

Literatures of the Islamic World (A006632)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Janssen, Caroline 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)	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Modern Arabic literature, expression, literature and society, cultural heritage

Position of the course

This intermediary course continues Arabic I-II and Modern or Classical Arabic I. This course is best combined with Modern Arabic II but can also be combined with Classical Arabic II or be followed independently, on the condition that the student meets with the requirements of the initial competences.

Contents

In this course the student reads and contextualises literary texts. In the poetry section special attention is paid to expression and diversity themes. Apart from text interpretation the student studies social and historical backgrounds and the contexts in which the authors are active. Apart from the texts that are read in class the student chooses a contemporary Arabic book (in translation) to present in class.

Initial competences

The student has an overview and insight in the morphology and structure of Arabic
 The student has a basic knowledge of the history of the modern period and of modern literature
 The student is able to read study materials in English and French

Final competences

- 1 The student is able to translate Arabic short stories and poetry from the modern period to Dutch (or English in the case of international students).
- 2 The student has an insight in the relationship between literature and every-day reality. His empathy with people in non-western countries and those living in third world conditions has grown.
- 3 The student is familiar with the style and grammar of Modern Literary Arabic.
- 4 The student is able to read literary texts with expression.
- 5 The student is able to reflect critically on the value and limitations of Artificial Intelligence when executing tasks, in particular in the field of non-western studies
- 6

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, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Students read the prose texts in preparation of the class. Problems they encounter, interpretation and backgrounds are discussed during classtime. For reading special attention is paid not only to correctness but also expression, especially for the poetry that is read in class. Students also make an assignment based on a contemporary book of their choice which they present in class. On occasion, a class can be online if needed.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Printing costs syllabus: 15 €

Type: Handouts

Name: Handouts

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Other

Name: Books

Indicative price: € 35

Optional: no

Additional information: The books cost c. 35 euro (Dutch) of 25 euro (English) when purchased.

References

Abedinifard, Mostafa, et al. (eds) 2021: Persian literature as World Literature, New York.

Alcan, Burcu, et al. (eds) 2021: Turkish literature as World Literature, New York.

Dabashi, Hamid, 2019: The Shahnameh as World Literature.

Frangieh, Bassam 2004, 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Bayati, Love, Death and Exile.

Hikmet, Nazim (2004 ENG), Human Landscapes from my country /
Mensenlandschappen

Rasā'il Ikhwan as-Safā': The Case of the Animals against Humankind.

Sayyid Qutb, 1945, A child from the village.

Shafak, Elif, Zo houd je de moed erin in tijden van verdeeldheid (2020).

Shibli, Adania 2020: Minor Detail / 2023 Een klein Detail (origineel 2017)

Shire, Warsan 2022, Bless the daughter raised by a voice in her head / Zegen de
dochter

The Cambridge History of Arabic Literature Series

Vrolijk, A. 2002, De taal der engelen. 1250 jaar Klassiek Arabisch proza,
Amsterdam.

Course content-related study coaching

By preparing texts the student enables himself to ask feedback in class. Questions can be asked through e-mail. 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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation, 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

During the classes students have to be able to read and interpret texts they have prepared, and to participate in discussions. Tasks are prepared individually and shared with the group. On the oral exam the student is able to read texts seen in class expressively, to explain and translate them. The student is also able to answer questions about social and historical backgrounds about the authors and their context. Tasks and assignments are discussed as well.

Calculation of the examination mark

Permanent evaluation: Participation and presentation 20%, paper 20%

Oral exam 60%

If a part of the exam is not taken and the final score would be more than 10/20 the final score will be reduced to the highest non-pass score. When unsatisfactory grades are obtained on parts of the exam the final mark may be lowered.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
2. The examination can 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