An Introduction to Kurdish language and literature
Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto
Summer 2020 (May 04-June 15)

For the first time in the history of Canada, a course will be offered entitled, An Introduction to Kurdish language and Literature at the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto. It will be taught by Visiting Professor Dr. Jaffer Sheyholislami.

Although students enrolled in the course may have some general knowledge of the major Middle Eastern cultures, it is assumed that they do not have a background in Kurdish studies. Taught in English, the course will be about the Kurdish language and literature; it will not teach you Kurdish.

In addition to providing students with a general introduction to Kurds and Kurdistan, most sessions will be devoted to a variety of sub-topics in language and literature. Language: History of the Kurdish language; Diversity and standardization in Kurdish; alphabets; Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Western influences; the current status and vitality of Kurdish in Kurdistan and diasporas. Literature: Kurdish oral literature; the emergence of a Kurdish scribal culture; an overview and samples of Kurdish poetry (in English translation); the emergence of Kurdish prose and fiction.

Throughout the course, some basic Kurdish vocabulary and expressions will be taught.

For further information please contact Professor Sheyholislami (JafferSheyholislami@Cunet.Carleton.Ca) or the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations (nmc@utoronto.ca)

Course number: NMC227H1F LEC0201
Duration: May 04-June 15
Time: Monday and Wednesday (3:00-5:00 p.m.)
Location: Online