

Simawe

Curriculum Vitae  
Saadi A. Simawe

Department of English  
1213 Sixth Avenue, 203 Mears Cottage  
Grinnell College  
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

1202 Duck Creek  
Iowa City, IA 52246  
(319) 354-4762

**EDUCATION:**

Diploma in Teaching Arabic, Teachers' Training Institute, Kerbala, Iraq, 1972  
B.A. English, Al-Mustansiriyah University, Baghdad, Iraq, 1976

Ph.D. English with concentration in African American literature, The University of Iowa, 1994  
M.A. African American Studies, University of Iowa, 1990-1993  
M.A. English, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1980-1983  
Thesis, "The Moral Symbolism of Music in Henry James"

**DISSERTATION**

"Music and the Politics of Culture in James Baldwin's and Alice Walker's Fiction"  
Director: Dr. Darwin T. Turner (d. February 1991); then Dr. Robert F. Sayre

**TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

Arabic Language and Literature  
Middle Eastern Literatures  
African American and American Literatures  
Literatures of the African Peoples  
Literature of slavery in the Middle East and the USA  
Comparative Literature: Literary interconnections between the West and the Islamic East  
Music and Literature  
Islam in American literature  
Literary Theory and Criticism

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

**Courses:**

In Dakar, Senegal (2004-05)

Seminar on Literary Theory to Ph.D. students in the English Department, Cheikh Anta Diop University.  
Supervisor of an MA thesis by student Francis Nzgjo titled "Pride, Prejudice, and Discrimination in Ernest Gains's Catherine Carmier and Toni Morrison's Tar Baby." Cheikh Anta Diop University, June 2005.

In China (Summer 2002)

Lectures on Harlem Renaissance Literature, English Department, Nanjing University,  
May 21-June 22, 2002

At Grinnell College (1992-present)

First Year Tutorial: Literature and Spirituality  
Eng 229: Tradition in African American Literature  
Eng 107: Fundamentals of Literary Analysis  
Hum 101: Ancient Greek Literature  
Eng 329: 20th Century African American Fiction  
20th Century African American Drama  
Music and African American Fiction  
Islam in the African American Experience

Literature of Harlem Renaissance

Eng 390: Literary Theory and Criticism

Hum 295: Modern Arabic Literature

Independent Study and Guided Reading

Eng 297: Toni Morrison, F1993

Eng 297: 20th Cent African American Women Writers, S1994

Eng 397: Dance in African Literature, S1994

Eng 399: Sermonic Tradition in African American Literature, S1995

AAS 397: Race, Gender, Body, F1996

Eng 397: Women in Morrison, F1996

AAS 397: Blacks and Jews, S1996

Eng 297: Alice Walker, S1996

Eng 397: Creative Spirit, poetry writing, S1996

GLS 397: Middle East Literature, S1997

Eng 397: African American Muslim Women, S1999

At Kennesaw State College, Marietta, Georgia (1991-92)

Composition I

Composition II

World Literature

At Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa (1990)

Black American Literature

At the University of Iowa (1985-1990)

Interpretation of Literature

Forms of Comic Visions

American Lives

Lyric Poetry

Medieval and Renaissance Literature

Literatures of African Peoples

Basic Writing (the Writing Lab)

In the Middle East:

Teacher of Arabic and English, Fatima Alzahra Preparatory School for Girls and the Teachers' Training Institute,  
Murzuq, Libya, 1976-1980

Teacher of Arabic, Alqudwa Primary School, Baghdad, Iraq, 1970-76

**Other Academic Services:**

Invited member: Advisory Board for the University of Iowa's International Writing Program, 2005-

Member: International Writing Program, The University of Iowa, 1990-present

Translator (from Arabic), International Writing Program, The University of Iowa, 1984

**HONORS:**

Fulbright Fellowship, 2004-05, for the project titled: "Archetypes of Power: A Comparative Analysis of Representations of Africanness and Blackness in Arabic and American Literatures."

