# Arabic Language and Literature (12 Ects credits)

## Prof. Paolo Branca

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

The course aims to furnish students with knowledge of the main works and authors of classical and modern Arab literature.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to recognise key authors, works and genres in Arab literature from various eras, both poetry and prose, as well as details relating to linguistic and stylistic development.

*Applying knowledge and understanding*

Case studies such as ancient poetry; Quranic and literary prose from the classical era; genres in the period of decline; the new horizons of the modern cultural rebirth (nahda); and the colonial and postcolonial period will enable learners to contextualise Arabic literary production and take a comparative approach to other traditions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. The poetry of ancient Arabia.

2. The Quran and other Islamic sources. Authors and works from the Umayyad and Abbasid periods.

3. Examples of literary genres, both poetry and prose.

4. The period of decline.

5. The cultural revival of the last two centuries.

6. Authors and works from modern and contemporary times.

7. The question of language and translation.

8. Ancient Arabia until the first 'Rightly Guided' Caliphs.

9. The early Muslim conquests, the Umayyad, and the Abbasid Caliphate.

10. The Mongol invasion and the end of the 'classical' caliphate.

11. The age of decline.

12. The Muslim world until World War I

13. The age of modern nation states

14. The crisis of nationalism and the decline of political Islam.

***READING LIST***

P. Branca, *Adab 'arabi: pagine di letteratura araba dagli inizi ai giorni nostri*, edizioni Arrs, Milan, 2021.

Arab literary text in Italian translation. Sitography.

Lecture notes and the websites consulted together.

Textbook of reference (compulsory):

https://www.fondazioneaegboroli.it/images/pdf/destini-incrociati.pdf

Optional readings:

A. Hourani, *Storia dei popoli arabi,* Mondadori, Milan, 1991.

Lapidus, *Storia delle società islamiche,* Einaudi, 3 vols., Turin, 1993-1995.

G. Vercellin, *Istituzioni del mondo musulmano,* Einaudi, Turin, 1996.

B. Scarcia Amoretti, *Il mondo musulmano,* Carocci, Rome, 1998.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures and discussion with the students.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam, in which they must demonstrate their ability to connect historical phenomena to the cultural dynamics of their respective contexts.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Readings and texts will be provided in Italian. Students do not require knowledge of Arabic to take this course.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.