



## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Classical Arabic Belles-Lettres: Kitab al-Aghani - 16501*

*Last update 10-09-2020*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: Arabic Language & Literature*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 1st Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Guy Ron-Gilboa*

*Coordinator Email: [guy.ron-gilboa@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:guy.ron-gilboa@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment*

*Teaching Staff:*

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Dr. Guy Ron-Gilboa

Course/Module description:

*This course, which is intended for students in Year 2 and/or Year 3, acquaints the learner with a classical Arabic text belonging to the adab genre. Abū al-Faraj al-Iṣfāhanī's Kitāb al-Aġānī is one of the central works of classical Arabic literature. This huge book developed during different periods and comprises various layers. It deals with varied topics in the fields of poetry, poets, history, biography, culture etc. and in a single university course it is possible to read only a very little. These stories represent classical Arabic at its richest and best. But they are not always easy, either in language or in content. In addition, therefore, to matters of grammar and lexicon which relate to basic comprehension, we also discuss other subjects such as food, dress, social manners, customs etc. It is also sometimes necessary to inspect parallel transmissions in order to elucidate the text.*

Course/Module aims:

*The aims of the course are to instill in the student an appreciation of the classical Arabic adab genre and to equip him with some of the tools necessary to an accurate understanding of such material, so that at the end of the course he will be able to continue to read on his own.*

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

- 1. Acquire experience in reading texts which belong to the adab genre*
- 2. Elaborate on the various subjects that are included in Kitāb al-Aġānī*
- 3. Critically read and analyze texts which are not easy in language and content*

Attendance requirements(%):

85%

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures and guided reading*

Course/Module Content:

*Topics related to language and content from the anthology prepared by al-Salihani to the adab compilation Kitāb al-Aġānī. We will discuss the famous poets who appear in these texts as well*

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Required Reading:

*During this course we will read Arabic texts from Abu al-Faraj al-Isfahani's Kitāb al-Aġānī.*

Additional Reading Material:

*M. Fleischhammer, Die Quellen des Kitāb al-Aġānī*  
*H.G. Farmer, "Ghinā'", EI2*  
*H. Kilpatrick, Making the Great Book of Songs*  
*Stefan Leder and Hilary Kilpatrick, "Classical Arabic Prose Literature: A Researchers' Sketch Map," Journal of Arabic Literature 23, no. 1 (1992): 2-26.*  
*Stefan Leder, "The Literary Use of the Khabar," in Studies in Arabic Literature and Islam, edited by Stefan Leder, 277-315. Leuven: Peeters, 2002.*  
*O. Wright, "Music and Verse" , CHAL i*

Course/Module evaluation:

*End of year written/oral examination 90 %*  
*Presentation 0 %*  
*Participation in Tutorials 10 %*  
*Project work 0 %*  
*Assignments 0 %*  
*Reports 0 %*  
*Research project 0 %*  
*Quizzes 0 %*  
*Other 0 %*

Additional information:

*Students are required to attend all classes and to come prepared to read, translate and explain the text (including the verses of poetry). Active participation is compulsory and comprises part of the final mark. At the end of the course there is an examination consisting of three parts: (a) a seen passage, (b) an unseen passage, (c) a general question based upon additional reading material (a selection of articles on subjects related to the material studied).*