

ELA201.xxx Modern Arabic Literature
Modern Arabic Lit
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<http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/ela/faculty.htm>

Instructor's Information

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Office Hours: xxx
Class Schedule: xxx (Room: xxxx) & xxx (Room: xxxx)

Course goals and objectives

Catalog Course Description: The course examines an array of Arab literary writings from the late 19th century to the present. Literary genres include fiction, memoirs and polemical pieces, short stories, essays, poetry, plays and novels. A careful attention is devoted to the historical, cultural, social, political and economic context in which each text was created. Class discussions focus on Arab intellectuals and the West, Arab literature, identity, nation/nationalism, colonialism, sexuality and religion. This course is taught in Arabic.

Section Description: The course introduces students to the literary production of authors from the Arabic speaking world. It familiarizes students with major thematic units in Arabic literature, such as the pan-Arabism, colonial and post-colonial relations, identity, memory, time, exile, diglossia, the politics of resistance and language, religion and sexuality. This course is taught in Arabic.

Flexible Core Objectives: World Cultures and Global Issues

The course bears 3 credits that count as Flexible Core (World Cultures and Global Issues) of the CUNY's new general education curriculum (Pathways).

Pathways Objectives

In this course students will:

- **Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.**
Reading a vast array of Arabic literature demands integrative analyses of information collected from various sources such as texts, cultural knowledge, historical facts, political circumstances, geographic facts, and the writers' belief. The class exercises are designed to demonstrate their ability to synthesize and analyze information and to achieve integration of information from varieties of sources through lectures, discussions, and reflective essay writing.
- **Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.**
The class exercises focus on the development of students' analytical skills. Students are expected to make systematic and critical analysis of different Arabic literary works. Students will also demonstrate the ability to coherently present writers' perspectives with some evidence from both within the literary texts and outside of the texts.
- **Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.**
Students are expected to present their ability to make cogent arguments on selected topics of the Arabic literature in the final paper and in the final presentation at the end of the semester. Students are required to cite appropriate evidence appropriately to support conclusions.
- **Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring world cultures or global issues.**

Through the lecture and discussion during the class, students are encouraged to analyze the literary works from their own cultural perspective and also from the Arabic perspective. The consequences of duplicity on the present global world will be discussed.

- **Speak, read, and write a language other than English, and use that language to respond to cultures other than one's own.**

Students are encouraged to read and write in Arabic and interpret sociocultural differences in light of the contemporary life in the U.S. and in the Arab world.

- **Analyze and discuss the role that race, ethnicity, class, gender, language, sexual orientation, belief, or other forms of social differentiation play in world cultures or societies.**

The major themes in the Arabic literature such as class and gender are discussed throughout the class. Students are encouraged to interpret these sociocultural differences in light of the contemporary life in the U.S. and in the Arab world.

Prerequisites: Exemption Exam

Textbook, grading, and other class logistics

Textbooks: (In Arabic)

Hasan Yhya. Qisas Qaseerah Min al-Adab al-Arabi al-Mu'asir (Volume 1) 2012. ISBN 978-1470027452

Shawky Diif. Modern Arabic Literature in Egypt. 13th Ed. Dar Al Maarif. ISBN 977-02-6736-8

Iman Baqai. Al-Mutqin fi Dirasat al-Nusus wa Kitabat al-Mawduat al-Adabiyya. 1st Edition. Dar El-Rateb, Lebanon. 2007. ISBN: 9789953302508

Grades:

Final exam: 25%

2 short papers: 30%

5 Reader responses: 30%

Presentation: 5%

Class participation: 10%

Your final grade will be determined based on the following evaluation points.

- Final exam: 25%

This cumulative exam will cover writers and genres discussed in class.

- Two short papers: 30%

These papers will be interpretive essays using analytical methods discussed in the first week of class or a full report on a novel not covered in class. Possible paper topics will be discussed in class. You are expected to show your ability to make cogent arguments on selected topics of the Arabic literature you are discussing. You are required to cite appropriate evidence to support your conclusions. At least 5 different sources must be cited.

- Five reading responses based on the novels: the questions for analysis of literature will cover plot and structure, setting, tone, character, point of view, theme, images and symbols.

- Oral presentation: The presentation could be based a novel not covered in class and from a time period that students are particularly interested in. You need to demonstrate your ability to coherently present the writer's perspectives you are presenting with some evidence from both within the literary texts and outside of the original Arabic text. Possible presentation topics will be discussed in class.

- Participation: 5%

Participation includes participating in class discussions and reading questions.

Grade distributions: A: 95-100%, A-: 90-94%, B+: 86-89%, B: 83-85%, B-: 80-82%, C+: 76-79%, C: 73-75%, C-: 70-72%, D+: 66-69%, D: 63-65%, D-: 60-62%, F: -59%, WU: Unofficial withdraw (≈F), W: Withdraw

Weekly schedule (subject to change)

Week	Topic
Week 1	Week 1 ما الأدب؟/What is Literature? Syllabus overview Analytical and writing techniques in literature analysis Introduction to Modern Arabic literature 19th Century Fiction– Egypt/Syria/Lebanon Distribution of discussion questions for the reading.
Week 2	Week 2 الأدب العربي الحديث /Modern Arabic Literature 20 th Century Fiction: North Africa Factors that affected modern Arabic literature Al-Mutqin pp. 6-17
Week 3	Week 3 حركة الترجمة /Translation Movement Reviving Arabic literature through translating Western literary works Al-Mutqin pp. 218-232 Reader Response #1 (6%)
Week 4	Week 4 أدب المهجر /Poetics of Exile Literature and exile: Khalil Gibran, Style and influence Al-Mutqin pp. 254-268 Short paper #1 Draft
Week 5	Week 5 الأنواع الأدبية والأجناس /Renaissance and New Literary Genres Gadat al-Asatir pp. 7-48 Reader Response #2 (6%)
Week 6	Week 6 الرواية /Novel Novel as a new genre Gadat al-Asatir pp. 49-102 Short paper #1 (15%)
Week 7	Week 7 القصة القصيرة /Short Story Development and characteristics of short story. Major works. Raqs Ala al-Mae pp. 7-54 Reader Response # 3 (6%)
Week 8	Week 8 المسرحيات /Drama Early experiments and the period of maturity Raqs Ala al-Mae pp. 55-104 Second short paper draft #1
Week 9	Week 9 الشعر /Poetry Poetry: The Modernists Al-Mutqin pp. 120-170 Raqs Ala al-Mae pp. 105-154 Reader response #4 (6%)

Week 10	Week 10 الموضوعات الاجتماعية والسياسية /Social and Political Issues in Literature Recurring themes in Modern Arabic literature Yawm Fi Baghdad pp. 69-159 Second short paper (15%)
Week 11	Week 11 النقد الأدبي /Literary Criticism Yawm Fi Baghdad pp. 69-159 Reader response #5
Week 12	Oral Presentations (5%)
Final	Final Exam (25%)

Policies

Classroom policies: The following policies have been instituted to ensure an optimal learning experience for all students:

- Please arrive on time.
- Please turn your cell phone to silence during class.
- Please turn off your cell phone during the exam and the quiz.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. The absolute maximum of unexcused absences is 5 hours. Students who miss more than the allowable number of class hours may receive an F in the course for non-attendance. Tardiness is disruptive to the learning process; therefore, after ten minutes students are marked absent for that hour.

Missed Work

If a student is absent, he/she must come to the next class having done the reading and homework for the day, and he/she is responsible for the missed work. Students are encouraged to get the phone numbers of at least two classmates so that they can always come to class prepared.

Name _____ Phone # _____
 Name _____ Phone # _____

Class Participation

Active participation in class is required. You are expected to come to class prepared. Therefore, before attending a class, you must: Read, view, listen to the assigned work and think about it; Be prepared to ask and to answer questions on the assigned work; Be ready to engage in active class discussion and participate fully in group activities

Class participation is graded based upon you active input in class, and your knowledge of the material to be studied for that day.

Valuing LaGuardia’s Diversity: As a college community we represent a world of perspectives on race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion, and nationality, to name a few. I concur with **the College’s Declaration of Pluralism**, if you have any suggestions in helping me to create a welcoming classroom environment, please tell me.

Rules for Personal Conduct: You are expected to obey the rules and regulations of the College about conduct. Disorderly or indecent behavior is not appropriate in a college setting. It is a violation of college rules and is not acceptable.

The student attendance policy: As stated in the college catalog: "Attendance in class is a requirement and will be considered in the evaluation of student performance. Instructors are required to keep an official record of student attendance. The maximum number of unexcused absences is limited to 15% of the number of class hours. Note: Absences are counted from the first day of class even if they are a result of late registration or change of program" (117).

The academic dishonesty policy: As stated in the catalog: "Academic Dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York and is punishable by penalties ranging from a grade of 'F' on a given test, research paper or assignment, to an 'F' in the course or suspension or expulsion from the College. Academic Dishonesty includes:

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Internet Plagiarism
- Obtaining Unfair Advantages
- Falsification of Records and Official Documents
- Misconduct in Internships (117)

Policy on assigning the grade of Incomplete: As stated in the college catalogue: "The Incomplete grade may be awarded to students who have not completed all of the required course work but for whom there is a reasonable expectation of satisfactory completion. A student who is otherwise in good standing in a course defined as complying with the college attendance policy and maintaining a passing average but who has not completed at most two major assignments or examinations by the end of the course may request an incomplete grade. To be eligible, such a student must provide, before the instructor submits grades for the course, a documented reason, satisfactory to the instructor, for not having completed the assignment on time. Instructors giving IN grades must inform students in writing of the conditions under which they may receive passing grades. Departments may designate certain courses in which no incomplete grades may be awarded." (120).

Declaration of pluralism: The Education and Language Acquisition Department embraces diversity. We respect each other regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability and social class. For detailed information regarding the policy, please refer to Student Handbook 2011-2012 (p.89).