

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 2023-2024

A (semester 2) Arabic Gent practical

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Khouri, George	LW21	staff member
Kreil, Aymon	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

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

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 —especially— the context of cultural anthropology and social sciences, 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 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 and identity, city and countryside, modernity and tradition, literature and media, rich and poor, young and old ...
- 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 native speaker; speaking assignments and debates in Egyptian Arabic coordinated by the 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 minerva, via other means, and/or as a reader.

References

- I. Pappé, *The Modern Middle East: A Social and Cultural History* (Routledge, 2014, 3rd ed.)
- Ch. Lindholm, *The Islamic Middle East: an historical anthropology* (Blackwell, 2002)
- S. Zubaida, *Beyond Islam: a new understanding of the Middle East* (I.B. Tauris, 2011)
- D.F. Eickelman, *The Middle East: and Central Asia an anthropological approach* (Prentice-Hall, 1998)
- *Arab Society and Culture: a reader*, ed. S. Khalaf, R.S. Khalaf (Saqi, 2007)
- *Arab cultural studies: mapping the field*, ed. T. Sabry (I.B. Tauris, 2012)
- *A Companion to the Anthropology of the Middle East*, ed. S. Altorki (Wiley-Blackwell, 2015)
- El Mustapha Lahlali, *Advanced Media Arabic* (EUP 2016, 2nd ed.)
- F.I. Khuri, *An invitation to laughter: a Lebanese anthropologist in the Arab world*, ed. S. J. Khuri (University of Chicago Press, 2007)
- E. Kendall, *Media Arabic* (Essential Middle Eastern Vocabularies) (EUP 2012, 2nd ed.)
- S. Louis, *Kallimni 'Arabi Mazboot. An Early Advanced Course in Spoken Egyptian Arabic* (AUC, 2009)

- S. Louis, *Kallimni 'Arabi fi Kull Haaga. A Higher 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.

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