

Culture and Society of the Modern Middle East: Language, Text and Context (A005135)

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

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

Arabic

Gent

practical

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Khoury, George

LW21

staff member

Dayeh, Islam

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Kreil, Aymon

LW21

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

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

Keywords

Middle East, modern and contemporary periods, culture, society, anthropology, social sciences, 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, its study within the framework of intellectual history and social and cultural anthropology, with an 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 regular seminars, 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: gender, orientalism, reformism in the Arab countries; social classes; etc.
- 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 cultures and societies of the Middle East, and intermediate knowledge of Egyptian and Modern Standard Arabic)

Final competences

- 1 To identify and problematise the complexity of the culture and societies of the modern Middle East.
- 2 To apply in creative ways an advanced knowledge of Egyptian and Modern Standard Arabic in the analysis of complex questions pertaining to the culture and societies 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 culture and societies of the modern Middle East.
- 4 To identify and problematise current theoretical discussions in the academic field of the culture and societies of the modern Middle East.
- 5 To identify and problematise current empirical discussions in the academic field of the culture and societies of the modern Middle East.
- 6 To apply independently current theoretical discussions in the academic field of the culture and societies of the modern Middle East.
- 7 To apply independently current empirical discussions in the academic field of the culture and societies of the modern Middle East.
- 8 To interpret results of individual research about the culture and societies 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 culture and societies of the modern Middle East.
- 10 To construct valid academic arguments around complex problems related to the culture and societies 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 culture and societies 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 cultural and social 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 culture and societies of the modern Middle East.
- 14 To have a critical consciousness about the relevance of knowledge about the culture and societies 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 culture and societies 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

Practical

Extra information on the teaching methods

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

Practicum: reading, listening and writing assignments in Modern Standard Arabic coordinated by the language instructor; speaking assignments and debates in Egyptian Arabic coordinated by the language instructors.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus Culture and Society of the Modern Middle East

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

References

References are updated annually based on the specific subject of the course.

Course content-related study coaching

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

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

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

Calculation of the examination mark

100 % CA

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