COM 180: Topics in Comparative Literature
A Story for a Life: The Arabian Nights

(Sign up for COM 180: Topics in Comparative Literature, CRN 73010)

[If you have not met the prerequisite for COM 180, please obtain a PTA form from Chris Meares in Sproul Hall 209 to be granted enrollment by Prof. Sharlet]

Same course as MSA 121C / COM 172 / ARB 140 (pending approval)

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This course is an in-depth investigation of the best-known work of pre-modern Arabic literature that continues to be popular today, *The Thousand and One Nights*, known as *The Arabian Nights* in many English translations. All readings and course work will be in English. Please ignore the pre-requisite listed for COM 180—all students are welcome to join the course and there is no pre-requisite for COM 172, MSA 121C or ARB 140.

- explore the stories that Shahrazad, the minister’s daughter, tells to her traumatized and tyrannical king to save her life and the lives of the women in her kingdom
- examine the historical context of the book’s role in world literature and new approaches to it
- analyze *The Nights* in a comparative way using short selections from other frame tales from Persian, Sanskrit, Urdu, Italian and Spanish literature

Husain Haddawy, tr., *The Arabian Nights* (stories from the earliest version ed. by Muhsin Mahdi)
Husain Haddawy, tr., *Sindbad and Other Stories from The Arabian Nights*

Additional selections will be posted on the course site from Malcom Lyons, tr., *Arabian Nights: Tales from the Thousand and One Nights*, 3 volumes (the most extensive and later version of the book) and other frame tales

Tues/Thurs 1:40-3:00pm
CRN 73010, 4 units

GE (Old): Arts & Humanities and Writing Experience
GE (New): Arts & Humanities, World Cultures, and Writing Experience