Structures of Arabic (Language and Texts): Historical Thinking (A005575)

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

Credits 8.0   **Study time 240 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	Dutch, English	Gent	seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Termonia, Maya	LW21	staff member
Van Steenbergen, Jo	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	8	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	8	A
Elective Set Arabic and Islamic Studies	8	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Arabic grammar, Arabic historiography, Islamic historical thought, written sources of the world of Islam

Position of the course

This course continues Introduction to Structures of Arabic (Languages and Texts). It builds on the courses Introduction to the history of Islamic West Asia (600-1800) and Introduction to Islam and Being a Muslim. It concerns a thorough introduction to Arabic historiographical literature and to Islamic historical thinking, as part of Islamic intellectual history. This course familiarizes the student with various Arabic historiographical genres and texts in the Islamic world and the way in which they are used in past and present.

Contents

This course consists of two components: text structures and languages structures.
- In text structures, various historiographical texts from the pre-modern Islamic world are read and studied, in particular chronicles, biographies, and biographical dictionaries, …. This is framed in a thorough deepening of the knowledge of Arabic historiographical literature and of Islamic historical thought, from the late antique to the modern period.
- In language structures, the (study of the) structure of the Arabic language is discussed in more detail, in close interaction with the text material from the text structures component.

Initial competences

Introduction to the structures of Arabic (Language and Texts)

Final competences

1 To translate different Arabic historical texts
2 To analyse grammatically different Arabic historical texts
3 To identify the characteristics of different Arabic historical texts
4 to contextualise historically and culturally different Arabic historical texts
5 To recognise major Arabic religious formula in epigraphic form
6 To reflect on an abstract level on the form, function and meaning of different Arabic historical texts

7 To participate in pertinent and tolerant ways in disucssions and debates
   on different Arabic historical texts
8 To connect different Arabic historical texts and related debates to subjects and
   insights from other relevant courses
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

Extra information on the teaching methods

Two components: language structures & text structures.
During the text structures classes, texts prepared by the student are
contextualized and discussed. This preparation includes reading comprehension,
translation and context acquisition.
The classes of language structures focus on the study of Arabic grammar.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: ATTHD: taalstructuren
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Other
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No

Type: Slides

Name: ATTHD: tekststructuren
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Other
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

- Robinson, C. F., *Islamic Historiography*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Khalidi, T., *Arabic historical thought in the classsical period*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.
- Rosenthal, F., *A History of Muslim Historiography*, Leiden: Brill, 1968.
- Schulz, E., *A Student Grammar of Modern Standard Arabic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008
- Wehr, H., *Arabic-English Dictionary, Fourth Edition*.
- Allen, R., *An introduction to Arabic Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Van Steenbergen, J., *Een Nieuwe Geschiedenis van de Islamwereld: een inleiding tot rijks- en identiteitsvorming in islamitisch West-Azië, 600-1800*

Course content-related study coaching

Preparation of classes by the students and interactive classes allow a permanent
feedback. Feedback is also possible 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

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam: language & texts
Participation: class attendance and assignments

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 components, 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 components means that the assessment of that component 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

1. Student attendance is compulsory
2. The examination cannot be rescheduled
3. 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