

COURSE SYLLABUS

Arabic Culture

2526-1-E2002R008

Course title

Foundations of Arab culture

Topics and course structure

The course aims to provide some essential elements for understanding Arab culture, i.e. the cultural aspects that unite the countries where the Arabic language and its dialects are fluently spoken. The course consists of three parts:

- 1- In the first part, the principles of Islam will be explored. Islam is the religion professed by most Arabic-speaking populations. It has a decisive influence in many aspects of life, not just spiritual.
- 2- The second part will take into consideration the contemporary history of one of the three geographical areas that make up the "Arab world" (North Africa, the Middle East, the countries of the Persian Gulf or the Arabian Peninsula): North Africa. This is the region closest to us and from which, moreover, most of the Arabic speakers present in our territory come. An overview will also be given of the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which involves all Arab countries due to its political and cultural implications.
- 3- In the third part some topical themes and cultural trends in the Arab world concerning politics, literature and cinema will be addressed, through seminars and working groups.

Objectives

DdD on learning outcomes:

- 1-Knowledge and understanding: Have basic understanding of Arab culture
- 2-Appling knowledge and understanding: apply the knowledge acquired during the course to group work and examination preparation
- 3-Making judgement: Learn to analyse the multifaceted Arab world in a critical and in-depth way in the aspects concerning: religion, historical-contemporary dynamics, the complexity and dynamism of political and social current affairs.
- 4-Communication skills: Being able to present the results of group work during the course to the class and the lecturer. Being able to prepare relevant and complete answers in the examination that span the various topics on the syllabus.
- 5-Learning skills: learn the notions and general context from the texts in the programme.

Methodologies

- 17 2 hours-lessons held in face-to-face way, in classroom
- 4 2 hours-laboratory activities in an interactive way in classroom

Online and offline teaching materials

Classes will be held in presence. The slides of the course will be uploaded in the e-learning space, together with indications on the availability of films, videos and readings proposed in class.

Programme and references

- 1- Roberto Tottoli, *Introduzione all'Islam*, Istituto per l'Oriente C.A. Nallino, Roma 2018
- 2- Caterina Roggero, *Storia del Nord Africa indipendente. Tra imperialismi, nazionalismi e autoritarismi*, Bompiani, Milano 2019
- 3- Materials (slides, documentary, maps) uploaded on the e-learning space about Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- 4- A text chosen from the following:

- Marco Allegra, *I palestinesi. Storia e identità di un popolo*, Carocci, Roma 2010
 Massimo Campanini, *Il Corano e la sua interpretazione*, Laterza, Roma-Bari 2013
 Massimo Campanini, *Quale Islam? Jihadismo, radicalismo, riformismo*, Editrice La Scuola, Brescia 2015
 Chiara Comito e Silvia Moresi (a cura di), *Arabpop. Arte e letteratura in rivolta dai paesi arabi*, Mimesis Edizioni, Milano-Udine 2020
 Massimiliano Cricco, Federico Cresti, *Gheddafi. I volti del potere*, Carocci, Roma 2011
 Leila El Houssi, *Il risveglio della democrazia. La Tunisia dall'indipendenza alla transizione*, Carocci, Roma 2019
 Arturo Marzano, *Questa terra è nostra da sempre. Israele e Palestina*, Laterza, Bari-Roma 2024
 Michela Mercuri, *Incognita Libia. Cronache di un paese sospeso*, FrancoAngeli, Milano 2019
 Renata Pepicelli, *Femminismo islamico. Corano, diritti, riforme*, Carocci, Roma 2018
 Renata Pepicelli, *Il velo nell'islam. Storia, politica, estetica*, Carocci, Roma 2018
 Caterina Roggero, *Il conflitto del Sahara occidentale (1975-1991)*, RCS Media Group 2024
 Caterina Roggero, *La Libia italiana*, RCS Media Group, 2024
 Caterina Roggero, *La guerra d'Algeria (1954-1962)*, RCS Media Group, 2023

- 5-6- A country of your choice from which to choose two novels among those proposed:

The novels can be read in their original language or in English, French, etc. translations.

Marocco:

Tahar ben Jelloun, *Il libro del buio* (any editions)
Fouad Laroui, *Le tribolazioni dell'ultimo Sijilmassi*, Del Vecchio Editore, Roma 2019
Mohamed Choukri, *Il pane nudo*, Bompiani, Milano 1992
Fatema Mernissi, *La terrazza proibita. Vita nell'harem*, Giunti, Firenze 2007

Algeria:

Alice Zeniter, *L'arte di perdere*, Einaudi, Torino 2018
Yasmina Khadra, *Quel che il giorno deve alla notte*, Mondadori, Milano 2009
Aziz Chouaki, *La stella di Algeri*, Edizioni e/o, 2003

Tunisia:

Ali Becheur, *I domani di ieri*, Francesco Brioschi Editore, Milano 2019
Shukri al-Mabkhout, *L'Italiano*, Edizioni e/o, Roma 2017
Amira Ghenim, *La casa dei notabili*, Edizioni e/o, Roma 2022

Libia:

Hisham Matar, *Il ritorno*, Einaudi, Torino 2016
Hisham Matar, *Amici di una vita*, Einaudi, Torino 2024
Ibrahim Al-Khoni, *La patria delle visioni celesti e altri racconti dal deserto*, e/o edizioni 2007

Egitto:

'Ala al-Aswani, *Sono corso verso il Nilo*, Feltrinelli, Milano 2018
Naguib Mahfouz, *Il vicolo del mortaio*, Feltrinelli, Milano (any editions)
Magdy El Shafee, *Metro*, Il Sirente, Fagnano Alto 2010 with Khaled Al Khamissi, *Taxi. Le strade del Cairo si raccontano*, Il Sirente, Fagnano Alto 2009

Palestina:

Susan Abulhawa, *Ogni mattina a Jenin*, Feltrinelli, Milano (any editions)
Adania Shibli, *Un dettaglio minore*, La Nave di Teseo, Milano 2021
Bassem Khandaqji, *Una maschera color del cielo*, Edizioni e/o, Roma 2024
Asmaa Alghoul, Sélim Nassib, *La ribelle di Gaza*, Edizioni e/o, Roma 2024

Assessment methods

FINAL EXAM:

INTERVIEW ON THE TOPICS COVERED IN CLASS AND ON THE EXAM TEXTS.
THE FOLLOWING SKILLS WILL BE ASSESSED DURING THE EXAM:

- 1- Basic knowledge of Arab culture.
- 2- Ability to critically and thoroughly analyse the multifaceted Arab world in terms of religion, historical and contemporary dynamics, and the complexity and dynamism of current political and social issues.
- 3- Knowledge of the content of the texts on the syllabus.
- 4- Ability to argue using appropriate Italian language

The highest score (30 with honours) is awarded if, during the interview, the candidate demonstrates knowledge and skills acquired at the highest level. The score will be reduced if these aspects are lacking.

THERE WILL BE NO ONGOING ASSESSMENTS.

Office hours

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

Programme validity

Two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION
