

Heather Sweetser

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EDUCATION

- MA in Arabic**, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH **2012**
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Thesis: *A Chapter in the History of Coffee: A Critical Edition and Translation of Murtada az-Zabidi's Epistle on Coffee*
Advisor: Dr. Georges Tamer, Near Eastern Literatures and Cultures
- Center for Arabic Language Study Abroad (CASA)**, Cairo, Egypt **2011**
Advanced Arabic intensive year long course
- BA in Arabic, *summa cum laude***, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH **2008**
Thesis: A Bibliography and Review of Arabic Grammar Texts
Advisor: Dr. Joseph Zeidan, Near Eastern Literatures and Cultures
- BA in Islamic Studies, *summa cum laude***, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH **2008**
- BA in International Studies, *summa cum laude*** The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH **2008**
Minor: Environment and Natural Resources
- Defense Language Institute, Foreign Language Center**, Monterey, CA **2000**
Basic Arabic intensive course

WORK EXPERIENCE

- University of New Mexico, Arabic Instructor** **2014 – present**
- Teaching beginning, intermediate, and advanced level college classes of Arabic
 - Teaching content courses such as Arabian Nights and Movies of the Middle East
 - Co-creator of the website www.wecanlearnarabic.com and the ebook www.wecanlearnthealphabet.kotobee.com
- ICA Languages, Reviewer and Rendering English Editor** **2020-present**
- Reviewer and renderer for language proficiency test development projects based on the ILR scale
- Concordia Language Villages, Counselor, Curriculum Developer, Credit Facilitator** **2006, 2007, 2021-present**
- Researched existing Arabic curricula for Concordia's high school Arabic credit course
 - Assisted in writing the new curriculum for the four week credit course
 - Led small and large language instruction groups in an immersive environment
- John Wiley & Sons, Technical Editor** **2018-19**
- Edited 3rd edition of Arabic for Dummies for Arabic and English accuracy
 - Edited Arabic Character Writing for Dummies
- CLASSRoad, Instructor and Researcher** **2012-15**
- Arabic Language Specialist for courses relating to integrating technology into the classroom as well as online teaching
 - Lead instructor for Technology Literacy and Teaching Languages Online courses

- Helped curate the al-Masdar database representing a wide variety of Arabic programs, resources, and authentic materials available both on- and offline
- University of Oregon, Arabic Instructor** **2012-14**
- Taught beginning to intermediate Arabic in groups ranging from 11 to 20 students
 - Developed core materials such as worksheets, exams, and exam keys
- University of Oregon, Digital Scholarship Center, Digital Scholarship Coordinator for Arabic Manuscripts** **2013-14**
- Wrote grants for preservation of Yemeni and Islamic manuscripts
 - Hosted an Arabic manuscripts project involving preservation and codicology of manuscripts
- The Ohio State University, Graduate Teaching Assistant** **2011-12**
- Authored a critical edition and translation of Murtada az-Zabidi's manuscript on the legality of coffee in Islam
 - Developed core Arabic materials such as worksheets, exams, and exam keys
 - Taught a course on Introduction to Islam in addition to Arabic language courses
- American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS), Librarian and Researcher** **2008-9**
- Researched and developed an appropriate database for the 20,000 titles owned by AIYS' library
 - Assisted researchers in Yemen and the US in obtaining literature
 - Translated various documents from English into Arabic and from Arabic into English
- Yemen Times, Copy Editor** **2008-9**
- Edited and fact checked news articles in English
- Yemen Today, Journalist** **2008-9**
- Researched and wrote articles for the monthly periodical Yemen Today on topics ranging from the status of education in Yemen to the political history of the Houthi war
- U.S. Army, Small Missions Processor/Voice Intercept Operator, Gordon Regional Security Operations Center, Fort Gordon, GA** **2000-3**
- Held a Top Secret Sensitive Compartmentalized Information (TS/SCI) security clearance
 - Extracted, reported, and transcribed intelligence information making verbatim translations from foreign language to English
 - Managed several missions while serving as alternate shift Mission Manager
 - Awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal for contributions made to national policy makers

F E L L O W S H I P S , G R A N T S , A N D A W A R D S

- ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) National Language Teacher of the Year** **2022**
- Stevens Initiative** **2021**
- Part of a cohort at The University of New Mexico connecting our Arabic classroom with a classroom in Morocco
- SWCOLT (Southwest Conference on Language Teaching) Teacher of the Year** **2020-21**
- NMOLE (New Mexico Organization of Language Educators) Teacher of the Year** **2020-21**
- Innovation in Language Program Direction Award: Online Teaching, AAUSC (American Association of University Supervisors, Coordinators, and Directors of Language Programs)** **2020**
- Co-created wecanlearnarabic.com website along with Dr. Trentman and Mr. Serag
- UNM Lecturer of the Year** **2019-20**

- Chosen for commitment to excellent teaching, community engagement, and innovative pedagogy
- STARTALK** 2013-22
- Lead Instructor for UNM STARTALK 2015-2022
 - Arabic Language Specialist for CLASSRoad 2013-16
- Faculty Fellow for the Race and Social Justice Community of Practice** 2018-19
- Part of a cohort training other instructors in classroom inclusivity
- Educator Stipend for African Less Commonly Taught Languages, CARLA (Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition)** 2017
- Intensive course on Content Based Learning
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer and Year Fellowship** 2010-11
- Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) Fellowship** 2010-11
- Ohio State University Fellowship** 2009-10
- Tuition and stipend for one year of graduate school
- Fulbright Fellow** 2008-9
- Study of Yemeni literature in Sana'a, Yemen
- Critical Language Scholarship** 2007
- Intensive Arabic study in Sana'a, Yemen

I N V I T E D T A L K S A N D W O R K S H O P S

- NFLC (National Foreign Language Center), *online*** Jun 2022
- Keynote speaker
- IFLTA (Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association) and ILR (Indiana Language Roadmap) 2022 Nation's Best of the Best World Language Teaching and Learning Series, *online*** Jun 2022
- Presentation: Student Stereotyping and Stereotyping Students, with Dr. Amir Hedayati and Dr. Julia So
- SCOLT (Southern Conference on Language Teaching), *Norfolk, VA*** Apr 2022
- SWCOLT (Southwest Conference on Language Teaching), *Reno, NV*** Mar 2022
- Presentation: Fun Formative Assessments in the Second Language Classroom: Strategies from ACTFL National Teacher of the Year
 - Focus Session: Linguistic Inclusivity in the Second Language Classroom
- PNCFL (Pacific Northwest Council for Languages), *online*** Mar 2022
- Presentation: Engaging your Students: Strategies from ACTFL National Teacher of the Year
- CSCTFL (Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages), *online*** Mar 2022
- Presentation: Engaging your Students: Strategies from ACTFL National Teacher of the Year
- Southern California Arabic Teachers' Council, *online*** Feb 2022
- Online workshop about language and social justice in the Arabic classroom
- NECTFL (Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages), *New York, NY*** Feb 2022
- Presentation: Engaging your Students: Strategies from ACTFL National Teacher of the Year
- NMOLE, Winter Workshop, *online*** Jan 2022
- Three hour workshop instructor focusing on creating chat mats for the second language classroom
- NMOLE Fall Lift-Up Conference, *online*** Sept 2021
- Keynote speaker
- Davis School District Professional Development Workshop, *online*** Aug 2021

- Start Talking! Tips and tricks to engage students in the classroom
SWCOLT Summer 2021 Virtual Workshop, *online* **Jul 2021**
- Start Talking! Tips and tricks to engage students in the classroom
Albuquerque Academy, *Albuquerque, NM* **Jun 2020**
- Three day workshop on teaching languages online
- Focus on backward design, assessments, building community, and creating active learners in the online environment
SITE, *Santa Fe, NM* **Jul 2018**
- Talk “Coffee Comes from Arabic” and the similarities between Arabic and English
Ohio State University, *Columbus, OH* **Nov 2016**
- Workshop leader on technology for the proficiency-based LCTL (less commonly taught languages) classroom
Arabic Teachers’ Council of New York, *New York, NY* **Oct 2015**
- Two day workshop leader on alMasdar website (a searchable website that compiles websites and other online resources for students and teachers of Arabic)
Southern California Arabic Teachers’ Council, *Los Angeles, CA* **Oct 2015**
- Two day workshop leader on alMasdar website (a searchable website that compiles websites and other online resources for students and teachers of Arabic)
Michigan Arabic Teachers’ Council, *Dearborn, MI* **Sep 2015**
- Two day workshop leader on alMasdar website (a searchable website that compiles websites and other online resources for students and teachers of Arabic)

C O N F E R E N C E S A N D P R E S E N T A T I O N S

- Instructor’s role in fostering a more inclusive environment, with Dr. Julia So and Dr. Soledad Garcia-King
NMHEAR (New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference), *Albuquerque, NM* **Feb 2022**
- Instructor’s role in fostering a more inclusive environment, with Dr. Julia So, Dr. Soledad Garcia-King, and Dr. Amir Hedayati
CNM Teaching and Learning Online Workshop, *online* **Jan 2022**
- Thinking Outside the Vocabulary Box: Task Based Assessments
SWCOLT Conference, *Virtual Online Conference* **Mar 2021**
- Arabic without Textbooks: Designing an Arabic Curriculum Using a Genre-Based Approach
MESA (Middle East Studies Association), *Virtual Online Conference* **Oct 2020**
- Plurilingual and Translanguaging Pedagogies in the Intermediate Arabic Classroom
Intercultural Competence Conference (ICC), *Tucson, AZ* **Jan 2020**
- How to Effectively Use Field Trips to Conduct Performance-Based Assessments
STARTALK Fall Conference, *Phoenix, AZ* **Oct 2019**
- Using the ACTFL Can-Do Statements to Design a Proficiency Based Arabic Curriculum
AATA (American Association of Teachers of Arabic), *Boston, MA* **Nov 2016**
- Using the ACTFL Can-Do Statements to Design a Proficiency Based Arabic Curriculum
MESA (Middle East Studies Association), *Denver, CO* **Nov 2015**
- Using the ACTFL Can-Do Statements to Design a Proficiency Based Arabic Curriculum
Michigan Arabic Teachers’ Council, *Dearborn, MI* **Jun 2014**

- Presentation on alMasdar website (a searchable website that compiles websites and other online resources for students and teachers of Arabic)
- Columbia History of Science Group, Friday Harbor Labs, WA** **Mar 2014**
- Presentation on al-Karaji's treatise on Hidden Waters, an 11th century Arabic text on engineering
- MESA (Middle East Studies Association), Washington D.C.** **Nov 2014**
- Presentation on al-Karaji's treatise on Hidden Waters, an 11th century Arabic text on engineering
- ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages), Orlando, FL** **Nov 2013**
- Presentation on alMasdar website (a searchable website that compiles websites and other online resources for students and teachers of Arabic)
- STARTALK Fall Conference, Portland, OR** **Oct 2013**
- Presentation on alMasdar website (a searchable website that compiles websites and other online resources for students and teachers of Arabic)

UNIVERSITY AND OTHER SERVICE

- UNM Faculty Senate, UNM** **2020-present**
- At-Large Faculty Senate Member
 - Section B Taskforce Member
- UA-UNM Member, United Academics** **2018-20**
- Executive Council member
- Faculty Fellow – Race and Social Justice Community of Practice, UNM** **2018-present**
- Creating training opportunities for UNM instructors and beyond on topics of race and social justice, including instructor mindset, translanguaging, and microaggressions
- Language Learning Lab Advisory Committee, UNM** **2017-present**
- Assisting in the development and usage of technologies in second language acquisition
- Critical Languages Scholarship, U.S. Department of State** **2017-present**
- First and Second Round selection committee
 - University of New Mexico Campus Advisor for the Critical Languages Scholarship
- Arabic Club Faculty Advisor, The University of New Mexico (UNM)** **2016-present**
- Organized the annual Arabic Festival at The University of New Mexico
 - Helped fundraising efforts for the Yemeni crisis, helping over 100 Yemenis and their families

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Advanced Arabic

- Courses based on the Israel/Palestine conflict and media Arabic in addition to other authentic materials
- Courses based on Arabic Cinema in addition to other authentic materials
- Courses based on Classical Arabic texts in addition to other authentic materials
- Individual Studies based on content-based instruction of Arabic, modern Arabic poetry, classical Islamic thought and philosophy, Arabic Manuscript research and the manuscript tradition, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Intermediate Arabic

- Courses based on wecanlearnarabic.com co-constructed website with colleagues at UNM
- Previous courses based on al-Kitaab, 2nd and 3rd edition and media Arabic in addition to other authentic materials and blended learning instruction
- Focus on MSA (Modern Standard Arabic) and Egyptian dialect, with an introduction to other dialects

Beginning Arabic

- Courses based on wecanlearnarabic.com co-constructed website with colleagues at UNM
- Previous courses based on Alif Baa, 2nd and 3rd edition and al-Kitaab, 2nd and 3rd edition in addition to other authentic materials and blended learning instruction
- Focus on MSA (Modern Standard Arabic) and Egyptian dialect, with an introduction to other dialects

Arabic Manuscripts and the Manuscript Tradition

- Courses based on reading Arabic manuscripts and manuscript digitization

Intensive Arabic Courses

- Summer intensive courses at Concordia Language Villages and The University of New Mexico catering to elementary through high school students, from beginner to advanced
- Summer beginner-level intensive courses at Ohio State University and The University of Oregon catering to undergraduate and graduate students

Arabian Nights in Translation

- English course based on Hussain Haddawy's translations and adaptations throughout the centuries

Movies of the Middle East

- A course exposing students to movies from Morocco to Pakistan and from the early days of cinema to Netflix

Introduction to Islam

- Course introducing students to basic Islamic tenets as well as a brief overview of its history