Convener, Bridging Project on "The Mask in Literature, Culture, and the Arts," Grinnell College and the University of Iowa, Fall 2000-Summer 2001.

Participant, NEH Summer Seminar on "Islamic Origins," Center for Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Oriental Institute of Chicago, University of Chicago, June 16-July 19, 2000.

The Rosenbloom Award for Interdisciplinary Study of the Arts, Grinnell College, 1999.

Honorary Fellow in Writing International Writing Program, The University of Iowa, 1989.

### **SCHOLARSHIP:**

#### **Books:**

Kadhim al-Samawi: Poet of Exiles and Internationalism. Ed. Collection of essays and interviews. Beirut: Dar al-Farabi. Forthcoming 2006.

Modern Iraqi Literature and the Postcolonial Narrative. Ed. Syracuse, NY: University of Syracuse Press. Under Consideration.

Iraqi Poetry Today. Ed. of special issue of Modern Poetry in Translation no. 19. London: King's College, 2003.

Black Orpheus: Music in African American Fiction from Harlem Renaissance to Toni Morrison. Ed. New York: Garland Publishing, 2000.

Al-Khuruj min al-Qumqum [Out of the Lamp] (a novel in Arabic). London: Dar Al-Rafid, 1999.

#### **Refereed Articles:**

"Iraqi Poetry Today," Editor of special 60-page section of the journal Poetry International, 10 (2006).

"Introduction. Dunya Mikhail: A Poetic Vision out of the Iraqi Ashes." The War Works Hard, Dunya Mikhail. New York: New Directions Books, 2005, vii-xiii.

"Fawzi Karim: 15 Poems." Poems translated from Arabic by me and Melissa Brown. Selected poems and wrote introduction and footnotes. Banipal: Magazine of Modern Arab Literature (London). No. 19, Spring 2004: 79-88.

Article in Arabic: "Pragmatism is the Secret of the Western Power." Al-Mu'atamar (London), No. 334 (Jan 17-23, 2002):14.

Translated a poem for Iowa City Poetry in Public Program, editor, Marcia Klingaman, Iowa City, IA. June 2003.

Translated Walt Whitman's "I Hear America Singing" into Arabic and published it in the International Writing Program's Online Journal: 91<sup>st</sup> Meridian, [http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/91st/91st\\_Archive/index.html](http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/91st/91st_Archive/index.html). Feb 2003 Vol. 2 no. 1.

Wrote a biographical critical essay on Iraqi Kurdish poet Bulaurd al-Hagdari for the International Writing Program's Online Journal: 91<sup>st</sup> Meridian [http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/91st/91st\\_Archive/index.html](http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/91st/91st_Archive/index.html), Feb 2003 Vol. 2 no. 1.

Translated "Nine Iraqi Poems," 4 poems out of the nine are my translation from Arabic. The Poker (Cambridge) second issue, Spring 2003, pp. 47-58.

"When I Died, I Heard the Fly Buzz," "Because I Could Not Stop for Death," "My Life Had Waited Like a Loaded Gun," translation into Arabic of Emily Dickinson's poems. Alightirab al-Adabi. London, vol. 50, 2002.

"The Lives of the Sufi Masters in Abd al-Wahhab Al-Bayati's Poetry." Journal of Arabic Literature. 32.1 (Fall 2001): 1-25.

"Modernism and Metaphor in Contemporary Arabic Poetry." World Literature Today, 75.2 (Spring, 2001): 275-84.

"Martin Kramer: Racist Vision of the Middle East" in "Colloquy on the Middle East." Review of Kramer's Ivory Tower in the Sand, Chronicle of Higher Education, October 29, 2001. Internet Publication.

"What Is in a Sound?: The Metaphysics and Politics of Music in James Baldwin's The Amen Corner." In Things Unseen: New Essays on James Baldwin. Ed., Quentin Miller. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, Chapter 1: 12-32.

"Palestinian Poetry in English." Selection, translation, annotation, and introduction of 37 Palestinian poems from Arabic with Ellen Dore Watson. Spec. issue of Modern Poetry in Translation on Palestinian and Israeli Poets (London) 14 (Winter 1998-99): 238 pages.

