Advanced Text Analysis, 7.5ECTS
Advanced Level, autumn semester 2016
Main teacher: Astrid Ottosson al-Bitar (astrid.ottosson_al-bitar@su.se)

Course description
This course provides in-depth training in reading and analysing advanced text in modern and classical Arabic. The course focuses on a current theme, which will affect the choice of Arabic texts as well as scientific literature. This semester the theme is Travel Literature.

Within the course students will read and analyse Arabic texts and study the authors, genres and contexts of a number of chosen texts. The course will also deal with theory and method of relevance for the Science of Literature, as well as theory specifically for the chosen theme.

Learning outcomes
After completing the course, the student is expected to:

- Independently read, understand and translate advanced modern and classical Arabic texts to Swedish/English.
- Show ability to, in a critical and scientific way, analyse advanced modern and classical Arabic texts within a delimited research problem, including an ability to, in an independent way, describe themes and discourses in the text and how these can be highlighted by using existing theory.
- Show knowledge about authors, genres and contexts of chosen Arabic texts

Lessons plan

Guest lecture 1 – An introduction to the Science of Literature
Teacher: Jennie Nell

Guest lecture 3 – An introduction to the Science of Literature
Teacher: Jennie Nell
Lesson 1: Gassān Kanafānī: *Rijāl fī al-šams* - Theme Exile
Teacher: Astrid Ottosson al-Bitar

To read:
Gassān Kanafānī: *Rijāl fī al-šams*
Magrath, D.R. “A Study on *Rijāl fī al-šams* by Gassān Kanafānī.”

Reference literature:
Allen, R. “Ma’tabaqqa lākum - Gassān Kanafānī.” in *The Arabic Novel*, s. 147-153
Cooperson, M, ”Remembering the Future: Arabic Time- Travel Literature”.
McLarney, E. ”Empire of the Machine: Oil in the Arabic Novel.”
Said, E. ”Reflections on Exile”.

Lesson 2: Rifa’a al-Ṭaḥṭāwī: *Tahliṣ al ibriṣīs fī talḥīṣ Bārrīz* - Theme: Travelogue

To read:
Rifa’a al-Ṭaḥṭāwī: *Tahliṣ al ibriṣīs fī talḥīṣ Bārrīz*
Awad, L. *The Literature of Ideas in Egypt*, Part 1, s.25-32
Netton, I.R., art, ”riḥla” in *EI*
Ohrnberg, K., art. ”Rifa’a Bey al-Ṭaḥṭāwī” in *EI*.

Reference literature:
Newman, Daniel: Introduction I *An Imam in Paris: account of a stay in France by an Egyptian cleric, 1826 -1831*

Lesson 3: Yuṣūf al-Qa’id: *Mufākahat al-ḥillān fī riḥlat al-yābān* – Theme: Travelogue

To read:
Yuṣūf al-Qa’id: *Mufākahat al-ḥillān fī riḥlat al-yābān*
Korte, B. “Chrono-Types – Notes on forms of Time in the Travelogue”

Reference literature:
Starkey, Paul: “From the City of the Dead to Liberation Square: The Novels of Yuṣūf al-Qa’id”

Lesson 4: Jamal al-Gīṭānī: *Rann* - Theme: Travels within Sufism

To read:
Jamal al-Gīṭānī: *Rann*

Reference literature:
Art. “Taṣawwuf” i *EI*
Mehrez, S., *Egyptian Writers Between History and Fiction: Essays on Naguib Mahfouz, Sonallah Ibrahim*
Lesson 5: Sinān Aṭṭūn: Yā Maryam - Theme: To resist Exile and belong to a minority

To read:
Sinān Aṭṭūn: Yā Maryam

Reference literature:

Lesson 6: Gāda al-Samman: al Sibāba fi bnhayrat al-ṣaytān - Theme: An inner travel

To read:
Gāda al-Samman: al Sibāba fi bnhayrat al-ṣaytān

Reference literature:
Powrie, P.: “Automatic Writing: Breton, Daumal, Hegel”.

Lesson 7: Classical texts 1
What is text? – Qur’ān (1)

Dictionaries

To read:
Sūrat al Fātiha (1: 1-7)

Lesson 8: Classical texts 2
Sīrat al Nabī

To read:

Lesson 9: Classical texts 3
Qur’ān (2) - Ḥadīth

To read:
Sūrat al-Ikhlās (112: 1-4)
Sūrat al Baqara (2: 255)
Sūrat al Falaq (113: 1-5)
Sūrat al-Nās (114: 1-6)
Ibn Ishāq: Sīrat al Nabi Ḥadīth
Examination
The course is examined by a written essay.

Course literature
All literature will be available on Mondo, except for the reference literature

Modern Arabic Texts
Gassaîn Kanafâî: Rijâl fî al-šams
Rifâ‘a al-Tahtâwî: Talhîs al ibrîz fî talhîs Bârîz
Sinân Anûtûn: Ya`Maryam
Gâda al-Sammân: al Siba’ha fî buhârat al-ʃayṭân

Classical Arabic Texts:
Sûrat al Fâţîha (1: 1-7)
Sûrat al-Ikhlaş (112: 1-4)
Sûrat al Baqara (2: 255)
Sûrat al Falaq (113: 1-5)
Sûrat al-Nâs (114: 1-6)
Ibn Ishaq: Sîrat al Nabi Ḥadîth

On Narratology:
Bal, M. (1985), Narratology: Introduction to a Theory of Narrative, Toronto, Toronto University Press, s. 133-145, s. 77-79
Fludernik, M. (2009), An Introduction to Narratology. New York, Routledge, s.21-44

Other texts
Awad, L. (1986), The Literature of Ideas in Egypt, Part 1, s.25-32
Magrath, D.R. ”A Study on Rijâl fî al-šams by Gassaîn Kanafâî.”
Lewisohn, L. art. “sulûk” in Encyclopaedia of Islam
Netton, I.R., art, "riḥla" in Encyclopaedia of Islam


Ohrnberg, K., art. " Rifā‘a Bey al-Ṭaḥtāwī” in Encyclopaedia of Islam

Reference literature (not obligatory reading)


Art. “Tāsawwuf” in Encyclopaedia of Islam
Grading Criteria
Grades will be set according to the following seven-point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:

A The student has shown a very good ability to independently read, understand and translate advanced modern and classical Arabic texts and a very good ability to, in a critical and scientific way, analyse advanced modern and classical Arabic texts within a delimited research problem, including very good ability to, in an independent way, describe themes and discourses in the text and how these can be highlighted by using existing theory. Furthermore the student has shown very good knowledge about authors, genres and contexts of chosen Arabic texts.

B The student has shown a good ability to independently read, understand and translate advanced modern and classical Arabic texts and a good ability to, in a critical and scientific way, analyse advanced modern and classical Arabic texts within a delimited research problem, including good ability to, in an independent way, describe themes and discourses in the text and how these can be highlighted by using existing theory. Furthermore the student has shown good knowledge about authors, genres and contexts of chosen Arabic texts.

C The student has shown ability to independently read, understand and translate advanced modern and classical Arabic texts and ability to, in a critical and scientific way, analyse advanced modern and classical Arabic texts within a delimited research problem, including ability to, in an independent way, describe themes and discourses in the text and how these can be highlighted by using existing theory. Furthermore the student has shown knowledge about authors, genres and contexts of chosen Arabic texts.

D The student has shown ability to independently read, understand and translate advanced modern and classical Arabic texts and ability to, in a critical and scientific way, analyse advanced modern and classical Arabic texts within a delimited research problem, including ability to, in an independent way, describe themes and discourses in the text and how these can be highlighted by using existing theory. Furthermore the student has shown knowledge about authors, genres and contexts of chosen Arabic texts. The student has shown some minor flaws.

The student fulfills the criteria above, but in a somewhat superficial way and/or with some minor flaws.

E The student has shown ability to independently read, understand and translate advanced modern and classical Arabic texts and ability to, in a critical and scientific way, analyse advanced modern and classical Arabic texts within a delimited research problem, including ability to, in an independent way, describe themes and discourses in the text and how these can be highlighted by using existing theory. Furthermore the student has shown knowledge about authors, genres and contexts of chosen Arabic texts. The student has shown some minor misunderstandings.

The student fulfills the criteria above, but in a superficial way and/or with some flaws and/or misunderstandings.

Fx: The student has not fulfilled some of the criteria for a passed grade.

F: The student has not fulfilled the criteria for a passed grade.