



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Arab Women Writing - 16510*

*Last update 19-09-2022*

*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. Daniel Behar*

*Coordinator Email: [daniel.behar@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:daniel.behar@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Tue 11-12:30pm*

*Teaching Staff:*

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Dr. Daniel Behar

Course/Module description:

We will examine the concept of feminine writing against the works of prominent Arab women writers in a variety of genres and modes of expression. We will grapple with the dilemmas presented by the term Women's Literature. Is it empowering, factual, or pigeonholes writers to a niche? We will ask about features of genre, form and language in female writing as well as about matters of representation, personal identity, politics and society. Must women writing fiction relate to their reality as women and to the social problems of women? Must they write as feminists? The discussion will address these questions as they rise from texts of fiction writers and poets who touch upon every possible aspect of Arab politics, society and culture in the 20th and 21st centuries. We will debate the Arab-particular concerns of these texts as expressed in relation to the Arab literary heritage, to religious frameworks and the fertile tension between literary and colloquial Arabic. Major authors included: May Ziyadeh, Nazik al-Mala'ika, Hanan al-Sheikh, Ghada al-Samman, Latifa al-Zayyat, Nawal al-Sa'dawi, Hayat Sharara, Iman Mersal and Adania Shibli. Students will be required to give a presentation on a poem or a very short story, one short paper and writing a Wikipedia item.

Course/Module aims:

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

1. describe milestones in the history of Arab women's literature and explain the changes women writing underwent over the course of the 20th century.
2. use critical vocabulary to discuss categories of identity-based literature.
3. develop skills of analyzing a literary work in terms of genre, form and language and drawing connection to non-literary contexts.
4. Summarize gist of an article and present its major points in class.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

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1. *Introductions*
  2. *Nahda women writers*
  3. *Islamic feminism*
  4. *Epistolary writing*
  5. *Novels and women*
  6. *autobiographical writing*
  7. *women writing war*
  8. *the short story*
  9. *women prose poetry*
  10. *Experimentalism*
  11. *Surrealism, realism and generic blends in 21st century.*

Required Reading:  
*uploaded to Moodle each week.*

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

*End of year written/oral examination 0 %*

*Presentation 20 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 10 %*

*Project work 50 %*

*Assignments 20 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 0 %*

*Other 0 %*

Additional information: