

**Sidow Mohammed, Ph.D.**  
Lecturer in Arabic and Middle East and North African Culture  
Fine Arts, Language, Communication  
North Hennepin Community College  
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### Personal Profile

I am a scholar in Arabic language with an extensive background in language acquisition, teaching Arabic to non-native speakers, use of technology for instructional purposes, and cross-cultural communication

My studies center on communication and culture in the Middle East and North Africa, focusing on issues of religion, intercultural communication, African diaspora, introduction to Islamic Law, and Islamic history and civilization.

### Language Skills

**Arabic:** Fluent  
**English:** Fluent  
**Somali:** Fluent (Maay & Maxatiri dialects)  
**Swahili:** Fair

### Educational Background

<b>Ph.D., 1994</b>	<b>Educational Curriculum and Methodology (1991-1994)</b> Um Durman Islamic University, Khartoum, Sudan <b><u>Major:</u></b> Arabic Language Pedagogy <b><u>Specialty:</u></b> Arabic language for non-Arabic speakers <b><u>Doctoral Dissertation title:</u></b> <i>"Evaluation of the Methodologies for the Teaching of Arabic Grammar in the Secondary Schools in Somalia"</i>  <b>Courses taken included:</b> Modern Linguistics, Phonetics, Psycholinguistics, Advanced Studies in Arabic Language, Developing Arabic Curriculum for Non-native Speakers, Evaluation of the Methodology for Teaching Arabic Grammar
<b>M.A., 2011</b>	<b>Teaching English to speakers of other languages (2008-2011)</b> Grand Canyon University – College of Education, Phoenix, Arizona, USA
<b>M.A., 1990</b>	<b>Arabic Language (1988-1990)</b> Khartoum International Institute for Arabic Language, Khartoum, Sudan
<b>B. A., 1986</b>	<b>Arabic Language (1983-1986)</b> Somali National University - College of Education (Lafolle), Mogadishu, Somalia <b><u>Major:</u></b> Arabic Language <b><u>Minor:</u></b> Social Studies
<b>Certified</b>	<b>Translation and Interpretation (2001-2003)</b> University of Minnesota - College of Continuing Education, Minneapolis, MN, USA  Principles of General Education, Arab-Islamic Civilization, Educational Psychology, Curriculum Design and Teaching Methods
<b>Certified</b>	<b>Policy Fellow (2010-2011)</b> Center for the Study of Politics and Governance University of Minnesota – Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Minneapolis, MN, USA
<b>Certified</b>	<b>Interfaith Spiritual Care Certification Chaplain (2019-Present)</b>

## Professional Experience

**Lecturer of Arabic Language**, North Hennepin Community College, 2011-present

**Lecturer of Arabic Language**, Minneapolis Community & Technical College, 2007-present

**Lecturer in Arabic Language**, University of Minnesota Dept. of Asian Languages & Literatures, 2003-2015

**Adjunct Associate Professor Islamic Law**, University of Minnesota Law School, Fall 2013

## Courses Developed & Taught:

### North Hennepin Community College

Arabic 1100: Beginning Arabic	Fall 2011-Present
Arabic 1030: Arab Cultures	Fall 2011-Present

### Minneapolis College

Arabic 1000: Beginning Arabic I	Fall 2008-Present
Arabic 1100: Beginning Arabic II	Fall 2008-Present

### St Paul Community and Technical College

Arabic 1310: Beginning Arabic I	Fall 2019-Present
Arabic 1320: Beginning Arabic II	Fall 2019-Present

### University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Arabic 1101: Beginning Arabic	Fall 2003-Spring 2015
Arabic 1102: Beginning Arabic 2	Fall 2003-Spring 2015
Arabic 3101: Intermediate Arabic I	Fall 2013-Fall 2014
Arabic 3102: Intermediate Arabic II	Fall 2013-Fall 2014
Arabic 3900: Reading the Qur'an	Fall 2003-Spring 2015
Law 6910: Seminar in Islamic Law	Fall 2013

