UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Institutions of Arab Culture

2122-1-E2001R038

Course title

Foundations (ie basic elements) of Arab culture

Topics and course structure

Introduction to the course

The course aims to provide some essential elements to know the so-called "Arab" culture in its broadest sense, thus generally understanding the area of influence of the Islamic religion and the literary Arab language. It is from this area that a substantial part of the current immigration from outside the EU comes, and a better knowledge of its civilization proves ever more indispensable. During the course some features of Arab civilization, of the history of the Arab peoples, of the Islamic religion and of Arab literature will be examined.

Objectives

With this teaching, through an assiduous and participated attendance to the classes and workshops related to the course, we intend to PROMOTE the following learning, in terms of:

- Knowledge and understanding

The course aims to provide students with a wealth of basic knowledge about issues and problems of the Arab world and its culture. They will be able to effectively synthesize the knowledge gained by enhancing the specificities of Arab culture in relation to other cultures and to the socio-cultural debates that take place in the rest of the world, integrating this new information with the knowledge acquired in other disciplines.

- Capability to relate differentiated knowledge and models

Students will learn to make use of the concepts and themes of Arab culture in the critical analysis of everyday life contexts, environments of work and social interaction, developing an attitude to constructive confrontation between different realities, and the identification of networks of similarities and differences .

- Capability to apply knowledge and models

As far as the autonomy of judgment and the strengthening of communication skills are comcerned, the teaching urges students to formulate their opinions in an independent way and to argue effectively. The ability to learn is stimulated through active participation in lectures, seminars, presentation and discussion of materials provided by the teacher and those proposed by the students through research paths and in-depth bibliography about the concepts and themes addressed, also in view of the final test.

Methodologies

Traditional classes (so-called "frontal instruction"), with the aid, whenever necessary, of audiovisual and online materials. During the year students will be informed about any conferences, debates and cultural initiatives related to the topics addressed.

Online and offline teaching materials

The complete and definitive list of teaching materials necessary for the preparation of the exam will be communicated before the end of the course. See the bibliography below.

Programme and references for attending students

Program for attending students

- Elements of the history of the Arab world, from the pre-Islamic age to the "Arab springs"
- Elements of Islamic religion
- Elements of Arabic literature

Bibliography for attending students

* Carole Hillenbrand, *Islam. A new historical introduction*, ed. Einaudi (an Italian or an English edition)
* Paolo Branca, *I musulmani*, ed. Il Mulino
* a text chosen among:

Caterina Roggero, *Storia del Nord Africa indipendente*, ed. Bompiani (chapters 3 e 4)
Vermondo Brugnatelli, *Libia inedita*, ed. L'Asino d'oro

* Notes and / or materials provided in class, in particular on the Israeli-Palestinian question and on the "Arab springs"

Programme and references for non-attending students

Program for non-attending students
Attendance and active participation in classes are recommended. For students unable to attend a slight modification of the exam program is foreseen by reading alternative texts to the materials provided in the classroom to the attendants.

Bibliography for non-attending students
The same as for those attending, except that the notes and / or materials provided during the lessons on the Israeli-Palestinian question will be replaced by materials made available online, in addition to:

* Marcella Emiliani, *La terra di chi? Geografia del conflitto arabo-israeliano-palestinese*, ed. il Ponte

Assessment methods

- Type of test

Ongoing assessments with the involvement, in various ways, of the students attending, and for everybody final exam with oral exam where the students will have to summarize the conceptual and thematic itinerary completed and propose an individual path of reading and argumentation starting from the texts of the program . With subsequent questions, the teacher will verify the solidity of the skills acquired in the field of Arab culture and the ability of students to establish comparisons and connections with other courses of the degree program.

Office hours

Students who wish to speak with the teacher are invited to fix an appointment by e-mail to: vermondo.brugnatelli@unimib.it

Programme validity

The programs are valid two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants