

Politics of the Modern Middle East: Language, Text and Context (A005132)

Course size	<i>(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)</i>		
Credits 6.0	Study time 180 h	Contact hrs	60.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 1)	Arabic	Gent	practical
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Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Khouri, George	LW21	staff member
Kreil, Aymon	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
De Smet, Brecht	PS05	co-lecturer
Zemni, Sami	PS05	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)	6	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Middle East Studies)	6	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	6	A

Teaching languages

Arabic

Keywords

Middle East, North Africa, modern and contemporary periods, politics, current affairs, power, modernity, tradition, colonialism, postcolonialism, globalisation, Modern Standard Arabic, Egyptian Arabic

Position of the course

This course, pitched at the graduate academic level (master), builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in a BA-degree programma of Arabic and Islamic Studies, or equivalent. The course brings together various academic subjects that involve the modern and contemporary Middle East and North Africa, its study within a —especially— political sciences context, and Arabic language proficiency at intermediate to advanced levels.

Contents

This course consists of two closely intertwined components: contexts, and language and texts

- 1 Contexts: thorough study in modular seminars (optional modules), from various empirically as well as theoretically informed perspectives, of relevant themes and cases. These are annually selected in the context of contemporary relevance and/or the scholarly priorities of students and teacher. Subjects that may be considered include: politics of gender and identity, political economy of the Middle East or North Africa, revolution and resistance, local and global ...
- 2 Language and Texts: productive training of speaking and writing skills in Egyptian and Modern Standard Arabic, at intermediate to advanced levels, with reading and listening assignments that are always closely related to the subjects discussed in the contexts component.

Initial competences

Ba in Arabic and Islamic Studies, or equivalent (including academic knowledge at

undergraduate level of the history of the Middle East, and intermediate knowledge of Egyptian and Modern Standard Arabic).

Final competences

- 1 To identify and problematise the complexity of the politics of the modern Middle East in their local and global contexts
- 2 To apply in creative ways an advanced knowledge of Egyptian and Modern Standard Arabic in the analysis of complex questions pertaining to the politics of the modern Middle East.
- 3 To identify and problematise the added value of different disciplines for the resolution of complex questions pertaining to the politics of the modern Middle East.
- 4 To identify and problematise current theoretical discussions in the academic field of the politics of the modern Middle East.
- 5 To identify and problematise current empirical discussions in the academic field of the politics of the modern Middle East.
- 6 To apply independently current theoretical discussions in the academic field of the politics of the modern Middle East.
- 7 To apply independently current empirical discussions in the academic field of the politics of the modern Middle East.
- 8 To interpret results of individual research about the politics of the modern Middle East and to apply these in academically valid ways.
- 9 To reflect critically and in independent and systematic ways about learning, thinking, deciding and acting in the context of the politics of the modern Middle East.
- 10 To construct valid academic arguments around complex problems related to the politics of the modern Middle East.
- 11 To engage in written and oral communication, with peers and with others, about the results of independent learning, thinking and acting with respect to complex questions related to the politics of the modern Middle East.
- 12 To engage in written and oral communication with native speakers, at an advanced level of language proficiency, in the specific context of the political problems of the modern Middle East.
- 13 To collaborate, in a context of diversity, trans-cultural realities, and historical consciousness, on complex questions related to the politics of the modern Middle East.
- 14 To have a critical consciousness about the relevance of knowledge about the politics of the modern Middle East for a variety of current social issues, events, debates and opinions.
- 15 To have a critical consciousness about the significance of an advanced knowledge of Egyptian and Modern Standard Arabic for gaining access to the context of current social issues, events, debates and opinions related to the politics of the modern Middle East.

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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Integration seminar, practicum

Extra information on the teaching methods

Integrative seminar: reading and written assignments, group work presentations, debates, ... coordinated by the main teacher.

Practicum: reading, listening and writing assignments in Modern Standard Arabic coordinated by the native speaker; speaking assignments and debates in Egyptian Arabic coordinated by a native speaker.

Learning materials and price

At the start of the course the teachers will inform about the reading list (readings in Dutch, English, Arabic, ...) depending on the selected subjects; these and other learning materials will be made available via the faculty library and Ufora, via other means, and/or as a reader.

References

- Chalcraft, John. 2016. *Popular Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- *Politics & Society in the contemporary Middle East*, ed. M.P. Angrist (Lynn Rienner

Publishers, 2013)

- Willis, M. (2014). *Politics and power in the Maghreb: Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco from independence to the Arab Spring*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Ayeb, H., & Bush, R. (2019). *Food Insecurity and Revolution in the Middle East and North Africa: Agrarian Questions in Egypt and Tunisia*. Anthem Press
- Abdelrahman, Maha. 2014. *Egypt's Long Revolution. Protest Movements and Uprisings*. London & New York: Routledge.
- Achcar, Gilbert. 2013. *The People Want. A Radical Exploration of the Arab Uprising*. London: Saqi Books.
- Alexander, Anne and Bassiouny, Mostafa. 2014. *Bread, Freedom, Social Justice. Workers & the Egyptian Revolution*. London: Zed Books.
- Mitchell, Timothy. 2002. *Rule of Experts. Egypt, Techno-politics, Modernity*. Berkeley: University of California Press
- *Het Midden-Oosten: the times they are a-changin'*, eds. S. Zemni, et al (EPO, 2013)
- B. De Smet, *Gramsci on Tahrir: revolution and counter-revolution in Egypt* (Pluto Press, 2016)
- E. Açı, *Neoliberal governmentality and the future of the state in the Middle East and North Africa* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016)
- Zachary Lockman, *Contending Visions of the Middle East: the history and politics of Orientalism* (CUP, 2006)
- El Mustapha Lahlali, *Advanced Media Arabic* (EUP 2016, 2nd ed.)
- E. Kendall, *Media Arabic* (Essential Middle Eastern Vocabularies) (EUP 2012, 2nd ed.)
- S. Louis, *Kallimni 'Arabi Aktar: An Upper Intermediate Course in Spoken Egyptian Arabic* (AUC, 2008)
- S. Louis, *Kallimni 'Arabi Mazboot. An Early Advanced Course in Spoken Egyptian Arabic* (AUC, 2009)

Course content-related study coaching

Continuous feedback as a component of the interactive teaching method; electronic platform Ufora

Evaluation methods

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Continuous assessment: preparation and active participation, including papers and presentations (detailed information will be provided at the start of the course)

Calculation of the examination mark

Contexts : 70 % (continuous assessment)

Language & Texts : 30 % (continuous assessment)

(Approved)

Students who do not participate in (a part of) the assessment, or have a mark below 10/20 for one of the components (Contexts, Language/Texts), automatically fail the entire course. Final marks higher than 10/20 will, in this case, be reduced to the highest mark that does not qualify for automatic upgrade ('deliberation').

A pass mark for one of the components means that the assessment of that component does not need to be retaken in case of a resit (only!). Students are nevertheless entitled to decide to retake it.

Facilities for Working Students

1 No exemption from attendance requirements possible;

2 Feedback can be given by email or by appointment during office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy