

The Arabian Nights

ARB 260-001 T&Th 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Dr. Safa Elnaili

Spring 2020



The Arabian Nights (*One Thousand and One Nights*) is a collection of oral tales that circulated in medieval Islam and later became part of modern world literature and pop culture. This course will cover the earliest versions of these tales (around 14th century era), the origins of the tales, the role that the collection's reception and translation in Europe played in making it a key world literature text. We will also analyze important components and themes in the text, such as, story frame and structure, religion, gender, fantasy, and the politics of re-writing the Arabian Nights tales in modern context (Orientalism).

The narratives are a mixed potion of magic, love, fear, and death. The students will read a variety of tales, such as, Sinbad, Ali Baba, and Aladdin.

****This course has no prerequisite and will count towards your credits for the Arabic Minor with New College as an elective.**