# Advanced Arabic language and culture

## Prof. Wael Farouq

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

* knowledge and understanding
* applying knowledge and understanding
* communication

The course aims at introducing the major conceptual categories in Islamic political thought, focusing on the political vocabulary, its semantic dimension and the symbolic associations it engenders. At the end of the course the student should be able to properly locate concepts such as ‘Islamic State’, ‘caliph’, ‘shariah’, ‘jihad’, ‘muwatana (citizenship)’ etc., essential to the understanding of contemporary Middle East.

The course aims as well at the acquisition of the morphosyntactic aspects of the Arabic language at an intermediate level. At the end of the course the student must be able to understand written texts and audio texts on topics of common life, produce non-complex texts and interact in situations of daily life, both private and public.

***COURSE CONTENT***

20 hours of terminology: The course will analyze the key-terminology in the political field, 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.

20 hours of Arabic language: Reading, comprehension, oral and written production of texts with an average complex structure on real-life topics; development of the two fundamental structures of the Arabic sentence, the *jumla ismiyya* and the *jumla fiʿliyya;* familiarization with aspects of Arab culture that concern everyday life and the Islamic and Christian religions.

***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)

*Le parole in azione. Corso intermedio di arabo moderno standard – Volume II,* Wael Farouq, Elisa Ferrero, Nuova edizione aggiornata, Vita e Pensiero, Milano 2018. [*Acquista da VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/wael-farouq-elisa-ferrero/le-parole-in-azione-vol-ii-9788834333266-527160.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.

*The Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2012

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. [*Acquista da VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/il-corano-9788817013369-208842.html)

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. [*Acquista da VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/nasr-hamid-abu-zayd/islam-e-storia-critica-del-discorso-religioso-9788833928111-242881.html)

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

Articles and essays:

Crone, Patricia, “The First-Century Concept of «Hijra»”, *Arabica* 41, no. 3 (November 1994): 352-387;

Crone, Patricia and Hinds, Martin, *God's caliph: religious authority in the first centuries of Islam* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003);

Daum, Werner, “Tithes for the God and the Origins of the Cult at Mecca: Continuity of Religious Practice in Arabia from the Pre-Islamic Period to the Present Day”, *Anthropos* 112, no. 2 (2017);

Hallaq, Wael B., *Shariʻa: theory, practice, transformations* (Cambridge/New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009);

Madelung, Wilferd, *The Succession to Muhammad: A Study of the Early Caliphate* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996);

Piscatori James, ed., “Special Issue: Conceptualising the Umma”, in *The Muslim World* 109, no. 3 (July 2019).

***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’ reading, comprehension 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***

A prerequisite for the attendance of the course is a basic knowledge of Arabic language, as achieved at the end of the course of Arabic Language and Culture.

Office hours will be communicated in class.

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