

## Building Bridges: Topics in Arabic Literature in Translation

### 10-Week Outline (Finalized)

#### Week 1: The Marginalization of Arabic Literature

**Lecturer: Dr. Mohammed Muharram**

- Muharram, Mohammed. "The Marginalization of Arabic Fiction in the Postcolonial and World English Curriculum: Slips? Or Orientalism and Racism?" *Minnesota Review*, vol. 78, 2012, p. 130-145. Project MUSE [muse.jhu.edu/article/478955](https://muse.jhu.edu/article/478955).

#### Week 2: A History of Arabic Fiction in Translation

**Lecturer: Dr. Amin Al-Solel**

- Khalifa, Abdel Wahab, and Ahmed Elginy. "The reality of Arabic Fiction Translation into English: A Sociological Approach." *International Journal of Society, Culture & Language* 2.2 (Special Issue on Translation, Society and Culture) (2014): 4156.

[https://www.ijsc.net/article\\_5433\\_093e57e7ec35fd52e1fac99e5d62c1bf.pdf](https://www.ijsc.net/article_5433_093e57e7ec35fd52e1fac99e5d62c1bf.pdf)

#### Week 3: Translatability of Arabic Literature:

**Lecturer: Dr. Mohammed Muharram**

- Johnson-Davies, Denys, et al. "On Translating Arabic Literature: An Interview with Denys Johnson-Davies." *Alij: Journal of Comparative Poetics*, no. 3, 1983, pp. 80–93. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/521657>.

#### Week 4: *The Arabian Nights*

**Lecturer: Dr. Amin Al-Solel**

- Rastegar, Kamran. "The Changing Value of 'Alf Laylah Wa Laylah' for Nineteenth-Century Arabic, Persian, and English Readerships." *Journal of Arabic Literature*, vol. 36, no. 3, 2005, pp. 269–87. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4183551>

#### Week 5: Current Status in the Western Market

**Lecturer: Dr. Mohammed Muharram**

- Stanton, Anna Ziajka. "Introduction.: From Embargo to Boom: The Changing World of Arabic Literature in English." *The Worlding of Arabic Literature: Language, Affect, and the Ethics of Translatability*, 1st ed., Fordham University Press, 2023, pp. 1–26. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/jj.1176747.4>

#### Week 6: *Kalila wa Dimna*

**Lecturer: Dr. Amin Al-Solel**

- Al-Solel, Amin. "Embedded Narrative and Its Thematic Impact in *Kalila wa Dimna*: A Case Study of 'The Chapter of the Lion and the Bull'". *Albaydha University Journal*. V. 4, Issue 2, August 2022. P. 899-909. <https://baydaauniv.net/buj/index.php/buj/article/view/300>

Marroum, Marianne. "Kalila wa Dimna: Inception, Appropriation, and Transmimesis." *Comparative Literature Studies*, vol. 48, no. 4, 2011, pp. 512–540, <https://doi.org/10.5325/complitstudies.48.4.0512>

### **Week 7: Writing Back to the Canon**

**Lecturer: Dr. Mohammed Muharram**

• Muharram, Mohammed. "Challenging the Center: Writing Back to the Canon with Specific Reference to Tayeb Saleh's *Season Migration to the North*." *Journal of Yemen Academy for Graduate Studies*. 2018:1-13. <https://tinyurl.com/4hvaskmw>

### **Week 8: Arabic Literature and the Postcolonial**

**Lecturer: Dr. Amin Al-Solel**

• Al-Nowaihi, M.M. (2005). The "Middle East"? Or ... /Arabic Literature and the Postcolonial Predicament". In *A Companion to Postcolonial Studies* (eds H. Schwarz and S. Ray). <https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470997024.ch15>

### **Week 9: Arabic Literature and Ecofeminism**

**Lecturer: Dr. Mohammed Muharram**

• Elrefaei, Pervine. "Arabic Literature and Ecofeminism." *The Routledge Handbook of Ecofeminism and Literature*, 2022, pp. 25–36. [Routledge-Handbook-of-Ecofeminism-and-Literature/Vakoch/p/book/9781032050119](https://doi.org/10.1080/17513758.2022.2050119)

### **Week 10: Arabic Literature and Exile**

**Lecturer: Dr. Amin Al-Solel**

• Sellman, Johanna. "Introduction: Speculative Belongings in Contemporary Arabic Migration Literature." *Arabic Exile Literature in Europe: Defamiliarizing Forced Migration*, Edinburgh University Press, 2022, pp. 1–21. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3366/j.ctv32vqmh7.5>

This structure is inspired by the course's *Building Bridges* theme. The course begins with foundational debates on marginalization in Arabic literature, followed by an exploration of the history of Arabic fiction in translation. This ensures that students grasp key issues before engaging with questions of translatability in week three, providing them with the necessary theoretical and conceptual tools to analyze classic texts. *The Arabian Nights* and *Kalila wa Dimna* offer significant case studies of Arabic literary history and cross-cultural circulation. The mid-section of the course, spanning weeks five to seven, bridges classical and modern Arabic literature by examining its current reception in the Western market, followed by discussions on postcolonialism and literary resistance to the canon. The final weeks shift towards emerging themes in Arabic literature, including ecofeminism and exile. These topics engage with pressing discussions of displacement, identity, and the environment in global literary studies. Ending with Arabic literature and exile in the last week allows for a powerful closing discussion that ties together themes of translation, migration, and cultural adaptation. This reinforces the course's central objective of exploring Arabic literature as a bridge across linguistic, cultural, and geographic divides.