

Arabic Literary Texts II (A002897)

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 2023-2024

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

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LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

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

Literature and society, autobiography, poetic expression, expressive reading,
Modern Egypt, cultural heritage

Position of the course

This course, on an intermediary level, is to be followed after completing Arabic I-II and Modern or Classical Arabic I. It is recommended to combine it with Arabic literary texts I.

Students who do not fulfill these requirements may be granted access to the course by the incumbent lecturer, provided they have acquired a sufficient level.

Contents

Literature, culture and society:

1. Autobiography / novel

Through fragments of texts in Arabic as well as translated texts students are familiarized with three remarkable authors from 20th century Egypt. The first is Taha Husayn, whose autobiography about a youth on the countryside counts as a landmark in modern Arabic literature. The work of this 'westernized Egyptian' is compared and contrasted with the autobiography of Sayyid Qutb, an author who seems to have a similar background, but who is considered as the spiritual father of Islamic radicalism. The last part of this course is devoted to Alaa al-Aswani's Yacoubian building.

In the course, the personal, social and historical contexts of each of these works are discussed, which will lead us to an exploration of themes such as social justice, inequality, sexual abuse and other forms of exploitation, and the roots of radicalisation.

Arabic texts will be translated and interpreted in class; English translations will be used to give the broader picture.

2. Poetic expression:

Through short poems from different periods the relation between literature, society and esthetics is explored. Much attention is devoted to diversity in the Arab world and the role of the regional cultural heritage in creative writing.

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
for preparing texts

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

Final competences

- 1 The student is able to translate and interpret Arabic literary texts.
- 2 The student has an insight in the tensions between secularisation and islamisation in the Egyptian society of the 20th century.
- 3 The student can empathize with the social problems of Egypt and other islamic and/or third world countries, especially in rural areas and among people stricken by poverty.
- 4 The student sees the connection between social injustice, suppression and the discourse of radicalisation.
- 5 The student realises that Egypt had a turbulent history in the 19th and 20th century and that creative writers have played an important role in the development and the creation of an identity for Modern Egypt.
- 6 The student is aware that islamism is one of the -isms or models of social justice with which Egyptians have experimented (but not the only one).
- 7 The student is able to relate poems to the cultural heritage, both in terms of contents and form.

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

Texts and background materials that are made available on ufora are prepared by the students and discussed in class. Students make an independent assignment on poetry which they present for the group. The poetry is read expressively.

Classes are on campus but can be held online on occasion if need be.

Learning materials and price

Text materials and background documentations will be provided through Ufora (printing costs are c. 15 euro).

Thompson, J. 2008: A History of Egypt from the Earliest times to the Present, Cairo (15 euro). A Dutch translation of this book is available.

References

Beeston et al., 1992: The Cambridge History of Arabic Literature (Modern Period), Cambridge.

Alaa al-Aswany: The Yacoubian building/Imārat Ya'qūbian (book and film).

Taha Husayn: an Egyptian Childhood/ al-Ayyām I.

Sayyid Qutb: A child from the Village.

Naguib Mahfoez, Récits de Notre Quartier (Hikayat haratina).

Rae, J., 2012: Will it ever be possible to profile the terrorist?, Journal of Terrorism Research 3.

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive classes and preparations allow permanent correction of the learning process. Feedback is possible after the exam. Students who have questions can send an e-mail.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Participation, Assignment

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

Oral assessment, Participation, Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

The non-periodical evaluation is about class activity and assignments. On the oral exam questions will be asked about the texts read in class, their background and the assignments.

Calculation of the examination mark

Permanent evaluation: 50% (10% class activity, 20% assignment, 20% presentation)

Oral exam: 50%

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 e-mail or online.

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy