

Structures of Arabic (Language and Texts): Social and Political Thinking (A005477)

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	seminar
			independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Termonia, Maya	LW21	staff member
Van Steenberghe, Jo	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

Arabic grammar, Arabic literary heritage, Arabic intellectual heritage, social thought, political thought

Position of the course

This course builds on the competences acquired in the courses Introduction to the Structures of Arabic (language and text) and Structures of Arabic (language and texts): historical thinking. It engages in more depth with topics encountered in, or related to, the courses Introduction to the History of Islamic West Asia, Introduction to Islam and Being a Muslim, and Politics of the Contemporary Middle East.

This course familiarizes the student with different Arabic text genres from literary and philosophical movements within the pre-modern Islamic world, with their social and political impact and significance in past and present, with their place in a long tradition of thinking about human sociability and power, and with the specifics of these texts' grammatical structures.

Contents

This course consists of two components: structures of texts and structures of language. Structures of texts is devoted to the contextualization and study of literary-philosophical texts from the pre-modern Islamic heritage that belong to the tradition of political thought. Close reading, contextualization, and structural analysis are central, including an intensive introduction to socio-political thinking in an Islamic framework, and its modern study. Language structures focuses on the grammatical analysis of the studied texts, especially with an eye for morphology and for the Arabic grammatical instruments.

Initial competences

Introduction to the Structures of Arabic (Language and Texts), and Structures of Arabic (Language and Texts): Historical Thinking

Final competences

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

7
8
9
10

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, Independent work

Learning materials and price

- Bowering, G., *Islamic Political Thought: An Introduction*, Princeton 2015
- Fischer, W., *Grammar of Classical Arabic, Third Edition*. London: Yale University Press, 2002.
- Wright, W., *Grammar of the Arabic Language, Third Edition*.
- + Texts and readings will be distributed through Ufora.

References

- P. Adamson, *Philosophy in the Islamic World. A History of Philosophy without any gaps. Volume 3* (Oxford, 2016) (podcast: <http://philosophy.net/islamic-world>)
- P. Crone, *God's rule: government and islam. Six hundred years of medieval islamic political thought* (Columbia UP, 2004)
- A. Black, *The history of Islamic political thought: from the Prophet to the present* (EUP, 2001)
- W.M. Watt, *Islamic Political Thought* (EUP, 1968)
- A.K.S. Lambton, *State and government in medieval Islam: an introduction to the study of Islamic political theory: the jurists* (OUP, 1981)
- A. Afsaruddin, *Excellence and precedence: medieval islamic discourse on legitimate leadership* (Brill, 2002)
- A. Afsaruddin, *Striving in the Path of God: Jihad and Martyrdom in Islamic Thought* (OUP, 2013)
- J. Berkey, *The Formation of Islam. Religion & Society in the Near East, 600-1800* (CUP, 2003)
- T. Khalidi, *Arabic Historical Thought in the Classical Period* (CUP, 1994)
- L. Marlowe, *Counsel for Kings: Wisdom and Politics in Tenth-Century Iran* (EUP, 2016)
- J. Van Steenbergen, *Caliphate and Kingship in a fifteenth-century literary history of Muslim Leadership and Pilgrimage* (Brill, 2016)
- N. Yavari, *Advice for the sultan: prophetic voices and secular politics in medieval islam* (OUP, 2014)
- H. Kennedy, *The Caliphate* (Penguin, 2016)
- Allen, R., *The Arabic Literary Heritage: the development of its genres and criticism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998, 2005.
- Wehr, H., *Arabic-English Dictionary, Fourth Edition*.
- Waardenburg, J., *Islam: norm, ideaal en werkelijkheid*. Houten: Fibula, 1994.
- Allen, R., *An introduction to Arabic Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Van Steenbergen, J., *Een Nieuwe Geschiedenis van de Islamitische Wereld: Rijks- en identiteitsvorming in islamitisch West-Azië, 7de-18de eeuw* (Acco 2018)

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive classes allow the students to receive direct feedback. Ufora. Feedback after the exams.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Calculation of the examination mark

Text structures: 70 %

Language structures: 30 %

Both parts are subdivided into end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment (active participation during classes, and tests and assignments).

Students who do not participate in (one of the parts of) the assessment, or have a mark below 10/20 for one of the assessed parts, 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') (7/20).

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

Facilities for Working Students

Student attendance of classes is compulsory.

The examination cannot be rescheduled

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