Iraq's Modern Arabic Literature. Guest editor. Spec. issue of Arab Studies Quarterly 19.4 (Fall 1997).

"Introduction." Spec. issue of Arab Studies Quarterly on Iraq's Modern Arabic Literature 19.4 (Fall 1997): 1-5.

"Nazik el-Mala'aka's Poetry and Its Critical Reception in the West." Translation from Arabic of poem by Salih J. Altoma in spec. issue of Arab Studies Quarterly on Iraq's Modern Arabic Literature 19.4 (Fall 1997): 7-20.

"The Politics and the Politics of Sa'adi Yusuf's Poetry: The Use of the Vernacular." Spec. issue of Arab Studies Quarterly on Iraq's Modern Arabic Literature 19.4 (Fall 1997): 173-86.

"Rushdie's The Satanic Verses and Heretical Literature in Islam." Iowa Review 20.1 (Summer 1990): 185-98.

"Nuhubuhm Qatla Mut'afinen wa Ahia'a Mushawahin" (We Love Them: Rotten Dead and Mutilated Alive). Al-Ghad al-Thaqafi supplement of Al-Ghad al-Dumoqrati. No. 6, June 1986: 4, 7.

"Al-khasa'is al-Folkria fi aghani Abu Sirhan (The Folkloric Characteristics in Abu Siirhan's Songs). Al-Turath Al-Sha'bi. Vol. 5, No. 15, 1974: 117-26.

### **Unrefereed Articles:**

"Faces of the Soul: An Interview with African American Artist John Wilson," in John Wilson: A Retrospective, a publication on the exhibition of John Wilson by the Falconer Gallery, Grinnell College. January-April, 2004: 16-24.

"The Middle East: Oil Versus Human Rights," Iowa Alumni Review. Vol. 43, no. 6, November 1990: 45.

"Khomeini's Distortion of Islam," Cedar Rapids Gazette. March 11, 1989: 5.

"Khomeini's Threat Angers Local Muslims," Daily Iowan. March 3, 1989: 7A.

"Iraq in the Anglo-American Poetry." Translation into Arabic with commentary of eight poems by Menna Elfin, Allen Ginsberg, Meena Alexander, Hilda Morely, Jan Clausen, Don Ross, Patrick Colm-Hogan, and Lucille Clifton.

Al-Adab (Beirut) 47.1-2 (January-February 1999): 21-25.

“Al-Khutba al-Israiliah l-Taqsim al-Iraq ila Duwailat Ta’ifiah” (The Israeli Plan for Dividing Iraq into Sectarian States). Al-Ghad al-Dumoqrati. No. 50, fourth year, October 1987.

Translation and commentary, “mn shi’r al-hinud al-himr almua’sir,” (from contemporary Native American Poetry: ‘Four Songs for Life’ by Ray Young Bear.” Al-Ghad al-Thaqafi. No 11, September 1987, p.8.

“Mathal Israil fi Siqolojiat al-qouwa al-Unsuriah wa al-Raj’ayah” (Israeli Model in the Psychology of Racist and Reactionary Arab Groups). Al-Ghad al-Dumoqrati. No. 45, May 1987: 2; 6.

“Qatl al-arabi: akhir al-mita’a al-Gharbia,”(Killing an Arab: A Recent Western Amusement). Al-Ghad al-Dimuqrati. March 1987, No. 43, p. 7.

“Kamal al-Said y’aud ila Baghdad ala jinahai alhanihi” (Kamal al-Said: Returns to Baghdad on the Wings of his Songs). Al-Ghad al-Dumoqrati. No. 9, May 1984: 7.

“Inha l-Shija’a al-Awada ila al-Watan” (It’s Real Courage to Return to the Homeland). Al-Ghad al-Dumoqrati. No. 9, May 1984: 2.

“Muzaffar al-Nawwab in English: Notes on the English Version of ‘Nocturnal Sinfonietta,’” Forward (Damascus). No. 38, April 1984: 41-45.

“Theme for English B.” Translation into Arabic of poem by Langston Hughes in al-Hadaf (Damascus). 717 (April 1984): 62.

“Besiso Will Live on as a Revolutionary Poet,” Forward (Damascus). No. 37-38, March-April 1984: 44-45.

“The Palestinian-Zionist Conflict in the Western Cinema,” Forward (Damascus). No. 35-36, January-February 1984: 41-43.

### **Book Reviews:**

Review of Fugitive Light by Mohammad Berrada. Trans. Michael Beard, foreward. Syracuse University Press, 2002. World Literature Today 77.2 (July-September 2003): 86-87.

Review of novel A Woman of Five Seasons by Leila al-Atrash. Tran. N. Halwani and C. Tingley. New York: Interlink Books, 2002. World Literature Today 77.1 (April-June 2003): 158-59.

Review of The Experimental Arabic Novel: Post-colonial Literary Modernism in Levant by Stefan G. Meyer. World Literature Today 76.1 (Winter 2002): 226.

Review of Writing the Self: Autobiography in Modern Arabic Literature, eds. Robin Ostel, Ed de Moor, and Stefan Wild. World Literature Today 73.1 (Winter 1999): 203-04.

Review of Wounding Words. Evelyne Accad. Trans. Cynthia Hahn. Arab Studies Quarterly 21.4 (Fall 1999): 102-05.

Review of Configurations: Selected and New Poems, by African American Clarence Major. World Literature Today 73.4 (Autumn 1999): 744.

Review of Modern Arabic Literature by Roger Allen. Iowa Review 19.1 (Summer 1989): 156-60.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Refereed:

“Malcolm X and Islam: His Misconceptions.” Annual Conference of American Studies sponsored by the U.S. Embassy, Dakar, Senegal. April 23, 2005.

Lecture: “Do the Iraqis have to Choose between Fascism or Neo-colonialism?” Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, March 5, 2004.

Lecture: “Iraqi Poetry between Fascism and Exile,” Kufa Gallery, London, June 14, 2003.

Panelist: “Through the Islamic Eyes,” Talk of Iowa (WSUI Radio) April 11, 2003.

Panelist: “Iraqi Poetry and Art,” DePaul University, Chicago. March 10, 2003.

Presentation: “Sufism and Subversion in Aziz al-Sayyid Jassim’s ‘Monologues of the Seventies’” Middle East Association of North America (MESA) November 24-26, 2002.

Panelist: “The Costs of War,” Organized by Anti-War Faculty, Grinnell College, October 2002.

Presenter. “Translation and Interpretation: The Audience as the Translator’s Muse,” Lost and Found: The Art of Translation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference in Translation, International Writing Program, University of Iowa, Iowa City, October 13-14, 2001.

“Black Voices in the Arabian Nights,” Crossing Boundaries: The African Diaspora in the New Millennium. New York University and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, September 20-24, 2001.

Presented Paper: “Lives of the Sufi Masters in al-Bayati's Poetry.” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Convention, Orlando, FL, November 17-19, 2000.

Presented Paper: “Blacks in The Arabian Nights,” Crossing Boundaries: Africana Studies in the New Millennium,” African Diaspora, New York City, September 20-23, 2000.

“Workshop on Islamic Thought in Africa,” a keynote workshop for the establishment of the Institute of Islamic Thought in Africa within the Program of African Studies. Northwestern University, Chicago, May 12-14, 2000.

“Islam in the Civil Rights Movement.” Fourth Annual Colloquium on Civil Rights, Black Arts, and the Black Power Movements in America. Malcolm X Institute on African American Biography, Center for Black Students. University of Nebraska, Omaha, May 7-8, 2000.

“Blacks in the Arabian Nights.” College Language Association Convention, Baltimore, MD. April 5-9, 2000.

“Reading and Discussion of Salman Rushdie’s Satanic Verses.” Organizer, Speaker, and Panelist, Department of English and Writers’ Workshop, The University of Iowa. 10 March, 1989.

