
TOPICS: MODERN ARABIC LITERATURE in Fall 2018 (CL2091A)

Course Code	CL2091A	Professor(s)	David Tresilian
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-112
Class Schedule	TF: 09:00-10:20 in PL-1	Office Hours	TBA
Credits	4	Email	dtresilian@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	718

Course Description

This course introduces students to the modern literature of the Arab world through works by canonical or established writers in addition to contemporary work. The focus is on work produced in the east of the Arab world, notably in Egypt, with primary texts read in addition to a variety of historical, critical and other materials that provide context for works studied. All the texts in the course, read in English, were originally written in Arabic. The course will appeal to those interested in the history of the modern Arab world, and the literary texts are read against a sociological and political background and within a broadly chronological framework. It will also appeal to those whose interest is in comparative literature, with modern Arabic literature presented as a case study in world literature and as a field for translation studies, comparative modernisms, or comparative literary history.

Questions raised in the course include the establishment and development of a modern literary system in the Arab world and the identity of the modern writer. Genres such as autobiography, the short story, and the realist and experimental novel are examined, along with the use of literary writing to deal with history and politics, including religious and political contestation. Primary texts are read in parallel with secondary materials on issues including gender, sexuality, religion, political contestation, and free expression. Film adaptations and translations are considered. The course concludes with the contemporary field, including in the aftermath of the Arab Spring Revolutions. Interest in the modern Arab world is a prerequisite for the course, but knowledge of Arabic is not required. Students having suitable linguistic skills are encouraged to read texts and conduct research in Arabic. A study trip to Cairo is planned.

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

Course Outline

PROVISIONAL CLASS SCHEDULE:

September

Week I - 10th - 14th

Tuesday 11th - Session I

TOPICS The Modern Writer

READINGS: Introduction

Friday 14th - Session II

TOPICS: The Modern Writer

READINGS Taha Hussein, The Days

September 16th – last day to drop/add courses online

Week II - 17th – 21st

Tuesday 18th - Session I

TOPICS: The Modern Writer

READINGS: Yehia Haqqi, Umm Hashim's Lamp

Friday 21th - Session II

TOPICS: The Modern Writer

READINGS: Casanova, World Republic of Letters

Week III - 24th – 28th

Tuesday 25th - Session I

TOPICS: History and the Novel

READINGS: Mahfouz, Palace Walk

Friday 28th - Session II

TOPICS: History and the Novel

READINGS: Hourani, History of the Arab Peoples, Chapters 20-22

October

Week IV – 1st - 5th

Tuesday 2nd - Session I

TOPICS: History and the Novel

READINGS: Mahfouz, Palace Walk

Friday 5th - Session II

TOPICS: History and the Novel

READINGS: Ahmed, Women and Gender in Islam

Week V – 8th -12th

Tuesday 9th - Session I

TOPICS: Politics and Literature

READINGS: Mahfouz, Miramar

Friday 12th - Session II

TOPICS: Politics and Literature

READINGS: Hourani, Chapter 23-24

Week VI - 15th - 19th

Tuesday 16th - Session I

TOPICS: Politics and Literature

READINGS: Mahfouz, Miramar

Friday 19th - Session II

TOPICS: Politics and Literature

READINGS: Mitchell, from The Society of the Muslim Brothers

Week VII – 22nd – 26th

Tuesday 23rd - Session I

TOPICS MIDTERM EXAM

Friday 26th - Session II

FILM Nasser 56

October 26th, Mid-semester grades due

Week VIII – 29th – Nov. 2nd

Tuesday 30th - Session I

TOPICS: Post-Colonial Experiment

READINGS: Ibrahim, The Smell of It

October 31st , November 2nd, (included) fall break, no classes

Study Trip – Cairo

November

Week IX – 5th – 9th

Tuesday 6th - Session I

TOPICS: Post-Colonial Experiment

READINGS: Ghitany, Al-Zayni Barakat

Friday 9th - Session II

TOPICS: Post-Colonial Experiment

READINGS: TBA

November 9th, Last day to withdraw from a course/no credit option

Week X - 12th -16th

Tuesday 13th - Session I

TOPICS: Between East and West

READINGS: Salih, Season of Migration to the North

Friday 16th - Session II

TOPICS: Between East and West

READINGS: Lefevere, Translating Literature

Week XI -19th – 23rd

Tuesday 20th - Session I

TOPICS: Between East and West

READINGS: Salih, Season of Migration to the North

Friday 23th - Session II

TOPICS: Between East and West

READINGS: Jacquemond, Conscience of the Nation

Week XII -26th - 30th

Tuesday 27st - Session I

TOPICS: Contemporary Scene

READINGS: Aswany, Yacoubian Building

Friday 30th - Session II

TOPICS: Contemporary Scene

READINGS: The Arab Booker Prize

December

Week XIII – 3rd – 7th

Tuesday 4th - Session I

TOPICS: Contemporary Scene

READINGS: Aswany, Yacoubian Building

Friday 7th - Session II

TOPICS: Class Presentations

Week XIV - 10th - 14th

Tuesday 11th - Session I

TOPICS: Class Presentations

December 12th, Last day of classes, December 13th -16th, Reading days

December 17th – 21st, Final exams

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
				No
				No
				No
				No

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Typewritten research paper	40%
Midterm and final exams	30%
Presentations and participation	30%

Other

Course Requirements:

In the first part of the course, you will present an assigned reading in class. This part of the course will culminate in a midterm exam featuring a choice of essay questions.

In the second part of the course, you will prepare a research project leading to a 15-page research paper as well as a class presentation on your research. See the class schedule for the research paper schedule. Please note that the research paper is to be submitted in print and electronic form. In accordance with University policy, all written work is routinely scanned using anti-plagiarism software. There will also be a final exam.

Research paper guidelines:

The research paper should be approximately 15 typewritten pages of content, complete with a title page, an outline, a clear thesis statement, parenthetical citations and a works cited page. Your thesis must be supported by relevant source material. A list of possible topics will be handed out in class, and your proposal needs to be approved by the instructor.

All written work done outside class must be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12 pt font, in accordance with MLA format.

Note: Late essay drafts and research papers will result in a lowered grade.

