

Course Curriculum

References

Background Reading

(as of 6-Dec-12)

Basic Course Curriculum (Arabic)

- ‘Alā’ al-Aswānī, *‘Imārat Ya‘qūbiyān*. Cairo: Dār Mīrīt, 2002 [and later editions]
 - The Yacoubian Building* / Alaa Al Aswany ; translated by Humphrey Davies. New York : HarperCollins, 2006.
 - Yacoubian-bygningen* / Alaa Al Aswany ; oversatt fra arabisk av Linda Kjosaa. [Oslo] : Gyldendal, 2007.
- Rajā’ ‘Abdallāh al-Šānī, *Banāt al-Riyāḍ*. Beirut & London: Saqī, 2005 [and later editions]
 - Girls of Riyadh* / Rajaa Alsanea ; translated by Rajaa Alsanea and Marilyn Booth. New York : Penguin Press, 2007.
 - Jentene fra Riyadh* / Rajaa Alsanea ; oversatt av Anne Aabakken. Oslo : Versal, 2007.
- Yūsuf Zaydān, *‘Azāzīl*. 2008. Cairo: Dār al-Shurūq, 2008.
 - Azazeel* / Youssef Ziedan ; translated by Jonathan Wright. London: Atlantic, 2012.
- ??? = students’ choice (to be agreed upon together with teacher)
 - possibly from among the IPAF short lists



Reference Literature

- ⇒ Detailed teaching plan says which texts should be prepared for which session.
- ⇒ Additional readings may be specified according to students’ choice of thematical focus in the novels and/or upon suggestion or special request

General

- (1) On the relation between Literature & History (Literature read as history, History in Literature, Narrative and Truth ,etc.):
 - Demos, John (1998): “In search of reasons for historians to read novels”. *American Historical Review*, 103,5, pp. 1526-9. [available online / [F](#)]
 - Abbott, H. Porter (2008): “Narrative and Truth” = ch. 11 in: id., *The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative*, 2nd ed., Cambridge University Press [1st ed. 2002]. [[F](#)] : mappe al-Aswānī]
- (2) History of Modern Arabic Literature – general (overviews/introductions)
 - Allen, Roger (2010): “Introduction”, in: idem (ed.), *Essays in Arabic Literary Biography*, vol. III: 1850-1950, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz (*mizān*; 17,3). 23 pp. [[F](#)]
 - Guth, Stephan (2013): “Novel, modern Arabic”. In: *Encyclopedia of Islam Online* [[F](#)]
 - Hamarneh, W. (1998): “fiction, modern”. In: *Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature*, ed. J. Scott Meisami & P. Starkey, London/New York, vol. i, 230-233. [[F](#)]
 - Stagh, Marina (1996): *Modern arabisk prosa. Linjer och utveckling i 1900-talets arabiska prosa samt kommenterad boklista*. Lund: Bibliotekstjänst.
 - Tresilian, David (2008): *A Brief Introduction to Modern Arabic Literature*.

- (3) History of MAL – Postmodernism and thereafter
- Klages, Mary (2003): "Postmodernism".
<http://www.colorado.edu/English/courses/ENGL2012Klages/pomo.html> / [link in **F**]
 - Guth, Stephan (2007): "Individuality Lost, Fun Gained: Some Recurrent Motifs in Late Twentieth-Century Arabic and Turkish Novels". *JAS* 7: 25-49. Available online:
<http://www.uib.no/jais/v007/GuthPP.pdf> [link in **F**]
 - Pflitsch, Andreas (2010): "The End of Illusions: On Arab Postmodernism". In: Angelika Neuwirth, Andreas Pflitsch, Barbara Winckler (eds.), *Arabic Literature: Postmodern Perspectives*, London: Saqi, 25-37. **F** – **Hele boka anbefales kjøpt** [= English translation of *Arabische Literatur, postmodern*, München: edition text & kritik, 2004].
 - Phillips, Christina (2011): "The Game of Remembering: A Study of Narrative Strategies and the Postmodern Theme in Muḥammad Barrāda's Novel *Mithl Ṣayf Lan Yatakarrar: Maḥkiyyāt*". *Middle Eastern Literatures* 14/1: 71-87. [**F**]
 - Stierstorfer, Klaus (2003): "Introduction: Beyond Postmodernism—Contingent Referentiality?" In: id. (ed.), *Beyond Postmodernism: Reassessments in Literature, Theory, and Culture*, Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1-10. [**Google Book**]
 - Hafez, Sabry (2010): "The New Egyptian Novel: Urban Transformation and Narrative Form." *New Leftist Review* 64: 46-62. [**F**]
 - El-Ariss, Tarek (2010): "Hacking the Modern: Arabic Writing in the Virtual Age". *Comparative Literature Studies* 47/4: 533-48. [**F**]
 - Guth, Stephan (2011): "Between *ʿAwdat al-rūḥ* and *ʿImārat Yaʿqūbiyān*: What Has Changed in Community Narratives?," in: Stephan Guth & Gail Ramsay (eds.), *From New Values to New Aesthetics: Turning Points in Modern Arabic Literature*, vol. ii: *Postmodernism and Thereafter*, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz (mīzān; 20,2): 95-107. [**F**]
 - ——— [forthcoming]: "The Changing Role of Pleasure, or: Towards a fundamentalist humanism. Some thoughts on the place of pleasure and desire in the system of a new period". In: *Desire, Pleasure and Taboo: New Voices and Freedom of Expression in Modern Arabic Literature*, ed. Isabella Camera d'Afflitto [et al.], Roma: Jouvence, [2013]. [**F**]