“Images of Blackness and Africanness in Black Arab Poets and Black American Poets: A Comparative Study.” Workshop on Slavery and the African Diaspora in the Lands of Islam, Northwestern University. April 30-May 2 1999.

“Color and Race in the Poetry by Black Poets in Arabic: A Comparative Study of Images of Blackness and Africanness in Arabic and African American Literatures.” College Language Association Convention, Fayetteville, NC. April 14-18, 1999.

“James Baldwin and the Arabs and Muslims.” College Language Association Convention, Tallahassee, Florida. 15-18 April 1998.

“The Image of Poetry and the Poet in Plato’s Republic and in the Qu’ran.” Guest Lecture, Comparative and Political Science Departments, Colorado College. 3 March 1997.

“What’s in a Sound? The Metaphysics and Politics of Music in James Baldwin’s The Amen Corner.” College Language Association Convention. 18-22 April 1995.

“Malcolm X and Islam: Misconceptions,” College Language Association Convention. April 1994.

**Unrefereed:**

“The Curse of Ham, Blackness, and Servitude in Medieval Islamic Literature.” College Language Association Convention, Atlanta, GA. 16-20 April 1997.

“The Revolt of the Zanj and the Portrayal of African Slaves in Medieval Islam.” College Language Association Convention, Winston-Salem, NC. 10-13 April 1996.

“The Politics of the Vernacular in Saadi Yousif’s Poetry.” Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America, Phoenix, Arizona. 10-12 Nov. 1994.

**Public Readings of Translated Poetry:**

Reading of my book Translation of Iraqi Poetry at “From Tigris to Euphrates.” Sponsored by Zephyr Publishing Company at Associated Writing Programs Conference, Chicago. March 26, 2004.

Reading of my book Translation of Iraqi Poetry at “The World Comes to Iowa.” Sponsored by the University of Iowa’s International Writing Program for Associated Writing Programs Conference, Chicago. March 25, 2004.

“Poets Against the War,” Organized by Iowa Writers’ Workshop and Iowa International Writing Program. February 1, 2003.

“Writers Responding to Art and War” CSPA Theatre, Cedar Rapids, March 29, 2003.

“Iraqi Poems Out of Land,” North Side Book Market (Iowa City), March 29, 2003.

WSUI Radio: Live from Prairie Lights Bookstore; Reading Iraqi Poetry, Iowa City, April 10, 2003.

“Inclusive Reading; Iraqi and American Poetry and Fiction” at Faith United Church of Christ (Iowa City), April 24, 2003.

“Kirkwood Students for Peace” Kirkwood Community College, Iowa City. April 30, 2003.

**Outside Reader:**

Tenure Evaluation for Professor Hussein Khadhim, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Literatures, Dartmouth College, January 27, 2004.

Peer Review,” Poetry as a Homeland in Mahmud Darwish: The Loss of Palestine,” for Journal of Arabic Literature, April 2003.

Peer Review, "They Do the Poet/Translator in Different Rules": al-Khal, Adonis, and al-Ardh al-Kharab." For Journal of Arabic Literature, April 2003.

Peer Review, "Presence in Absence: Mahmoud al-Breikan's Poetry." For Journal of Arabic Literature, June 2003.

Tenure Review for Assistant Professor Driss Cherkaoui. Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, College of William and Mary, September 2003.

Outside Reader, Canadian Review of Comparative Literature's special issue on Modern Arabic literature, May 14, 2002.

Outside Reader, Proposal by American University in Cairo to NEH to fund research and publication of American University of Cairo Comparison of Modern Arabic Literature, NEH, December 5, 2001.

### **Interviews:**

Interviewed by Nataša Đurovičová for "Iraq over the Transom," [http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/91st/91st\\_Archive/index.html](http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/91st/91st_Archive/index.html), [http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/91st/91st\\_Archive/91Menu.html](http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/91st/91st_Archive/91Menu.html), an Internet Journal, University of Iowa, International Writing Program, vol. 3 n. 3, June 2004.

