

Lhousseine Guerwane, WKU Professor of Arabic

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Lhousseine Guerwane, originally from Morocco, is an instructor of Arabic at Western Kentucky University. Professor Guerwane (known most commonly by his students as “Ustaadh G”) regularly teaches Arabic 101, 102, 201, 202 and 326 (colloquial Arabic) every academic year. He invests much time into the Arabic program at WKU, which is currently the only Arabic language major in the state of Kentucky. He organizes many of the linguistic and cultural opportunities available for students to build upon their skills such as WKU [Arabic Club](#) and [QatarDebate](#). Professor Guerwane often works with students enrolled in the [Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science](#) on the STEM + Arabic track and also runs his own YouTube channel where he uploads videos of himself teaching Arabic.

Guerwane found his passion for teaching when he taught English as a second language in Spain and realized he loved communicating and connecting with people through language. Growing up, Guerwane learned French, Arabic, and Spanish but never knew when he would use English. His skills in his second language quickly shaped his future and now, Guerwane shares his own language with students everyday so they, too, can benefit from learning a second language. He has played a crucial role in the development of the Arabic program at WKU, creating a QatarDebate high school and college debate teams. Every year, WKU takes a team of four students to a national debate in one of the fifty states and sometimes to the international debate in Qatar. These students practice every week with Guerwane in preparation. Guerwane says, “That is one of the most amazing things—when students come to the Hill with no prior knowledge of Arabic and find themselves using the language in debate by the end of the third or fourth year.”

Guerwane is also innovative inside the classroom. His teaching philosophy is that language should focus first and foremost on communication, and he encourages students to speak Arabic, even with mistakes. Guerwane told WKU Modern Languages, “My advice to students is: Never worry about mistakes. If you never speak and make mistakes, you will not learn.” Thus, Guerwane makes his classes as low-stress and as fun as possible. According to him, that is most important in the language learning process.

Guerwane’s students would call him caring, fun, casual, focused on communication, and sociable. Professor Guerwane is making an impact on all Arabic students in the WKU Department of Modern Languages, and it is a pleasure to have him with us.

