



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Autobiographies as a Historical Source in the Study of Modern Arab Culture - 38846

Last update 23-10-2022

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Islamic & Middle East Stud.

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: מאיר חטינה

Coordinator Email: meir.hatina@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mon. 1400-1500

Teaching Staff:

Prof Meir Hatina

Course/Module description:

The course explores the place of autobiographies and memories as a form of historical writing. Despite the possibility of one-sided interpretation of historical data by the author, memories can shed light on his social environment and on controversial issues of the time. The course will analyse selective texts in Arabic, alongside the use of theoretical and historical literature

Course/Module aims:

1. exploring the genre of autobiographies in the Arab context.
2. to encounter key figures in modern Arab culture.
3. to discuss the intertwining between personal memory and national-collective memory.
4. to shed further light on key socio-political issues of the period -- through the prism of the autobiographies.

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

1. to acquire analytical tools in approaching biographies as a historical documents
2. to enrich our knowledge of Arab political culture in the shadow of modernization and the establishment of national entities.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: active participation, active participation, reading preliminary texts at class

Course/Module Content:

1. on autobiographies and their place in Arab writing culture.
 2. defying tradition
 3. In search of identity
 4. political dissent
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Required Reading:

Dwight F. Reynolds (ed.), *Interpreting the Self: Autobiography in the Arabic Literary Tradition* (California: University of California, 2011), pp. 1-14.

Anwar G. Chejne, "Autobiography and Memories in Modern Arabic Historiography," *The Muslim World*, LLI/1 (January 1962), pp. 31-38.

Thomas Philipp, "The Autobiography in Modern Arab literature and Culture," *Poetics Today* 14/3 (Fall 1993), pp. 573-604.

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Additional Reading Material:

Dwight F. Reynolds (ed.), *Interpreting the Self: Autobiography in the Arabic Literary Tradition* (California: University of California, 2011), pp. 1-14

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Grading Scheme:

Additional information:

The reading list is not final and is subject to possible changes.