

## Arabic Literary Texts I (A002896)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025**

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

independent work  
lecture

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

Janssen, Caroline

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

**crdts**

**offering**

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies\)](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Modern Arabic short stories, modern Arabic poetry, literary history, expressive reading, cultural heritage

**Position of the course**

This intermediary course continues Arabic I-II and Modern or Classical Arabic I. This course is best combined with Modern Arabic II but can also be combined with Classical Arabic II or be followed independently, on the condition that the student meets with the requirements of the initial competences.

**Contents**

In this course the student learns to translate literary texts from Arabic to Dutch (or English), to contextualise and interpret them. The student reads a number of short stories (by authors such as Fu'ad at-Takarli, Zakariya Tamir, Naguib Mahfouz, ...) and a selection of modern Arabic poems. In the poetry section much attention is paid to diversity.

Apart from text interpretation the student studies social and historical backgrounds and the contexts in which the authors are active.

**Initial competences**

The student has an overview and insight in the morphology and structure of Arabic

The student is able to use the H. Wehr dictionary in order to prepare a translation for the class

The student has a basic knowledge of the history of the modern period and of modern literature

The student is able to read study materials in English and French

**Final competences**

1 The student is able to translate Arabic short stories and poetry from the modern period to Dutch (or English in the case of international students).

2 The student has an insight in the relationship between literature and every-day reality. His empathy with people in non-western countries and those living in third world conditions has grown.

3 The student is familiar with the style and grammar of Modern Literary Arabic.

4 The student is able to read literary texts with expression.

5 The student is able to use the Hans Wehr dictionary

**Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

**Conditions for exam contract**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

**Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

Students make a translation of the prose texts in preparation of the class. Problems they encounter, interpretation and backgrounds are discussed during classtime. For reading special attention is paid not only to correctness but also expression, especially for the poetry that is read in class. Students also make an assignment based on a contemporary book of their choice which they present in class. On occasion, a class can be online if needed.

**Study material**

None

**References**

Beeston et al., 1992: The Cambridge History of Arabic literature (Modern Period), Cambridge.  
Beeston et al., 1992: The Cambridge History of Arabic literature (Modern Period).  
Hafez, S.& Cobham, C., 2011 (1988): A Reader of Modern Arabic Short Stories, London.  
Frangieh, B., 2011: Arabic for Life! A textbook for beginning Arabic.  
Frangieh, B. 2004: Love, Death and Exile. Poems translated from Arabic ('Abd al-Wahab al-Bayati), Washington.  
Frangieh, B. & Brown, 1998: C., Nizar Qabbani, Colorado Springs.

**Course content-related study coaching**

By preparing texts the student enables himself to ask feedback in class. Questions can be asked through e-mail. Feedback is also possible after the exams.

**Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Oral assessment, Participation, Presentation, Assignment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Oral assessment

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation, Assignment

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

During the classes students have to be able to read and interpret texts they have prepared, and to participate in discussions. Tasks are prepared individually and shared with the group. On the oral exam the student is able to read texts seen in class expressively, to explain and translate them. The student is also able to answer questions about social and historical backgrounds about the authors and their context. Tasks and assignments are discussed as well.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Permanent evaluation: Participation 10%, presentation 15%, paper 15%.

Oral exam 60%

If a part of the exam is not taken and the final score would be more than 10/20 the final score will be reduced to the highest non-pass score. When unsatisfactory grades are obtained on parts of the exam the final mark may be lowered.

**Facilities for Working Students**

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
2. The examination can be rescheduled

3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during office hours  
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy

