# Arabic language and culture

## Prof. Wael Farouq

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

* knowledge and understanding
* applying knowledge and understanding
* communication

The course offers an introduction to the Arab Islamic culture by studying its terminology and concepts. This will be done through the analysis of the etymology and the historical evolution, from traditional heritage to modern times, of the meanings of key-terminology in different fields, such as doctrine, politics, economy, history and society. The focus will be on terminology that cannot be translated without considerable loss of meaning, despite its central role in contemporary Arabic Islamic culture.

The course offers an introduction as well to Arabic language to enable students to read and write in Arabic.

***COURSE CONTENT***

30 hours of terminology: The course will analyze the key-terminology in different fields, dividing it according to (1) traditional terminology still in use today, (2) traditional terminology still in use today but with a different meaning and (3) new terminology.

30 hours of Arabic language: the Arabic alphabet, basic rules of reading and writing, main expressions and phrases used in daily life.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

Reference texts:

*Conflicting Arab Identities. Language, Tradition and Modernity,* Wael Farouq, Muta, 2018.

*Le parole in azione. Corso elementare di arabo moderno standard – Volume I,* Wael Farouq, Elisa Ferrero, Nuova edizione aggiornata, Vita e Pensiero, Milano 2020. [*Acquista da VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/wael-farouq-elisa-ferrero/le-parole-in-azione-9788834342367-688650.html)

Suggestions for further readings:

Encyclopedias and dictionaries:

*Encyclopedia of Islam*, Leiden, E.J. Brill.

*The Oxford Dictionary of Islam*, John L. Esposito, Oxford University Press, 2004.

Classical sources of Arab Islamic culture:

The Quran, for example:

*The Holy Qur’an*, Abdullah Yusuf ‘Ali, Kitab Bhavan, 2001.

*Il Corano*, A. Bausani, BUR, 2007.

Hadith collections:

*Sahih al-Bukhari, al-Bukhari’s collection of prophetic oral traditions (several translations and compendiums* available).

The history of al-Tabari:

*The History of al-Tabari*, State University of New York Press (several volumes).

*Vita di Maometto*, S. Noja, G. Buzzi, BUR, 2002.

Quranic commentaries:

*Tafsir al-Jalalayn,* Feras Hamza, Fons Vitae, 2008.

*Esegesi del Corano*, *Tafsir al-Jalalayn,* Istituto Italiano di Studi Islamici.

Modern sources of Arab Islamic culture:

*Islam and modernity*, Fazlur Rahman, University of Chicago Press, 1984.

*La religione del Corano*, Fazlur Rahman, Net, 2003.

*Critique of religious discourse*, Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd, Yale University, to be published 2018.

*Islam e storia. Critica del discorso religioso,* Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd, Bollati Boringhieri, 2016.

*Arab-Islamic philosophy: A Contemporary Critique*, Muhammad Abid Jabiri, Middle East Monograph Series, 1999.

Articles and essays:

*L’Arabia preislamica e il vero senso della Shari‘a*, Wael Farouq, rivista Vita e Pensiero, n.1, 2018.

*Averroè fra fiqh e filosofia. La ragione araba nel limbo*, Wael Farouq, InCircolo, n.2, Dec 2016.

*Reason between breastfeeding and weaning*, Wael Farouq, Oasis, Jun 2015 (English and Italian).

*Alle radici della ragione araba*, Wael Farouq, in Dio salvi la ragione, Cantagalli, 2007.

*Modernity, between exclusion and identification*, Wael Farouq, Almuslih, August 2014.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class.

Language of the course: English/Arabic

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam at the end of the course with minimum grade 18/30 and maximum grade 30/30 *cum laude*. The oral exam will consist of:

* A test of the students’ simple reading and conversation skills.
* The choice of three terms among a list of five of which the students must exhaustively explain: (1) the linguistic meaning, (2) the technical meaning, (3) the historical context in which it was born.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The first 20 hours of the course will be held in the first semester, the remaining 40 hours will be held in the second semester.

Office hours will be communicated in class.

In case the evolution of Covid-19 pandemic does not allow teaching in presence, online lectures and distance learning will be guaranteed. Channels and modalities will be communicated in due time to all students.

1. I testi indicati nella bibliografia sono acquistabili presso le librerie di Ateneo; è possibile acquistarli anche presso altri rivenditori. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)