

# Elsa Elmahdy إلسا المهدي

Department of Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures  
University of California, Berkeley  
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## Education:

<b>MA Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language (TAFL)</b> American University in Cairo (AUC)	2012
<b>MA Arabic Studies (Emphasis in Arabic Language and Literature)</b> American University in Cairo (AUC) Thesis: “ <i>Hija</i> ’ (Satire) in the Early Islamic Period: Thematic and Stylistic Characteristics”	2007
<b>BA Near Eastern Studies (Concentration in Arabic Language and Chemistry (Double Major))</b> University of California, Berkeley (UCB)	2002

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## Academic Interests:

Language teaching pedagogy, curriculum development, language assessment, second language acquisition, sociolinguistics, Arabic historical texts, early Islamic period, Arabic Islamic and philosophical texts, Arabic literature & poetry.

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## Academic Positions:

<b>Coordinator, Arabic Language Program</b>	2012-Present
<b>Continuing Lecturer in Arabic</b>	2017-Present
<b>Lecturer in Arabic</b> Department of Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures (MELC) (Formerly Near Eastern Studies), University of California, Berkeley	2012-2017
Responsible for the coordination of the Arabic language program, curriculum development, conducting placement & proficiency examinations, training new lecturers, mentoring Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs), teaching all levels of Arabic, teaching the pedagogy course for new GSIs of the modern Middle Eastern languages.	
<b>Arabic Language Instructor</b> Arabic Language Institute, American University in Cairo	2008-2012
Taught Elementary, Intermediate Arabic, Arabic Writing and Arabic for the News Media	
<b>Arabic Language Instructor</b> Summer Arabic Intensive, Zaytuna College, Berkeley, California	2009, 2010, 2012
Taught Advanced and Intermediate Arabic	

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## Training:

<b>ACTFL Modified Oral Proficiency Interview Training (mOPI)</b> Assessment and Evaluation Language Resource Center (AELRC), Georgetown University	2021
<b>Post-Pandemic Language Teaching</b> Michigan State University	2021
<b>Online Language Teaching</b> Michigan State University	2020
<b>Faculty Seminar on Teaching with GSIs</b> GSI Teaching and Resource Center, University of California, Berkeley Participated a three-part seminar on working with GSIs.	2013
<b>Language Teaching with Technology Seminar</b> Berkeley Language Center, University of California, Berkeley Participated in the semester-long seminar in using technology effectively in the foreign language classroom.	2013
<b>Virtual Classroom Workshop</b> Arabic Language Institute, American University in Cairo Participated in a number of workshops on conducting online teaching and creating virtual classrooms.	2011
<b>Intensive Persian Immersion Summer Program II</b> Arya International University, Yerevan, Armenia	2008
<b>Intensive Persian Immersion Summer Program I</b> California State University, Fullerton (CSUF)	2007
<b>News Translation (Arabic-English)</b> School of Continuing Education, American University in Cairo	2007
<b>Arabic Rhetoric &amp; Prosody</b> Al-Diwan Institute, Cairo, Egypt	2004-2005

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## Conference Papers, Presentations & Workshops

<b>UCLA EPIC-Lang conference, Building Sustainable Modern Language Programs: The Next Generation of Transformative Language Courses</b> Panel organizer & presenter. Panel: “Whose Line Anyway: Transformative Teaching in the Arabic Foreign Language Classroom” Presentation: “Reimagining the Arabic Foreign Language Classroom; Using a Blended Model Post Pandemic”	2022
<b>BLC Remote Language Teaching Workshop</b> <b>Presentation:</b> “Arabic Language Program – Moving Remote”	2020