## New materials development

I am currently working on the following three textbooks:

1. *Evaluation of Methodologies for Teaching Arabic Grammar for Non-Native Speakers*
2. *Arabic for All Levels*
3. *Introduction to the Arab World: Culture, Religion, and Society*

I am also working on the following two research papers:

1. *Best Practice for Articulation Accuracy of Arabic Phonemes for Non-Native Speakers*
2. *Factors Affecting Fluency for Non-Native Arabic Readers*

## Innovations or other important contributions

- Introduced a new way of integrating Arabic poetry into the classroom
- Introduced content on some of the cultural background of early/modern Arabs
- Introduced background information on the causes of the Arab Spring; facilitated discussion on the possible outcomes of the Arab Spring

## Professional Development and Certifications in Arabic Language

- Mental Health First Aid (October 2023)
- UDL: A Paradigm Shift in How We Teach (November 2023)
- DEV: Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, CRP Institute, (November 2023)
- Online Pedagogy – OPI (July 2021)
- D2L Connection: Minnesota Edition (April 2019)

## Presentations at conferences, workshops, seminars, etc.

- Citizen Law Enforcement Academy, March 29<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup> 2017

- **Trauma Care Informed Practices for African Immigrant Women Roundtable Discussion**, July 14-16, 2016,
- **Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community**
- **African Men's Roundtable Discussion**, July 20-21, 2015. Minneapolis, MN

## Conferences, workshops, seminars Attended

### American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Convention and World Languages Expo

Annual attendee Fall 2009-Present

#### Seminars Attended

- Proficiency Assessments and AAPPL Data Reports
- Finding Common Ground Between Principles and Practices
- Journey to Proficiency: taking the On-Ramp
- Challenges in the World Languages Classroom
- Integrating Cultural Education into the Language Classroom
- Creating a Space for Meaningful Interactions Through Service Learning
- Integrating Social-Emotional Learning into Interpersonal Tasks
- Implementing Project-based Instructions in Intermediate CFL Classroom
- Open Pedagogy: Partnering with Students to Build Ownership of Learning
- Assessment Strategies, Meaningful Feedback, and the Learning Process
- Learning Together Apart: Fostering Collaboration in an Asynchronous Module
- Teachers Conceptualizations of Social Justice in Language Education
- Best Practices: Inclusive Language in Global Language Classes
- Conducting Oral Proficiency Interviews of Advanced Language Students
- Assessing Performance: Moving from Chapter Tests to Authentic Assessments
- Applying Brain Research to Promote Language Learner Motivation
- From Critical Thinking to Meaningful Writing
- Arab Cinema and Culture: History, Language, and Identity
- How a Syllabus Informs Instruction: An analysis of Contents and Practices
- Pair Activities: Critical Ingredient to Good Lesson Plans
- Developing Project-based Instruction in the Heritage Language Classroom
- LMS Success! Support, Enhance, or Transform Your Teaching with Technology!
- Answers to Issues That Teachers of Arabic Seek: Culture, Dialects, and Online Teaching

### The Arabic Classroom: Context, Students, and Texts Conference, Duke University, December 4-5, 2015

Paper: "Listening in Context: Listening Proficiency for Second Year Students."

Panel: The Arabic Classroom: Proficiency Assessment and the Curriculum

#### Conference Presentation

Presentation: "Listening in Context: Listening Proficiency for Second Year Students."

