

Structures of Arabic (Language and Texts): Religious Thought (A006640)

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

Credits 8.0

Study time 240 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

Dutch, English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Termonia, Maya

LW21

staff member

Dayeh, Islam

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)

crdts

offering

8

A

Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures

8

A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Arabic grammar, Islamic theology (history, theory and sources), Qur'ān, *ḥadīth* Tafsīr, Fiqh, Kalām and Sufism.

Position of the course

This advanced course builds on the courses *Arabic Language and Text Structures: Literary Heritage*, *Arabic Language and Text Structures: Historical Thought*, and *Arabic Language and Text Structures: Social and Political Thought*. It also serves as a bridge to the courses *Introduction to the History of Islamic West Asia* and *Introduction to Islam and Being Muslim*.

The course familiarizes students with the various Arabic textual genres of the religious sciences in the (premodern) Islamic world, as well as their social and cultural impact and significance.

Contents

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

* Text Structures is dedicated to the analysis and study of a selection of texts from the Qur'an and the Sunna (ḥadīth), as well as from the disciplines of Qur'anic exegesis (tafsīr), Islamic theology (kalām), jurisprudence (fiqh), and Sufism (taṣawwuf). Emphasis is placed on the emergence and development of a Sunni canon, both in the past and in the present. Central methods include close reading, contextualization, and structural analysis.

* Language Structures focuses on the grammatical analysis of the studied texts, with particular attention to syntax and the tools of Arabic grammatical theory.

Initial competences

Introduction to Islam and being Muslim, Structures of Arabic: literary heritage, Structures of Arabic: historical thought, and Structures of Arabic: social and political thought.

Final competences

- 1 The student translates, with the assistance of a dictionary, texts from the Arabic religious heritage.
- 2 The student identifies the main ideas from texts from the Arabic religious heritage.
- 3 The student analyses texts from the Arabic religious heritage from the

perspective of language structures.

- 4 The student identifies the characteristics of texts from the Arabic religious heritage.
- 5 The student identifies the most frequently used strategies for reading texts from the Arabic religious heritage.
- 6 The student contextualizes texts from the Arabic religious heritage.
- 7 The student can identify the grammatical structures that appear most frequently in texts from the Arabic religious heritage.
- 8 The student reflects on an abstract level on the forms, functions and meanings of texts from the Arabic religious heritage.
- 9 The student participates in pertinent and tolerant ways in discussions and debates on texts from the Arabic religious heritage.
- 10 The student connects different Arabic religious texts and related debates to subjects and insights from other relevant courses.

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 components: *language structures* and *text structures*.

* During the *text structures* sessions, students study texts they have prepared in advance. This preparation includes reading comprehension, translation, and acquiring contextual knowledge through intensive reading assignments.

* During the *language structures* sessions, the focus is on the applied study of Arabic grammar.

* Independent work: reading and/or writing assignments.

* There will be no recordings of the classes.

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Arabische taal- en tekststructuren: religieus denken

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Additional information: The texts, compiled by the professor, are in English and Arabic, and are made available via Ufora.

References

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive classes allow a constant assessment of progress and create opportunities for asking 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

(Approved)

Extra information on the examination methods

Written examination: language and texts.

Participation: active participation in classes, timely submission of assignments and tasks.

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

1 Student attendance of classes is compulsory.

2 The examination cannot be rescheduled

3 Feedback can be given after an appointment during office hours

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