ʿImārat Yaʿqūbiyān

- (4) For a basic outline of the history of Egypt in the 20th century cf. the Wiki entries on "[History of modern Egypt](#)", "[Nasser](#)", "[Mubārak](#)". For special reference on the Mubarak era:
Al-Awadi, Hesham (2004): *In Pursuit of Legitimacy: the Muslim Brothers and Mubarak, 1982-2000*. Tauris, London (Library of Modern Middle East Studies; 46) [UHS, 320.962 Al-A]
- (5) History of Cairo downtown
- Abu-Lughod, Janet L. (1971): *Cairo: 1001 Years of the City Victorious*. Princeton UP, Princeton (Princeton studies on the Near East), esp. ch. 12, pp. 182-220. **copies available**
 - ----- (2004): "Cairo: too many people, not enough land, too few resources". In: *World Cities Beyond the West: Globalization, Development, and Inequality*, ed. Josef Gugler, Cambridge University Press, pp. 119-50. [**F**]
- (6) Hafez, Sabry (2007): "En hvit elefant". *Klassenkampen*, Lø 11./Sø 12. nov. 2007, p. 42 (Bokmagasinet). [**F**]

- (7) Mehrez, Samia (2004): "The Big One: The Intellectual and the Political in Modern Egyptian Literature". *The MIT Electronic Journal of Middle East Studies*, 4 (fall 2004) = special issue: *Crossing Boundaries: New Perspectives on the Middle East. Magda al-Nowaihi (1958-2002) in Memory*, ed. Joseph Massad, Samia Mehrez, Maha Yahya, pp. 31-40. [copies available](#)
- (8) Jacquemond, Richard (2004): "The Shifting Limits of the Sayable in Egyptian Fiction". *Ibid.*, pp. 41-51. [copies available](#)
- (9) Numerous reviews on the Internet.

Banāt al-Riyāḍ

For a detailed summary cf. Ramsay, Gail (2007): "Speaking up with Yahoo: an Arabic e-mail novel". In: *The Professorship of Semitic Languages at Uppsala University 400 years: Jubilee Volume from a Symposium held at the University Hall, 21-23 September 2005*, ed. Bo Isaksson [et al.], Uppsala University Press, Uppsala (Studia Semitica Upsaliensia; 24): 179-90. [[F](#)]

