



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

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

Last update 06-08-2023

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Arabic Language & Literature

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Arabic

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Meir Bar-Asher

Coordinator Email: meir.bar-asher@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Meir Bar-Asher

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-Iṣfāhānī's Kitāb al-Aḡānī 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-Aḡānī
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-Aḡānī. We will discuss the famous poets who appear in these texts as well

Required Reading:

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

Additional Reading Material:

Will be given during the course.

Grading Scheme:

Written / Oral / Practical Exam 85 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 15 %

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).