

Michael Mendoza

Austin, Texas

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EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin

Graduated 2014

- MA in Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures with foci on Arab world, Arab media, applied Arabic linguistics & Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language
- MA thesis title: *Recurring Themes in Gulf Arabic Dramatic Television*
- Areas of interest & research: Arab media, its messages & audience interaction, Arabic pedagogy, dialectology, translation, socio-linguistics, dialect lexicography, and Gulf dialect curriculum development

California State University, Sacramento

Graduated 2005

- Bachelor of Arts in French language, literature and linguistics
- Special Minor in Arabic language, literature and Middle Eastern Studies
- Advanced non-degree studies in music, with an emphasis in classical piano performance
- Graduated Magna Cum Laude

Center for Arabic Study Abroad, American University in Cairo

2005-2006

- Full year intensive, advanced Arabic language program as a CASA fellow

Arabic Language Institute, American University in Cairo, Egypt

2002-2003

- Full year intensive Arabic language and cultural immersion program
- Completed their high-intermediate cycle of courses

Sacramento City College, California

2001 & 2003

- Coursework fulfilling the General Education requirements of California State University

Centre de Formation en Langues, Communication et Informatique Paris, France

1999-2000

- Full year advanced French language study and cultural immersion courses

Manhattan School of Music, New York

1997-1999

- Studied classical piano performance, music theory, music pedagogy, music history, form & analysis, solfège, with participation and performances in international competitions, master-classes, and music festivals

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Austin

August 2014-Present

- Lecturer of Arabic – Department of Middle Eastern Studies

University of Texas at Austin

August 2012-August 2013

- Teaching Assistant – Department of Middle Eastern Studies for following courses: Advanced Arabic Media; Palestine and the Palestinians; Intensive Arabic Summer Institute: Advanced Level
- Prepared lesson plans and instructed courses utilizing modern tenets of language pedagogy
- Graded homework and exams
- Counseled students by clarifying course content, expectations or policies
- Contributed to authoring of course content and exams
- Sourced multimedia content for curriculum authoring
- Chaired and organized weekly discussion groups related to course content

Domestic Violence Clinic at UT Austin **August 2012-Present**

- Contract translator and interpreter for police reports, client - attorney meetings, court orders, IRS and other government documents, etc.
- Bi-directional translation and interpretation in Arabic & English

Critical Language Scholarship Program, Oman **May 2012-August 2012**

- Contractor – US Department of State & Council of American Overseas Research Centers
- Coordinated Student Affairs and language immersion activities
- Ensured congruity of curriculum and activities by working with Academic Director
- Documented activities for weekly institute report submitted to CAORC and State Department
- Coordinated student speaking partner sessions, monitored progress, and created individually tailored curriculums
- Created and oversaw implementation of assignments incorporating local dialect and culture
- Provided program support and logistics for site and academic directors as needed
- Acted as a cultural mentor for newly arrived American CLS students
- Advised site director regarding student adjustment issues including but not limited to: inter-student conflict; culture shock; sexual harassment; operating in an intensive Arabic linguistic and social environment
- Authored and presented workshop on strategies for success in the Arabic Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

The University of Texas at Austin **October 2011 & March 2012**

- Contractor – the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at UT Austin
- Provided Arabic language context simulation training with US Army officers unit before deployment
- Provided cultural awareness expertise on Middle Eastern and Islamic cultural pragmatics
- Goal of project was to heighten officers' awareness to cultural sensitivity in a foreign language context

Northwestern University in Qatar **2008-2011**

- Admissions Officer
- Strategized and organized local and international recruitment: budget, logistics, travel, presentations and school visits, fairs, etc. The number of applications to NU-Q nearly doubled during both of the 08-09 and 09-10 cycles while I was senior admissions officer
- Evaluated large numbers of applications, conducted interviews, analyzed results and transcripts from international curricula and standardized testing, imaged and organized thousands of application related documents during each cycle at NU-Q
- Coordinated '08 and '09 New Student Orientations and Dean's Convocations: budget, printing, PR liaising, catering, program development, orientation logistics, staff management, etc.
- Developed and administered Qatar Foundation standardized testing: Controlled Writing Exercise
- Developed marketing materials: view-books, website, presentations, branded merchandise, translated English media copy to Arabic and vice versa
- Collaborated with the Office of Student Affairs, student activities coordinating, translation of government documents from Arabic to English
- Developed and hosted application workshops for prospective students
- Coordinated and presented in local and international programs: Qatar Foundation Regional High School Counselors' Program, QF Local High School Counselors' Program, Discover Education City Fair, GITEX Dubai, Doha College Fair, American School of Doha Career Fair, GETEX Abu Dhabi, Higher Education Institute College Fair, etc. - all in the '08, '09, '10, '11 cycles

Sylvan Learning Center, Qatar

2006-2008

- Director of Education
- Program management, student case management, assessment administration and evaluation, client relations management, client conference reports in English/Arabic, staff management, instruction of all programs with average student showing 2.5 grade levels of improvement in subjects on the California Achievement Test after 36 hours of instruction
- Public relations for all Arabic-speaking clientele, phone queries in Arabic/English, represented Sylvan to Arab media
- Outreach and promotion to local & regional school officials
- Taught SAT verbal skills and math courses with average student increasing subject scores by 200 points by end of six week course
- Completed Sylvan teacher certification programs for SAT, ACT, Sylvan Academic Reading, Sylvan Beginning Reading, Sylvan Math Essentials, Sylvan Advanced Math

Atoll French Language Schools, Egypt

April-August 2006

- Marketing and English language consultant
- Edited and translated copy for marketing and communications
- Authored audience focused English copy to increase marketing effectiveness

Center for Arabic Study Abroad, Egypt

May-July 2006

- Cultural Orientation Facilitator
- Facilitated new student orientation of approximately 50 CASA fellows to life in Cairo
- Organized and supervised cultural excursions, activities and programs for incoming fellows
- Administrative assistant in Office of the Executive Director, assisted in writing the 2005-2006 program report for submission to CASA's governing council

California State University, Sacramento

2003 & 2004

- Bi-direction French/English interpreter for a university consortium delegation from the Ivory Coast
- Interpreted/translated lectures, speeches, syllabi, university and department catalogues, departmental tours, faculty meetings, university senate hearings, official receptions and dinners

Pocket Road Music Studio, Sacramento

2000-2002 & 2003-2005

- Piano instructor
- Designed piano curriculum; chaired auditions, directed client consultations, marketed studio, managed tuition accounts, prepared, managed and presented studio recitals twice annually

PUBLICATIONS

- *Corrective feedback in teaching Arabic writing*

This publication is an online interactive training module in Arabic for international teachers of Arabic. It covers the best practices for providing corrective feedback when teaching composition to Arabic students. It includes an overview of pertinent theories, video interviews with students and professors, footage of in-class activities, and examples of teacher-corrected student compositions. Analysis and didactic explanations are made in all components of the module.

<http://www.tadriis.org/michael---daryl.html>

- *Learner experiences with MOOCs and open online education: Becoming a DJ, learning how to mix electronic music via the web*

This is a contribution to an online eBook commissioned by Hybrid Pedagogy and discusses the experiences of educators who placed themselves in the roles of students who participate in online learning. The collective research explores the online learning process, and compares and contrasts it with the traditional teacher centered classroom experience.

<http://hybrid-pedagogy.github.io/LearnerExperiencesInMOOCs/>

- Future planned publications will encompass research in the following areas:
 - Arab media
 - Applied Arabic linguistics and Arabic socio-linguistics

CONFERENCES & RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- *Language Performance Manifested by Qatari Speakers of Arabic* Jil Jadid International Conference, February, 2013 at the University of Texas at Austin, presented in domain of Arabic socio-linguistics and Gulf dialectology
- *Language Performance Manifested by Qatari Speakers of Arabic* Linguistics in the Gulf 4, March 2013 at Qatar University, Doha, Qatar, paper presented in domain of Arabic socio-linguistics and Gulf dialectology
- *Language Performance Manifested by Qatari Speakers of Arabic* Middle East Studies Association (MESA) October 2013, New Orleans, LA, paper presented in domain of Arabic socio-linguistics and Gulf dialectology
- *Nominal Tanwiin in Contemporary Emirati Arabic* Jil Jadid International Conference, February 2014 at the University of Texas at Austin, paper presented in domain of Arabic linguistics and Gulf dialectology

**Abstracts for all publications and research paper presentations available upon request*

SPECIALIZED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

- Extensive intercultural outreach and marketing experience
- Experienced public speaker with convincing stage presence
- Excellent communication, writing, analytical, organizational and problem-solving skills
- Near-native abilities in all mediums of communication in French and Arabic
- In depth cultural and business insight and experience in corporate and educational sectors in the Middle East and in the Gulf in particular
- Over 17 years of experience working in culturally diverse, international settings
- Experience with various forms of education, standardized test preparation, SLA in K-college classroom and individual instruction contexts
- Fluency in the following software and user interfaces: Blackboard, Green Screen, EOS (Educational Operation Systems), Apply Yourself, Image Now, MS Excel and Word, Mac/PC OS. I am quick to learn new software, limited familiarity with Adobe CS and MS Access, other Office software
- Extensive Classical Piano background
- Electronic music producer & DJ

HONORS & AWARDS

- Graduate School Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, 2011-2012 academic year
- Graduate School Teaching Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, 2012-2013 academic year
- Evaluated at the Superior level in Arabic on the Oral Proficiency Interview, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages 2005, 2006, 2012
- Evaluated at the 4+ near native level in Arabic on the Foreign Service Institute language exam in 2006
- Graduated Magna Cum Laude, California State University, Sacramento, May 2005
- Qatar University Scholarship Award for Arabic study and research 09/06-05/07
- US Department of Education Fellowship to study at the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) at the American University in Cairo 05/2005-06/2006
- Three time winner USA National Hispanic Scholarship 05/02, 05/99 and 05/98
- Piano Technician's Guild Prize San Francisco Young Pianists' Competition 05/97
- Ruth Finely Memorial Etude Club Piano Competition 06/97 first place