library, the University of Manchester, the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, and the American University of Beirut.

[Introduction to Arabic Manuscript Studies at the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library \(HMML\)](#)

This course aims to 1) introduce students to the study of Arabic manuscripts in historical, cultural, and material dimensions; 2) Provide basic introduction to paleography, codicology, and philological practices, with a special focus on the application of these skills in a digital context; 3) Engage with a wide range of scholarly reference tools for the study of Arabic manuscripts; and 4) Introduce students to a diversity of Arabic manuscript traditions from West Africa and the Middle East, both Islamic and Christian.

By the end of the course, students will be able to contribute to the scholarly description of a previously uncataloged manuscript of their choice from the HMML collection.

[UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies: An Introduction to Arabic Manuscripts](#)

This week-long workshop features leading authorities on the study of Arabic manuscripts. The workshop will equip emerging scholars with the basic tools to conduct research with original handwritten texts in Arabic script. Over the course of five days, participants will learn the basics of codicology, paleography, and manuscript production and circulation, in the context of an expansive vision of current debates in Arabic manuscript research. Topics include anatomy of the codex, canonical and informal scripts, colophons, audition notes, owners' notes, readers' notes, digital collections, ethics and best practices, scribes and other craftspeople, strategies for decipherment, supports, bindings, technical terminology, and transmission practices and patterns.

[Summer Course at the Rare Book School: Introduction to Islamic Manuscripts](#)

Though the arts of the manuscript book constitute one of the most vital forms of artistic creativity and practice within the Islamic world, they have received relatively little attention within the general field of manuscript studies in Europe and America. This course provides an introduction to the history of Islamic manuscripts and the constituent arts of calligraphy, illumination, illustration and binding from the origins of Islam in the seventh century through the early modern period (sixteenth and seventeenth centuries), encompassing the full range of historical cultures (Arab, Persian, Turkish and Indian). Within a chronological framework, course topics include: the codicology of Islamic manuscripts (materials and techniques); issues of text, style, iconography, meaning and aesthetics; and the human dimension of manuscript production (collaboration between artists of diverse crafts in a workshop setting, the role of patrons in supporting the bookmaking enterprise over the centuries). The course will be taught primarily through the rich (and little-known) collection of Islamic manuscripts at the Free Library of Philadelphia, with a one-day visit to the University of Pennsylvania manuscript collection and conservation lab.

[Digital Islamicate Paleography and Codicology Summer Course at the University of Maryland](#)

This course provides students a unique opportunity to learn about the Arabic script manuscript tradition as a whole, its paleographic and codicological features, and cutting edge digital humanist tools and methods especially suited to paleographic and codicological concerns, including relevant recent advances in such fields as machine learning and artificial intelligence and their applications to the study of Islamicate manuscript traditions. Taught by Dr. Jonathan Parkes Allen, one of the principle investigators in the ACDC project, the course will be structured such that by the end of the summer students will have gained both knowledge and practical experience in the use and understanding of the Arabic script manuscript tradition along with digital tools and techniques that will both facilitate this understanding and transform how students interact with and think about manuscripts. Students will be exposed to the full breadth of the Arabic script tradition, from West Africa to China, in both the 'classical' languages of Arabic, Persian, and Ottoman Turkish as well as examples of vernaculars written in Arabic script, with special focus given to script traditions often treated as 'marginal.'

[Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society: Philology and Manuscripts from the Muslim World](#)

This summer school is for graduate (MA and PhD) students and researchers who have an interest in handwritten materials, editing, and the tradition of editing in the Muslim world. It offers theoretical lectures as well as hands-on practice with samples from the world-famous collections of the Leiden University Library.

Over the course of two weeks, specialists from Leiden University and beyond will provide theoretical instruction on issues of editing, paleography, conservation and other material aspects of oriental manuscripts. They will also speak about philology, literacy and orality and the transmission of knowledge in the Islamic manuscript culture, presenting case-studies from various parts of the Muslim world. Participants can use this information to practice their skills in producing a sample critical edition of a manuscript of their choice, under the supervision of experts.

[Summer Course in Madrid on Arabic Codicology: The Islamic Manuscript Heritage in the El Escorial Collection](#)

This leading program aims at providing the knowledge and academic tools for the study and analysis of manuscripts in Arabic script, focusing on a practical approach. We have the privilege of attending the hands-on sessions at the Royal Library of the Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial (RBME), which hosts the most important collection of manuscripts in Arabic script in Spain and one of the most prominent in Europe. The course is designed for historians, art historians, philologists, documentary makers, antiquarians, curators, bibliophiles, conservation specialists, etc., preferably with a Master's degree.

[Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations Online Course: Manuscripts in Arabic Scripts – Introduction to Codicology](#)

This online course aims to introduce key concepts in the field of Arabic manuscripts and codicology. It is designed to attract participants who want to learn basic knowledge about Arabic manuscripts. The first day will provide an overview of the field of codicology and its role in the manuscript field in general and in identifying key features of manuscripts in particular. The second session will be dedicated to writing supports, the structure of quires, ruling and page layout, bookbinding, ornamentation, tools and materials used in bookmaking, and the palaeography of book hands. Some practical examples will be given based on the lecturers' long experiences. The second day will focus on the importance of manuscripts in research. While the first session will cover the paratextual features in the Arabic manuscripts, the second session will demonstrate the different approaches in editing manuscripts.

[Introduction to Arabo-Islamic Manuscript Culture at University of Tübingen, Germany](#)

The course consists of six open lectures and three closed practical sessions, taking students on an exploration of Islamic intellectual heritage from its origins to the modern era. The lectures begin by tracing fundamental perspectives of heritage, along with related terms, concepts and disciplines dealing with manuscripts. After a survey of writing materials and formats, we will focus on the Arabo-Islamic manuscript tradition, outlining its textual and physical aspects. We will also discuss the cultural history of the Qur'an and Hadith documentation and authorship, as well as issues in the history of reading, learning and the transmission of knowledge, the role of libraries, the book trade, and the preparation of editions.

[Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin and Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation \(London\): Codicological and Paleographical Aspects of Islamic Manuscripts, with a Special Focus on Manuscript Notes](#)

Codicological and palaeographical aspects of Islamic manuscripts, like writing support, binding, calligraphy, etc., will be covered in this training course/workshop. Beyond the material side of manuscripts, the main focus of this training course/workshop will be on manuscripts as sources for social and historical research, beside their content. Manuscript notes (like owners and readers entries and collation statements) or analysis of paper are only two examples that reflect several cultural and economic aspects of Islamic learning and societies. The focus of this course will be on hands-on sessions, in which the participants will have the opportunity to observe themselves the discussed features in Islamic manuscripts kept at Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, which holds around 43,000 volumes, making it one of the largest collections of Oriental manuscripts in the Western world. The workshop is planned as an advanced training course. Participants are either expected to have some experience in working with manuscripts (respectively their digital surrogates) or already participated at one of the introductory courses offered by several institutions.