



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

MODERN ARABIC SHORT STORIES - 16124

Last update 28-04-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Dept. of Arabic Language and Literature

Academic year: 1

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator:

Coordinator Email:

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Ori Shachmon

Course/Module description:

The course is designed to enable students to experience the modern Arabic writing not by formal lectures about people, dates and places etc., but by actual confrontation with the material in all (or at least some) of its variety.

Course/Module aims:

During the course we read some 15 short stories from different parts of the Arabic world and from different periods of time. The students are introduced to the characteristics of the various literary genres, e.g. romanticism, realism, existentialism, etc. Each genre is exemplified through representative texts. Students also become familiar with prominent modern authors, such as Jubran Khalil Jubran, Zakariyya Tamer, Tawiq al-Hakim, Layla Baalbaki, Ghassan Kanafani, and many others.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Students will be able to read a modern literary text as a whole, to understand its grammatical and syntactical constructions, to deal with its themes and message, to identify the literary genre and understand its social and cultural context.

Attendance requirements(%):

85%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The texts are available on the course website and the students are asked to prepare them in advance, including full vocalization and translation. Some of the texts are read aloud in class, thus providing students an opportunity to improve their pronunciation and fluency of reading.

A written assignment follows every text read in class, which includes questions in Arabic which deal with the meaning, message and ideas of the texts. This allows our students to practice their writing skills, while getting detailed individual feedback from the instructor.

The second part of the course (usually in Semester B) is devoted to the implementation of the acquired knowledge and skills. The students work on an unseen short story in groups of 3-5, vocalize, translate and analyze it, and then present it in class.

Course/Module Content:

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- *An outline of the development of modern Arabic literature*
 - *The short story and the very short story*
 - *Prominent genres in Modern Arabic Literature: Romanticism, Realism, Existentialism, Naturalism, Expressionism, etc.*
 - *Distinctive writers of modern Arab literature*
 - *Arab women's literature*
 - *Literary devices and writing styles: Stream of consciousness, diaries and autobiographical writing, etc.*

Required Reading:

Badawi, M. M. A Short History of Modern Arabic Literature. Clarendon Press-Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Moreh, S. The Tree and the Branch, pp. 15-42: "An outline of the development of modern Arabic literature". Jerusalem: Magnes, 1997 (Hebrew).

Somekh, S. Genre and Language in Modern Arabic Literature. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1991.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 50 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 25 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 15 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: