

Amideast Education Abroad Programs

LIT/ARAB 410: Maghrebi Literature in Arabic Syllabus

Credit Hours: 3 credit hours

Program Location: Rabat, Morocco

Name of Instructor:

Term and Year:

Course Hours:

Office Hours:

Contact Information:

Pre-Requisite Courses: To have completed Arabic 201 or its equivalent.

Course Description

In this course, students learn about the literary productions of people who have lived in or have been associated with the Maghreb. This course aims to give a comprehensive picture of Maghrebi literature written in the Arabic language. It also aims to deepen learners' perceptions of the Arabic language and its pictorial and suggestive methods, in order to gain a greater understanding of the composition of Maghreb societies and their fictional writing styles.

These goals will be accomplished by studying and analyzing parts of the books of Moroccan, Algerian, and Tunisian writers who are silent in the history of modern Moroccan literature while highlighting new topics that writers did not write on before them due to the political, social, or cultural censorship imposed on them. The writings that the student will study in this class will include productions of Maghrebi writers who write from within their own countries and others who live outside the Maghreb but write in Arabic on issues of Maghrebi society.

Aims and Objectives of the Course

- Learn about Maghrebi literature and analyze a diverse collection of texts that deal with issues of great importance to the diverse Maghrebi society.
- Identify the issues that concern Maghrebi writers in modern literature and the different methods of dealing with the topics.
- Developing students' knowledge related to the literary and rhetorical styles common in Maghreb productions and training them to emulate them and use them in their own writings.
- The ability to analyze literary texts and understand their cultural and societal contents and dimensions.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understanding Maghrebi literature written in Arabic and drawing out various writing styles in Arabic
- Training in writing literary texts in the Arabic language with the use of a variety of pictorial and rhetorical methods.
- Demonstrate an individual and critical approach to analyzing literary texts.
- The ability to quickly read and understand literary texts written in the Arabic language on a complex to medium complex level.
- Developing creative writing skills in Arabic.

Knowledge

This course is designed to assist students to acquire and demonstrate knowledge about:

- An introduction to Maghrebi literature written in the Arabic language.
- Modern history of Maghrebi literature in Arabic
- Learn about the impact of Andalusian and Jewish literature on Maghrebi literature.
- Moroccan literature's transformation with the transformation of Moroccan society.
- Feminist writing and its impact on the literary scene within Maghreb society.
- The names of famous Maghrebi writers and the most important stages of their lives
- Genres of literary writing and their features in the Arabic language.
- The cultural, political, and ethnic dimensions of silently writing the history of modern Maghreb literature.

Skills

This course is designed to assist students in acquiring or enhancing the following skills:

- The ability to analyze and understand different literary genres.
- Draw a comprehensive picture on Maghrebi literature and its modern history.
- The ability to interact with some Maghrebi authors and discuss some of the issues and ideas that came in their books.

Attitudes

This course is designed to encourage development of the following attitudes:

- Individual and critical positions towards biased representations of cultural differences.
- Have a critical sense towards literary texts concerned with gender, cultural and ethnic issues within the Maghreb space.
- Appreciation for the development of communicative skills within different cultural contexts.

Required Readings (Available Open Source online or for purchase at Amideast)

- Mahi Binbin, "نجوم سيدي مومن"
- Mohammed El Ashari, "القوس والفراشة"
[Link](#)
- Taher Wetta, "الشهداء يعودون لهذا الشهر"
[Link](#)
- Taher Wetta, "الطعنات"
[Link](#)
- Ahlam Mistghanmi, "ذاكرة الجسد"
[Link](#)
- Ahlam Mistghanmi, "عابر سرير"
[Link](#)
- Ahlam Mistghanmi, "قلوبهم معنا وقنايلهم علينا"
[Link](#)
- Ibrahim Darghouti, "رجل محترم جدا"
[Link](#)
- Ibrahim Darghouti, "تفاح الجنة"
[Link](#)
- Mahmoud Lamsaadi, "السد"
[Link](#)

Course Approach

The approach to this course is built on different methods, the most important of which is attempting to immerse students in the language during the short length of the term; this is done so that the students become accustomed to reading and understanding modern Arabic swiftly. To accomplish this, the course also relies on using a variety of different subjects throughout the term in order to make it easier for the student to become familiar with various literary, cultural, and intellectual aspects to the language.

This class will place a great stress on classroom discussion. The topics have been chosen to be interesting and to stimulate students to express their ideas from different aspects. Therefore, it is required that students take turns in conversing every day of class.

Along with this, it is also important that students take turns giving presentations. Teachers will pick overall topics for discussion within a specific time frame, which will allow students to prepare a short presentation, followed by class discussions. This will allow students to become more familiar with the materials being covered in class and will also provide a platform for expression of opinions and insights into the topics.

Diversity

Diversity in class is everything that makes both students and teachers different from each other. This includes many different factors: race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, ability, age, religious belief, or political conviction. All these factors work together to inform how students (and teachers, and everyone else) encounter the world. Therefore, one of the objectives of this class is to promote diversity by understanding each student brings unique experiences, strengths, and ideas to our classroom to enrich learning in our classroom.

Assessment Overview

Description	Weight	Due Date
Attendance and Engagement	20%	Continuous
Assignments	25%	Continuous
Quizzes	15%	Quiz 1: Quiz 2: Quiz 3:
Research Paper	10%	Paper topic: First draft: Second draft:
Midterm Exam	10%	
Final Written Exam	20%	

Course Requirements and Expectations

Attendance and Engagement:

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes and come prepared to participate fully in class activities. Students are further expected to be on time for all classes. Arriving late for class is disrespectful of both the instructor and fellow students.

Please refer to the official Amideast Attendance Policy posted in the online course and on the Absence request site on the Student Portal.

Assignments:

Students are required to do their homework before coming to class. In the case of absence, students are required to go over the recording of the course and/or contact their classmates to know whether any homework had been assigned, and what the homework is. All assigned homework must be uploaded to the Assessment Tab of each one on its due date, at the beginning of the class. There will be regular written assignments due at the beginning of class on the day assigned by the instructor. Assignments are considered both individually and cumulatively throughout the semester, such that their quality and overall presentation are measured continuously for expected improvement over time. All assignments will have posted dates and times by which a student is required to complete them. **For every day an assignment is late, the maximum grade that a student can receive will be lowered by 10%.** So, for example, if an assignment is submitted 2 days after the due date, the maximum grade a student could get on that assignment is 80%. If an assignment is submitted 10 or more days late, it will receive a 0%.

Students are encouraged to study and work on homework assignments together. Students should follow up on any instructor's comments on the homework, and it is the students' responsibility to come to office to see the instructor when questions arise.

Research Paper:

By the end of week 7, all students should have decided on a topic they would like to write a paper on and consult with their instructors. The paper needs to be between 2,000-2,500 words. By the end of week 12, students should submit a draft of the paper to their instructors. The instructors will highlight the mistakes and give the students the papers back for corrections, workshopping them during office hours and during some class time. The final paper is due Week 15.

Midterm Exam:

The midterm examination will cover material studied from the beginning of the course until the exam date. It will test reading, writing, and listening skills.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic(s) to be Covered	Readings/Classwork	Assignments/ Homework
Week 1	Course Introduction	Introduction to the idea of Maghrebi literature in Arabic Answering professor's questions, put them in envelopes, and save them for the end of the course.	
Week 2	Moroccan Literature	Introduction to Moroccan Literature. Discussions of Moroccan literature canon and its contribution to Maghrebi literature overall. Required reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mahi Binbin, "نجوم سيدي مومن" pp 1-15 Recommended reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mahi Binbin, "درب العفو", pp 1-15	Read the required texts

Week 3	Moroccan Literature and Social Challenges	<p>Discuss and analyze assigned chapters from Mahi Binbin's novel focusing on the relationship between slums and terrorism.</p> <p>Required reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahi Binbin, "نجوم سيدي مومن" pp 16-30 	<p>Prepare for class discussion on the assigned texts</p> <p>Prepare questions for the professor</p>
Week 4	Moroccan Literature and Social Challenges, cont.	<p>Required reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohammed El Ashari, "القوس والفراشة" pp 1-18: Link <p><u>Visit to the National Library - section of Maghrebi Literature.</u></p>	Read the assigned texts
Week 5	Martyrs of the resistance in Algeria	<p>Exploring the literature of resistance and its characteristics in the Maghreb countries</p> <p>Knowledge of new rhetorical methods in the Arabic language</p> <p>Required reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taher Wattar, "الشهداء يعودون هذا الشهر", pp 1-20: Link 	Debrief of the visit and discussion of the assigned texts
Week 6	Martyrs of the resistance in Algeria, cont.	<p>Required reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taher Wattar, "الطعنات", pp 1-10: Link <p>Recommended reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taher Wattar, "اللاز", pp 1-7: Link 	Class discussion of the assigned texts
Week 7	Midterm Exam		Research Paper Proposal due
Week 8	Break		

Week 9	History of the Algerian revolution from a literary perspective	<p>Exploring the methods of metonymy in the Arabic language and training in its use.</p> <p>Required reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ahlam Mistghanmi, “ذاكرة الجسد”, pp 7-39: Link Yassin Adnan’s Article about the social aspects in the Maghrebi Literature. 	Class discussion of the assigned texts
Week 10	The suffering of the political opponent inside and outside of their home country	<p>Exploring the methods of metonymy in the Arabic language and training in its use, cont.</p> <p>Required reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ahlam Mistghanmi, “عابر سرير”: Link 	Reaction essay in which you engage with Yassine Adnan’s article, weaving into it your own notes and observations of the social aspects in Maghreb literature.
Week 11	Some manifestations of the American elections in Maghreb literature	<p>Being able to understand and use different types of metaphors in the Arabic language.</p> <p>Required reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ahlam Mistghanmi, “قلوبهم معنا وقنابلهم علينا”, pp 119-130: Link 	Read the required texts
Week 12	Styles of depicting the theme of life and death in Maghreb literature	<p>Being able to understand and use different types of metaphors in the Arabic language, cont.</p> <p>Required reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ibrahim Darghouti, “تفاح الجنة”: Link 	First draft of the paper due

Week 13	The rebellious novelist and the role of literature in addressing the taboos of Arab society.	Mastering complex rhetorical methods and using them in correct and appropriate communicative contexts. Required reading: • Ibrahim Darghouthi, “رجل محترم جدا”: Link	Class discussion of the assigned texts
Week 14	Maghreb literature between reality, fiction, phrasing, and rhyme aesthetics.	Mastering complex rhetorical methods and using them in correct and appropriate communicative contexts Required reading: • Mahmoud Lamsaadi, “السد”, pp 1-15: Link	Read the assigned texts
Week 15	Final Exam		Final Paper Due
Week 16	Reflection Week	Reflect on your experience living in Morocco and taking the course. Discuss the learning outcomes of the course.	General discussion. Open envelopes containing your response to the questions asked in the beginning of the course. To what extent have you changed?