

Introduction to the Structures of Arabic (Language and Texts) (A005576)

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

Credits 7.0

Study time 210 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Termonia, Maya

LW21

staff member

Van Nieuwenhuysse, Stijn

LW21

staff member

Van Steenberghe, Jo

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures \(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies\)](#)

crdts 7

offering A

[Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures](#)

7

A

[Elective Set Arabic and Islamic Studies](#)

7

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Arabic grammar, introduction to the study of Arabic texts

Position of the course

This course continues Introduction to Arabic Language Acquisition I-II and provides an introduction to the study of Arabic texts and the structures of the Arabic language. It is also an in-depth study of the courses Introduction to the History of Islamic West Asia (600-1800) and Introduction to Islam and Being a Muslim. This course introduces the student to the rich corpus of (pre-modern) Arabic texts in its most diverse forms, both thematically, geographically and chronologically, with due attention to the wide range of genres.

Contents

The course consists of two components: text structures and language structures.

- Various simple texts from the Arab cultural heritage are analyzed in text structures. The selected fragments come from, among others, the Koran, the frame story of 1001 Nights, the story cycle of Kalila & Dimna and the travel literature of Ibn Battuta. In addition, attention is paid to the religious, literary, historical and social context from which these texts originate.
- Language structures discuss the (study of the) structure of the Arabic language in more detail.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed Introduction to Arabic Language Acquisition I & II or to have acquired the intended competencies in another way.

Final competences

- 1 Translation of simple texts from the Arabic heritage
- 2 Identification of main items from simple texts from the Arabic heritage
- 3 Structural analysis of simple texts from the Arabic heritage
- 4 Identification of main characteristics of simple texts from the Arabic heritage
- 5 Familiarity with most frequent reading strategies for simple texts from the Arabic heritage

- 6 Contextualisation of simple texts from the Arabic heritage
- 7 Familiarity with most frequently occurring grammatical structures in texts from the Arabic heritage

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

Classes consist of two components: language structures & text structures.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Allen, R., *An introduction to Arabic Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : R. Allen

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Syllabus

Name: IATT: Taalstructuren

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

- S.A. Bonebakker, M. Fishbein, *A Reader of Classical Arabic Literature* (Lockwood Press, 2012)
- R. Irwin, *Nights & Horses & the Desert: An Anthology of Classical Arabic Literature* (Anchor, 2002)
- B.K. Frangieh, *Anthology of Arabic Literature, Culture, and Thought from Pre-Islamic Times to the Present* (Yale University Press, 2005)
- A. Vrolijk, *De taal der engelen: 1250 jaar klassiek Arabisch proza* (Amsterdam: Contact, 2002)
- Schulz, E., *A Student Grammar of Modern Standard Arabic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008
- Wehr, H., *Arabic-English Dictionary, Fourth Edition*.
- Waardenburg, J., *Islam: norm, ideaal en werkelijkheid*. Houten: Fibula, 1994.
- 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

Interactive classes allow permanent guidance. Students are encouraged to ask questions. 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

Extra information on the examination methods

written exam + participation

Calculation of the examination mark

Text structures: 70 %

Language structures: 30 %

Both components 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') (9/20).

A pass mark for one of the assessed components means that the assessment of that components 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