Interviewed by Gabe Gao. "One Year Later: Iraqi Political Exile Saadi Simawe Discusses the Future of Iraq," West Side Story. April 16, 2004: 9.

Interviewed by Jacqueline Hartling Stolze. "The Search for Shane: An Iraqi Dissident Fights Fascism with Words" The Grinnell Magazine. Vol. 35, no.4, Summer 2003: 22-23.

Washington Post, June 3, 2003.

The Gazette, (Iowa City) May 11, 2003.

"Oasis of Artistry." Boston Herald, May 4, 2003, P. 057.

"Iraqi Poetry and Culture, Here and Now" (WBUR), Boston NPR, April 28, 2003.

"Iraqi Poetry in English." Boston RADIO, April 24, 2003.

The Daily Iowan, April 23, 2003.

"Cradle of War-Cradle of Civilization" The Encounter, ABC National Radio, Australia. April 13, 2003.

The Des Moines Registrar, April 10, 2003.

Working Assets Radio, (California) April 3, 2003.

"To the Best of Our Knowledge." Wisconsin Public Radio, March 28, 2003.

Interviewed by Lauren Smiley. "Iraqi Dissident Recalls Surviving Saddam," The Daily Iowan. Iowa City February 18, 2003: 1.

Interviewed by Roland Roach for his report titled "Translating the African Past: The Islamic Heritage of Sub-Saharan Africa." Black Issues in Higher Education, May 9, 2002: pp. 34-37.

Interviewed by Lyle Muller. "No Easy Answers for Iraqi Student Living in U.S." Cedar Rapids Gazette. Vol. 109, no. 47, February 25, 1991: 1A.

Interviewed by "In Box." "Students from Islamic Countries Support Salman Rushdie." The Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. XXXV, No 27 (March 15, 1989): A13.

### **SERVICE:**

#### **Grinnell College**

Member, Institutional Review Committee, 2005-

Member, Grinnell-Nanjing Program Committee, 2005-

Chair, Department of English, February 2002-2004.

Member of Advisory Board, Humanities Center, Grinnell College, February 2002.

Collaborator with Art Gallery, Rosenfield Program, and International Center of Grinnell College, in organizing the Iraqi Symposium of "Art and Literature Around the World," January 29-February 2, 2002. Duties included meeting with Iraqi artists and poets in diaspora, translating some of their poems and information on the painters.

Chair, Race and Ethnicity Curricular Development Committee, 2001-2002.

Panelist, Orientation for Admitted International Students at Grinnell College, Multicultural Office, August 24, 2001.

Convener, Race and Ethnicity Studies Reading Group, 1999-2002.

Advisor, Off-Campus Study Program, Great Lakes Jerusalem Program, 1999-2001.

Coordinator, Student Creative Writing Contest, 1997-2002.

Henry York Steiner Fiction Contest  
Seldon Whitcomb Poetry Contest  
Academy of American Poets  
ACM Nick Adams Fiction Contest

Member, Multicultural Curriculum Committee, 1998-2001.

Member, Noun Program in Women's Studies Committee, 1997-2001.

Director, The Writers' Conference, English Department, 1995-1999.

Advisor, Off-Campus Study Program, American University in Cairo, 1993-1995.

Member, Africana Studies Concentration Committee, English Department, 1992-1995.

Member, Committee on Academic Computing, 1997-1999.

Member, Library and Book Store Committee, 1995-1997.  
Chair, 1996-1997.

Member, Rosenfield Program, Public Affairs, International Relations, and Human Rights, 1993-1994.

Member, DuBois Committee. Duties include identifying prominent DuBois scholars, suggesting topics for the DuBois Conference in August 2002.

**LANGUAGES:**

Arabic (native language)  
Persian (reading knowledge)  
French (reading knowledge)

**Membership**

CLA College Language Association  
Associate Member, Center of Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago  
MLA Modern Language Association  
Middle Eastern Medievalists  
MELUS Multiethnic Literature of The United States