Panel: The Arabic Classroom: Proficiency Assessment and the Curriculum

### Middle East Studies Association of North America, Inc. (MESA), Nov. 17-20, 2012, Denver, CO.

#### Seminars Attended

- *AATA-American Association of Teachers of Arabic 50th Anniversary Panel*
- *AATA-American Association of Teachers of Arabic business meeting*
- *Arab Spring, Artistic Awakening? Art, Resistance and Revolution*
- *Language and Identity in the Arab World: Media, Society and Language Change*
- *The Transformation of Political Islam*
- *Thematic Conversation-Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism and Racism as Ideological Formations*

### Concordia Language Villages

STARTALK Arabic Teachers Grades K-16 Designing Pathways to Proficiency, July 25 – Aug 4 2010, Bemidji State University, Minnesota

### Arabic Language Instruction Flagship

K-12 Language Teaching in Action Workshop: Using Authentic Materials and Technology in Arabic Language Teaching, November 7th, 2009, Michigan State University, MI

#### Seminars Attended:

- *Using Authentic Material in the Arabic Language and Culture Classroom*
- *Creating/Modeling Lesson using Authentic Materials*
- *Integrating Technology and Authentic Materials*

### **National Capital Language Resource Center (NCLRC)**

Preparing Arabic Language Teachers for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Sixth International Conference on Language Teacher Education  
Washington DC May 28, 2009

### **The National Council of Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL)**

Conference “Building an Arabic Program in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Opportunities and Challenges” Curriculum / Materials Development, Study Abroad, and Assessment, April 23-25, 2009, Madison, WI

### **Second Language and Immersion Methodologies for Teachers of Arabic**

Concordia Language College, July 2-14, 2007, Moorhead, MN

Certificate of Attendance, Arabic Workshop: Standards-Based Instruction and Assessment January 1, 2007.

Certificate of Participation, August 31-September 2, Arab Instructors Training Seminar Sponsored by the National Middle East Language Resource Center, Brigham Young University.

Certificate of Continuing Education Units: CARLA program, improving language learning: Styles and Strategies-Based Instruction, July 24-28, 2006

Certificate in Translation and Interpreting, 2003. College of Continuing Education, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Certificate in Arabic and English Translation, 1993-1994. Sudan National Center for the Languages (SELTI), Khartoum, Sudan.

## **Professional Development and Certifications in Teaching and/or Language Teaching**

2022. Minneapolis Community and Technical College Summer Institute in Educational Development (HOPE Institute) Minneapolis, Minnesota.

2004. University of Minnesota Teaching Enrichment Series. Minneapolis, MN.

Attended and participated in the following courses and workshops:

- Promises and Perils of Assigning and Grading Group Work
- What if I told you I liked Grading?
- Languages Plus: Advanced Pronunciation for the Educational Setting
- Ten Learning Assignments Tools You can Use Tomorrow

2003. University of Minnesota Teaching Enrichment Series. Minneapolis, MN.

Attended and participated in the following courses and workshops:

- Getting Students to be partners in the learning process
- The first day and beyond
- Documenting your teaching
- Teaching with style: Effective Course Objectives and the Learning Cycle
- Student responsibility: The syllabus and beyond
- Grading rubrics: Coaching progress on assignments

2001. University of Minnesota Summer Institute in Educational Technology Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## **Professional Memberships and Advisory Committees**

- Somali Language Advisory Council Founder, 2025

- Somali Teachers' Association (1997-Present). Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).
- North American Arabic Teachers Association.
- Middle East Studies Association of North America.

### **Graduate Student Teaching Experience**

Instructor of Arabic to Speakers of Other Languages (1992-1994), International University of Africa, Khartoum, Sudan.

Taught Arabic to non-native speakers in a program required by the university for all international students.

Graduate Teaching Assistant of Arabic (1986-1988), Somali National University, Lafole College of Education, Mogadishu, Somalia.

Taught linguistics, literature, syntax and morphology of the Arabic language to undergraduate students.

### **References**

Victoria Coifman, Associate Professor in African-American and African Studies at the University of Minnesota, [coifm001@umn.edu](mailto:coifm001@umn.edu).

Keletso Atkins, Associate Professor in African-American and African Studies at the University of Minnesota, [atkin013@umn.edu](mailto:atkin013@umn.edu).

Walter R. Jacobs, Founding Dean, College of Social Sciences & Professional Studies, Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, [jacobsw@uwp.edu](mailto:jacobsw@uwp.edu).