Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Arabic Literary Texts II (A002897)

Course

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
- Credits 5.0
- Study time 150 h
- Contact hrs 40.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019
- A (semester 1)
  - Dutch
  - integration seminar 10.0 h
  - self-reliant study activities 10.0 h
  - seminar: coached exercises 20.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019
- Janssen, Caroline
  - LW21 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019
- Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies) 5 A
- Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology 5 A
- Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures 5 A

Teaching languages
- Dutch

Keywords
- Literature and society, autobiography, poetic expression, expressive reading, Modern Egypt, cultural heritage

Position of the course
This course, on an intermediary level, is to be followed after completing Arabic I-II and Modern or Classical Arabic I, and Arabic literary texts I. It is preferably combined with Modern or Classical Arabic III. Students who do not fulfill these requirements may be granted access to the course by the encumbent lecturer, provided they have acquired a sufficient level.

This course meets the following learning outcomes: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.6

Contents
- Literature, culture and society:
  1. Autobiography / novel
     Through fragments of texts in Arabic as well as translated texts students are familiarized with three remarkable authors from 20th century Egypt. The first is Taha Husayn, whose autobiography about a youth on the countryside counts as a landmark in modern Arabic literature. The work of this 'westernized Egyptian' is compared and contrasted with the autobiography of Sayyid Qutb, an author who seems to have a similar background, but who is considered as the spiritual father of islamic radicalism. The last part of this course is devoted to Alaa al-Aswani's Yacoubian building.
     In the course, the personal, social and historical contexts of each of these works are discussed, which will lead us to an exploration of themes such as social justice, inequality, sexual abuse and other forms of exploitation, and the roots of radicalisation. Arabic texts will be translated and interpreted in class; English translations will be used to give the broader picture.
  2. Poetic expression:
     Through short poems from different periods the relation between literature, society and esthetics is explored. Much attention is devoted to diversity in the Arab world and the role of the regional cultural heritage in creative writing.
Initial competences

The student has an overview and insight in the morphology and structure of Arabic
The student is able to use the H. Wehr dictionary for preparing texts
The student is able to read study materials in English and French

Final competences

1. The student is able to translate and interpret Arabic literary texts.
2. The student has an insight in the tensions between secularisation and islamisation in the Egyptian society of the 20th century.
3. The student can empathize with the social problems of Egypt and other Islamic and/or third world countries, especially in rural areas and among people stricken by poverty.
4. The student sees the connection between social injustice, suppression and the discourse of radicalisation.
5. The student realises that Egypt had a turbulent history in the 19th and 20th century and that creative writers have played an important role in the development and the creation of an identity for Modern Egypt.
6. The student is aware that islamism is one of the -isms or models of social justice with which Egyptians have experimented (but not the only one).
7. The student is able to relate poems to the cultural heritage, both in terms of contents and form.

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

Integration seminar, self-reliant study activities, seminar: coached exercises

Extra information on the teaching methods

Independent work: preparing classes, processing the reading materials
Seminars: selected passages are read and interpreted together in class
Integration seminar: knowledge and insights from other courses are applied (framework, interpretation)

Learning materials and price

Text materials will be provided through Minerva (10 euro); there is a reader as well for the backgrounds (10 euro).
Thompson, J. 2008: A History of Egypt from the Earliest times to the Present, Cairo (15 euro).

References

Taha Husayn: an Egyptian Childhood/ al-Ayyām I.
Sayyid Qutb: A child from the Village.
Naguib Mahfouz, Récits de Notre Quartier (Hikayat haratina).
Rae, J., 2012: Will it ever be possible to profile the terrorist?, Journal of Terrorism Research 3.

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive classes allow permanent correction of the learning process. Feedback is possible after the exam.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination, oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination, oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

(Approved)
Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

The written exam consists of three parts: texts discussed in class (translation, explanation, interpretation) and questions about the reading materials.
On the oral exam the students reads text fragments discussed in class in an expressive way; they are translated and interpreted. Questions are asked about the background of the authors and their context.

Calculation of the examination mark

Written exam:
Text materials studied in class (translation, explanation and interpretation) 20%
Translation, explanation and interpretation of new fragments 30%
Backgrounds 25%

Oral exam: 25%

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