<b>Online Teaching, Workshop (5-part series)</b>	2020
Department of Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures, UCB	
Workshop Co-organizer and presenter.	
“Reimagining your Course Online”, “Creating your Virtual Classroom”, “Creating and Utilizing Asynchronous Materials”, “Fostering Online Collaboration”, “Teaching Languages Online”.	
<b>Active Learning Spaces, Workshop for Faculty &amp; GSIs in NES</b>	2018
Department of Near Eastern Studies, UCB	
<b>Co-organizer</b>	
<b>Active Learning Dialogues, Panelist</b>	2018
Center for Teaching & Learning, UCB	
<b>International Conference on Teaching Arabic in a Changing World: Needs and Challenges</b> , American University in Cairo (AUC), Cairo, Egypt	2013
Paper Title: “Student and Teacher Beliefs on Written Corrective Feedback in the Arabic Foreign Language Classroom”	
<b>Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Washington DC</b>	2011
Panel Chair and Presenter	
Panel: “Issues in Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language”	
Paper Title: “Discrepancies in Native and Non-Native Production: The Case of the Active Participle in Modern Standard Arabic”	
<b>Faculty Workshop on Assessment</b>	2010
Organizer and Presenter, Zaytuna College, Berkeley, California	
Workshop Title: “Matching Assessment Strategies with Instructional Objectives in Language Testing”	
<b>Fifteenth Annual AUC Research Conference</b>	2008
Panel Title: “Exploring Arab Literary History: Themes in Classical Arabic Poetry”	
Paper Title: “ <i>Hija</i> ’ (Satire) in the Early Islamic Period”	

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## Conferences Attended:

<b>Arabic Language Institute Annual Workshop</b>	2022
American University of Cairo (Online)	
<b>International Conference on Arabic language and linguistics: Heritage and Innovation</b> , American University in Cairo, Egypt	2019
<b>Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting</b>	2016
Washington, DC	
<b>American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Convention &amp; Expo</b> , Washington DC	2016
<b>American Association of Teachers of Arabic Annual Meeting</b>	2015
Denver, Colorado	
<b>Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting</b>	2015

Denver, Colorado

**Foreign Language Association of Northern California Conference** 2015  
Hayward, California

**American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages** 2014  
**Annual Convention & Expo**, San Antonio, Texas

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## **Fellowships, Scholarships & Grants**

Professional Development Fund Award 2021  
University of California, Berkeley

Instructional Improvement Grant 2020  
University of California, Berkeley

Mellon Travel Grant 2017  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley

Professional Development Fund Award 2016  
University of California, Berkeley

Conference Travel Grant 2012  
Berkeley Language Center, UC Berkeley

Mellon Travel Grant 2012  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley

Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language Fellowship 2008-2010  
American University in Cairo

Strategic Language Initiative Scholarship 2007, 2008  
Intensive Persian Immersion Program, California State University, Fullerton

University Fellowship 2006  
Arabic Studies Department, American University in Cairo

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## **Courses Taught:**

### **UC Berkeley:**

#### *Lower Division Undergraduate:*

Elementary Arabic (Arabic 1A/1B)

Intermediate Arabic (Arabic 20A/20B)

#### *Upper Division Undergraduate:*

Advanced Arabic (Arabic 100A)

Arabic Historical & Geographical Texts (Arabic 107)

Arabic Islamic & Philosophical Texts (Arabic 108)

#### *Graduate:*

Teaching the Modern Near Eastern Languages in College (MELC 375)

**American University in Cairo (AUC)**

Elementary Arabic  
Intermediate Arabic  
Intermediate Arabic Writing  
Arabic for the News Media

**Zaytuna College**

Intermediate Arabic (summer intensive)  
Advanced Arabic (summer intensives)

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**Academic Memberships:**

Middle Eastern Studies Association

American Association of Teachers of Arabic

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

Foreign Language Association of Northern California

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**Service:**

**Search Committee Member, Hebrew Language Lecturer Position** 2023  
Department of Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures, UC Berkeley

**BLC Fellows Application Review Committee** 2023  
Berkeley Language Center, University of California, Berkeley

**Afaf Kanafani Prize Selection Committee** 2021  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES), University of California, Berkeley

**Curriculum Committee**  
Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley 2019-2020

**Search Committee Member, Persian Coordinator & Lecturer Position**  
Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley 2016

**Search Committee Member, Turkish Language Lecturer Position** 2015  
Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley

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**Languages:**

English: Native Speaker  
Modern Standard Arabic: Fluent  
Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Fluent  
Persian: Intermediate  
Spanish: Intermediate