- (10) Wikipedia articles "[Saudi Arabia](#)", "[History of S.A.](#)", "[Geography of S.A.](#)", "[Politics of S.A.](#)", "[Human rights in S.A.](#)", "[Provinces of S.A.](#)", "[Demographics of S.A.](#)", "[Committee for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice](#)"
- (11) Some voices from the press/internet, e.g.:
- Svetlova, Ksenia: "Those wild Wahhabi women-spicy new novel *Riyad Girls*, Saudi Arabia's version of *Sex and the City*". *Jerusalem Post* 2-4-06, <http://209.157.64.201/focus/f-news/1571949/posts>
 - Al-Zayer, Samar: "The Girls of Riyadh' should be 'The Girls of Saudi Arabia'". Mar 25, 2006. http://www.aliya.ae/php/readWomennews.php?news_id=24
 - El-Hennawy, Noha: "Rajaa Al-Sanea's daring new novel lifts the veil off Saudi society, exposing another side of the Muslim world's most conservative society." Apr 01, 2006, http://www.aliya.ae/php/readWomennews.php?news_id=25, or in: *EgyptToday*, Aug. '06, Volume #27, Issue 08, <http://www.egypttoday.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=6447>
 - *Asharq Al-Awsat Interviews*, Apr 08, 2006, http://www.aliya.ae/php/readWomennews.php?news_id=27.
- (12) Review of the novel by Moneera al-Ghadeer in *JAL* 37,2 (2006), 296-302 [[F](#)]
- (13) Impact of the Internet on Arab societies:
- Hofheinz, Albrecht (2007): "Arab Internet use: popular trends and public impact". In: *Arab Media and Political Renewal: Community, Legitimacy and Public Life*, ed. Naomi Sakr, I.B. Tauris, London (Library of Modern Middle Eastern Studies; 68), pp. 56-78 & 178-184. [[F](#)]
 - Hofheinz, Albrecht (2005): "The Internet in the Arab world: Playground for political liberalisation". *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft / International Politics and Society*, 3/2005, pp. 78-96. (Available [online](#) and also in *Frontier*)
- (14) Author's homepage: <http://www.rajaa.net/v2/index.htm>

'Azāzīl

- (15) Documentation provided by the author himself: <http://www.ziedan.com/books/Azazel/asdaa.asp>
- (16) Numerous further sources on the Internet (reviews, polemics, ...).

Further background reading

General

History of MAL

Starkey, Paul (2006): *Modern Arabic Literature*. Edinburgh UP (The New Edinburgh Islamic Surveys).

Postmodernism in MAL

Abdel-Malek, Kamal & Hallaq, Wael (eds., 2000): *Tradition, Modernity, and Postmodernity in Arabic literature: essays in honor of professor Issa J. Boullata*. Brill, Leiden & Boston.

‘Imārat Ya‘qūbiyān

Guth, Stephan (2009): "Post-Postmoderne oder ...? Ein komponentialanalytischer Versuch zu *‘Imārat Ya‘qūbiyān* und *Banāt ar-Riyād*". In: *XXX. Deutscher Orientalistentag, Freiburg, 24.-28. September 2007: Ausgewählte Vorträge*, hrsg. von Rainer Brunner, Jens Peter Laut und Maurus Reinkowski. Online publication December '09. <<http://webdoc.urz.uni-halle.de/dot2007/publikation.php>>

Banāt al-Riyād

History of Saudi Arabia

Metz, Helen Chapin [et al.] (1993): *Saudi Arabia : a country study*. Federal Research Division - Library of Congress, Washington.

Long, David Edwin (1997): *The kingdom of Saudi Arabia*. UP of Florida, Gainesville (Fla.)[etc.].

Niblock, Tim (2006): *Saudi Arabia : power, legitimacy and survival*. Routledge, London.

Peterson, John (2003): *Historical dictionary of Saudi Arabia*. Scarecrow Press, Lanham, Md. [1st ed. 1993].

Vassiliev, Alexei [Vasil'ev, Aleksej Michajlovic] (1998): *The history of Saudi Arabia*. Saqi Books, London.

Saudi Arabian society (in general)

Gray, Seymour (1983): *Beyond the veil : the adventures of an American doctor in Saudi Arabia*. Harper & Row, New York.

Hazimi, Mansour I. al- [et al.] (ed., 2006): *Beyond the dunes : an anthology of modern Saudi literature* / English edition ed. by Salma Khadra Jayyusi. I.B. Tauris, London.

Long, David Edwin (2005): *Culture and customs of Saudi Arabia*. Greenwood Press, Westport/Conn.

Women in Saudi Arabia

AlMunajjed, Mona (1997): *Women in Saudi Arabia today*. Macmillan Press, Basingstoke [etc.]; St. Martin's Press, New York.

Bagader, Abubaker [et al.] (ed. & transl., 1998): *Voices of change : short stories by Saudi Arabian women writers*. Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder (Colo.)[etc.].

In German:

Prokop, Michaela (2005): *Saudi-Arabien*. Kreuzlingen: Hugendubel.

Steinberg, Guido (2002): *Religion und Staat in Saudi-Arabien : die wahhabitischen Gelehrten 1902-1953*. Würzburg : Ergon-Verl.

Steinberg, Guido (2004): *Saudi-Arabien : Politik, Geschichte, Religion*. München: C.H. Beck.

Vagt, Holger (1992): *Die Frau in Saudi-Arabien zwischen Tradition und Moderne*. Berlin: Kl. Schwarz (Islamkundl. Untersuchungen; 163).