



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

ASIA_V 380 - Modern Arabic Literature from the Middle East and North Africa in Translation

Nesrine Basheer

This course explores the rich and diverse landscape of Arabic literature through selected works from the 20th and 21st centuries, available in English translation. We will work with a variety of genres, including short stories, excerpts from novellas and novels, memoirs, and theoretical texts, covering several Arabic-speaking countries—Egypt, the Levant, the Gulf, and beyond. Our readings will trace the development of modern Arabic literature as it unfolds with and in response to contemporary historical events, from the colonial era to the formation of modern states. We will discuss the socio-political realities from which the selected texts emerged, the literary traditions they follow and/or resist, the aesthetic, social, and political values they convey, and their engagement with global audiences through translation. Students will practice close reading and critical thinking skills by analyzing the themes, styles, and cultural contexts that define modern Arabic literature.

Mode of Delivery: Online, mixed.

Sample Readings

"Midaq Alley" chapters 1, 4, and 5 (Mahfouz, 1947)

"Men in the Sun" (Kanafani, 1966)

Phillips, C. (2014). The other in modern arabic literature: A critique of postcolonial theory. In G. Nash, K. Kerr-Koch & S. E. Hackett (Eds.), *Postcolonialism and Islam* (1st ed., pp. 118-130). Routledge.

Assignments

Class contribution | 5%

Biweekly discussion posts | 30%

Presentation | 20%

Annotated bibliography | 15%

Research paper | 40%