

Structures of Arabic (Language and Texts): Literary Heritage (A006634)

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 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	seminar	0.0h
			independent work	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Termonia, Maya	LW21	staff member
Van Nieuwenhuysse, Stijn	LW21	staff member
Van Steenberghe, 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)	7	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	7	A
Elective Set Arabic and Islamic Studies	7	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Arabic grammar, the study of Arabic texts, Arabic literary heritage, Arabic intellectual heritage

Position of the course

This course follows on from Introduction to Arabic Language Acquisition I-II and provides an introduction to the study of Arabic literary texts and the structure of the Arabic language. It also builds upon the courses Introduction to the History of Islamic West Asia (600–1800) and Introduction to Islam and Being Muslim. This course introduces students to Arabic grammar (from a decolonised Arabic perspective) and to the rich corpus of (pre-modern) Arabic literary texts.

Contents

This course consists of two modules: textual structures and linguistic structures.
 * Various simple texts from the Arab cultural heritage are analyzed in the module 'textual structures'. Fragments are selected 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.
 * The module 'linguistic structures' examines the (study of the) structure of the Arabic language in greater detail.

Initial competences

Have successfully completed Introduction to Arabic Language Acquisition I & II, or have acquired the relevant learning outcomes through other means.

Final competences

- 1 The student translates simple texts from the Arabic literary heritage with the help of the dictionary.
- 2 The student identifies the main points from simple texts from the Arabic literary heritage
- 3 The student analyses simple texts from the Arabic literary heritage with an eye for language structures.

- 4 The student explains the characteristics of simple texts from the Arabic literary heritage
- 5 The student knows the most frequent reading strategies for simple texts from the Arabic literary heritage.
- 6 The student contextualizes simple texts from the Arabic literary heritage.
- 7 The student knows the grammatical structures that occur most frequently in simple texts from the Arabic literary 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

Seminar: the classes consist of two modules: linguistic structures and textual structures.

* During the textual structures classes, texts prepared by the student are studied.

This preparation includes reading comprehension, translation and reading assignments related to the literary, cultural and historical context.

* The linguistic structures classes focus on the study of Arabic grammar.

There are no recordings of classes.

Independent work: reading and/or writing assignments

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: ATT: 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)

* Wehr, H., Arabic-English Dictionary, Fourth Edition.

* 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 with active participation allow the students to receive direct

feedback. Feedback after the exams. Ufora.

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

End-of-term exam: written exam covering the entire syllabus (for both modules of linguistic and textual structures), oral presentation of written assignment (immediately following the written exam).

Continuous assessment: Participation = active involvement in all classes and the timely completion of assignments and tasks (including amongst others a written assignment with an oral presentation for the module 'textual structures').

Calculation of the examination mark

Texts 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 is compulsory.

The examination cannot be rescheduled.

Feedback can be given by email, telephone or after appointment during office hours.

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy