

Special Paper in Modern Arabic Literature
The Arabic Novel: a Narratological Survey

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In this lecture course students will engage in socio-cultural readings and literary analyses of celebrated works of Arabic fictional narrative (primarily novels) from the latter half of the twentieth century. Political and historical themes such as colonialism, nationalism, feminism, patriarchy, exile, revolution, liberation will be presented and discussed in the light of literary form and expression. Textual analyses will emphasize the impact of narrative modes and devices (such as the interplay between voices, shifts in story-planes, and the sequencing of events) on content, meaning, and message. Two or three works may be accompanied by screenings of film adaptations.

Week 1

Naguib Mahfouz [Najib Mahfuz], *Bayn al-Qasrayn* (1956)

The Cairo Trilogy: Palace Walk, Palace of Desire, Sugar Street. Trans. William Maynard Hutchins, Olive E. Kenny, Lorne M. Kenny, and Angele Botros Samaan, with an introduction by Sabry Hafez. London: Everyman, 2001. 3-533.

Secondary literature:

(Note: titles with an asterisk are required reading)

*Nezar Alsayyad, "Bayn al-Qasrayn: the Street between Two Palaces," in *Streets: Critical Perspectives on Public Space*. Eds. Zeynep Çelik, Diane Favro, and Richard Ingersoll. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994. 71-82.

Mahmud Amin al-'Alim, *Ta'ammulat fi 'alam Najib Mahfuz*. Cairo: Al-Hay'a al-Misriyya al-'amma li'l-ta'lif wa-l-nashr, 1970. (See especially pp 61-79.)

*Soraya Altorki, "Patriarchy and Imperialism: Father-Son and British-Egyptian Relations in Najib Mahfuz's trilogy," in *Intimate Selving in Arab Families: Gender, Self and Identity*, ed. by Suad Joseph. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1999. 214-34.

Fadil Aswad, ed. *Al-Rajul wa-l-qimma*. Cairo: al-Hay'a al-misriyya al-'amma li'l-kitab, 1989.

Michael Beard and Adnan Haydar, eds. *Naguib Mahfouz: From Regional Fame to Global Recognition*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press: 1993.

Hasan M. El-Shamy, "The Traditional Structure of Sentiments in Mahfouz's *Trilogy*: a Behavioristic Text Analysis," in Trevor Le Gassick, ed., *Critical*

Perspectives on Naguib Mahfouz. Boulder: Three Continents Press, 1991. 51-70.

*Israel Gershoni, "Between Ottomanism and Egyptianism: the Evolution of 'National Sentiment' in the Cairene Middle Class as Reflected in Najib Mahfuz's *Bayn al-Qasrayn*," in *Studies in Islamic Society: Contributions in Memory of Gabriel Baer*. Eds. Gabriel R. Warburg and Gad G. Gilbar. Haifa: Haifa University Press/ Leiden: Brill, 1984. 227-263.

Menahem Milson, *Najib Mahfuz: The Novelist Philosopher of Cairo*. New York: St. Martin's Press/ Jerusalem: the Magnes Press, 1998.

Matti Moosa, *The Early Novels of Naguib Mahfouz*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1994. (See especially pp 142-190.)

*Robin Ostle, "Mahfuz's Urban Battlegrounds," in Robert C. Hoyland and Philip F. Kennedy, eds., *Islamic Reflections/ Arabic Musings: Studies in Honour of Professor Alan Jones* 256-267.

Mattityahu Peled, *Religion, My Own: The Literary Works of Naguib Mahfuz*. New Brunswick and London: Transaction Books, 1983. (See Chapter Four, "The Neighborhood," pp 97-125.)

Nabil Raghib, *Qadiyyat al-shakl al-fanni 'ind Najib Mahfuz*. Cairo: Dar al-Katib al-'Arabi, 1967 (See especially pp 125-148.)

Yusuf al-Sharuni, *Al-Rawa'iyyun al-thalatha: Najib Mahfuz, Yusuf al-Siba'i, Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim 'Abdullah*. Cairo: al-Hay'a al-Misriyya al-'Amma li'l-kitab, 1980. (See especially pp 35-65.)

Ghali Shukri, ed., *Najib Mahfuz: Ibdā' nisf qarn*. Beirut/Cairo: Dar al-Shuruq, 1989.

*Sasson Somekh, *The Changing Rhythm: A Study of Najib Mahfuz's Novels*. Leiden: Brill, 1973. (See Chapter Four, "The Changing Rhythm," pp 106-136 and the plot summaries for the *Trilogy* 210-216.)

*Christian Szyska, "Liminality, Structure, and Anti-Structure in Najib Mahfuz's Cairo Trilogy," in Verena Klemm and Beatrice Gruendler, eds., *Understanding Near Eastern Literatures*. Wiesbaden: Reichert Verlag, 2000. 215-29.

Essay: Discuss the spatial and temporal dynamics of the relationship between two characters in the novel (suggested pairings: al-Sayyid Ahmad and Amina, al-Sayyid Ahmad and Yasin, or Amina and Kamal)

Week 2

Ghassan Kanafani, *Al-Rijal fi'l-shams* (1963)

Men in the Sun and Other Palestinian Stories, trans. Hilary Kilpatrick. Boulder, CO/London: Lynne Reiner, 1999.

Secondary Literature

Ihsan 'Abbas, Fadl al-Naqib, and Ilyas Khuri, *Ghassan Kanafani, insan wa-adiban wa-munadilan*. Beirut: Manshurat al-Ittihad, 1974.

Radwa 'Ashur, *Al-Tariq il al-khayma al-ukhra: dirasa fi a'mal Ghassan Kanafani*. Beirut: Dar al-Adab, 1977. See especially pp 57-91.

*C. F. Audebert, "Choice and Responsibility in *Rijal fi al-shams*," *Journal of Arabic Literature* 15 (1984): 76-93.

*Barbara Harlow, *After Lives: Legacies of Revolutionary Writing*. London: Verso, 1996. See Chapter 1, "History and Endings: Ghassan Kanafani and the Politics of Terminations in Palestine." 45-75.

—*Resistance Literature*. London: Methuen, 1987.

*H. Kilpatrick, "Tradition and Innovation in the fiction of Ghassan Kanafani," *Journal of Arabic Literature* 7 (1976): 53-64.

*D.R. Magrath, "A Study of *Rijal fi al-shams* by Ghassan Kanafani," *Journal of Arabic Literature* 10 (1979): 95-108.

Karim Mas'udi, *al-Waqi' al-Filastini fi al-Riwaya: Dirasa naqdiyya fi adab Ghassan Kanafani wa-Jabra Ibrahim Jabra*. Damascus: Dar al-Numayr, 2006.

*Muhammad Siddiq, *Man Is a Cause: Political Consciousness and the fiction of Ghassan Kanafani*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1984. (See especially pp xi-21.)

Essay: Discuss the allegorical content of the novel in the light of its shifts in perspective.

Week 3

Tayeb Saleh [al-Tayyib Salih], *Mawsim al-hijra ila al-shamal* (1967)

Season of Migration to the North, trans. Denys Johnson-Davies. London: Heinemann, 1969.

Secondary Literature

*Mona Takiyeddine Amyuni, *Tayeb Saleh's Season of Migration to the North: a Casebook*. Beirut: AUB Press, 1985.

*Patricia Geesey, "Cultural Hybridity and Contamination in Tayeb Salih's *Mawsim al-Hijra ila al-Shamal (Season of Migration to the North)*." *Research in African Literatures* 28.3 (Fall 1997): 128-140.

Yumna al-'Id, "Bunyat al-mawqi'ayn fi *Mawsim al-hijra ila al-shamal*," in *Al-Rawi: al-mawqi' wa-l-shakl*. Beirut: Mu'assasat al-abhath al-'arabiyya, 1986.

'Abd al-Rahman al-Khanji, *Qira'a jadida fi riwayat al-Tayyib Salih*. Omdurman: Dar Jami'at Amdurman al-Islamiyya, 1983.

*Joseph Lowry, "Histories and polyphonies: deep structures in al-Tayyib Sālih's *Mawsim al-hijra ilā al-shamāl (Season of migration to the north)*." *Edebiyat* 12.2 (2001): 161-193.

*Saree S. Makdisi, "The Empire Renarrated: *Season of Migration to the North* and the Reinvention of the Present," in *Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory: a Reader*, eds. Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994. 535-50.

Ahmad Sa'id Muhammadiyya et al, *Al-Tayyib Salih, 'abqariyy al-riwaya al-'arabiyya*. Beirut: Dar al-'Awda, 1976.

Muhammad Shahin, *Tahawwulat al-shawq fi Mawsim al-hijra ila al-shamal: Dirasa naqdiyya muqarana*. Beirut: al-Mu'assasa al-'arabiyya li'l-dirasat wa-l-nashr, 1993.

*Paul Starkey, "Narrative Structure in al-Tayyib Salih's *Mawsim al-hijra ila al-shamal*." *Edebiyat* 10.1 (1999): 33-42.

Essay: Build a profile of the character of the narrator.

Week 4

Emile Habiby [Imil Habibi], *al-Waqa'i' al-ghariba fi ikhtifa' Sa'id Abi al-Nahs al-Mutasha'il* (1974)

The Secret Life of Saeed the Pessoptimist, trans. Salma Khadra Jayyusi and Trevor le Gassick. London: Zed, 1985.

Secondary literature

*Rula Jurdi Abisaab, "*The Pessoptimist: Breaching the State's Da'wa in a Fated Narrative of Secrets*." *Edebiyat* 13.1 (2002—published 2003): 1-10.

*Nancy Coffin, "Reading Inside and Out: a Look at Habibi's *Pessoptimist*." *Arab Studies Journal* 8.2/9.1 (2000-2001): 25-46.

Faysal Darraj, "Imil Habibi: Muhakat al-akhar wa-hudud al-mawruth," in *Nazariyyat al-riwaya wa-l-riwaya al-'arabiyya*. Beirut/Casablanca: al-Markaz al-thaqafi al-'arabi, 1999.

*Peter Heath, "Creativity in the Novels of Emile Habiby, with special reference to *Sa'id the Pessoptimist*," in *Tradition, Modernity, and Postmodernity in Arabic Literature: Essays in Honor of Professor Issa J. Boullata*, eds. Kamal Abdel-Malek and Wael Hallaq. Leiden: Brill, 2000.158-172.

*Maher Jarrar, "A Narration of 'deterritorialization': Imil Habibi's *The Pessoptimist*," *Middle Eastern Literatures* 5.1 (January 2002): 15-28.

Essay: "Humour and History in Emile Habiby's *The Pessoptimist*"

Week 5

Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, *al-Bahth 'an Walid Mas'ud* (1978)

In Search of Walid Masoud, trans. Roger Allen and Adnan Haydar. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000.

Secondary Literature

Karim Mas'udi, *al-Waqi' al-Filastini fi al-Riwaya: Dirasa naqdiyya fi adab Ghassan Kanafani wa-Jabra Ibrahim Jabra*. Damascus: Dar al-Numayr, 2006.

*Mattityahu Peled, "Sexuality in Jabra's novel, *The Search for Walid Mas'ud*," in *Love and Sexuality in Modern Arabic Literature*, eds. Roger Allen, Hilary Kilpatrick, and Ed de Moor. London: Saqi, 1995. 140-153, 243-44.

*Najman Yasin, "Jabra Ibrahim Jabra: on Interpoetics" (interview) in *The View from Within: Writers and Critics on Contemporary Arabic Literature*. Eds. Ferial J. Ghazoul and Barbara Harlow. Cairo: AUC Press, 1994. 207-212.

Essay: "Walid Masoud: conflicting accounts"

Week 6

Hanan al-Shaykh, *Hikayat Zahra* (1980)

Story of Zahra. Trans. Peter Ford (with the author). London: Quartet, 1986.

Secondary literature

*Accad, *Sexuality and War: Literary Masks of the Middle East*. New York/London: NYU Press, 1990. 43-63.

*Miriam Cooke, *War's Other Voices: Women Writers on the Lebanese Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987. (Pages TBA)

*Sabah Ghandour, "Hanan al-Shaykh's *Hikayat Zahra*: a Counter-Narrative and a Counter-History, in *Intersections*, Majjaj et al, 231-52.

Essay: "Narrations of Madness in *Story of Zahra*"

Week 7

Mohamed Berrada [Muhammad Barada], *Lu'bat al-nisyan* (1987)

The Game of Forgetting, trans. Issa J. Boullata. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996.

Secondary literature

*Magda M. Al-Nowaihi, "Committed Postmodernity: Muhammad Barrada's *The Game of Forgetting*," in *Tradition, Modernity, and Postmodernity in Arabic Literature: Essays in Honor of Professor Issa J. Boullata*, eds. Kamal Abdel-Malek and Wael Hallaq. Leiden: Brill, 2000. 367-88.

(Other assignments TBA)

Essay: "Extracting meaning from form in the *Game of Forgetting*"

Week 8

Latifa Zayyat, *Hamlat taftish: awraq shakhsiyya* (1992)

The Search: Personal Papers, trans. Sophie Bennett. London: Quartet, 1996.

Secondary Literature

Sayyid Bahrawi, ed., *Latifa al-Zayyat: al-adab wa-l-watan*. Cairo: markaz al-Buhuth al-adabiyya, 1996.

*Sophie Bennett, "A Life of One's Own?," in *Writing the Self: Autobiographical Writing in Modern Arabic Literature*, eds. Robin Ostle, Ed de Moor, and Stefan Wild. London: Saqi, 1998. 283-91.

*Magda Al-Nowaihi, "Resisting Silence in Arab Women's Autobiography," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 33.4 (November 2001): 477-502.

*Somaya Ramadan, "Latifa al-Zayyat: on Political Commitment and Feminist Writing" (interview) in *The View from Within: Writers and Critics on Contemporary Arabic Literature*. Eds. Ferial J. Ghazoul and Barbara Harlow. Cairo: AUC Press, 1994.

*Hannah Davis Taïeb, "The Girl who Found Refuge in the People: the Autobiography of Latifa Zayyat." *Journal of Arabic Literature* 29.3-4 (1998): 202-217.

Essay: "Hamlat Taftish as a collective memoir"

Further Reading:

On the Arabic Novel

Roger Allen, *The Arabic Novel: an Historical and Critical Introduction*. 2nd edition. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 1995.

—*An Introduction to Arabic Literature*. Cambridge: 2000.

M.M. Badawi, ed., *The Cambridge History of Arabic Literature: Modern Arabic Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

—*Modern Arabic Literature and the West*. London: Ithaca Press, 1985.

—*A Short History of Modern Arabic Literature*. Part II: The Novel and the Short Story. 91-238. Oxford: Clarendon Press: 1993.

Halim Barakat, "Arabic Novels and Social Transformation," in *Studies in Modern Arabic Literature*, ed. R. C. Ostle. Warminster: Aris & Phillips, 1975. 126-139.

Pierre Cachia, *An Overview of Modern Arabic Literature*. Edinburgh, 1990.

Sabry Hafez, *The Genesis of Arabic Narrative Discourse: A Study in the Sociology of Modern Arabic Literature*. London: Saqi, 1993. (For those interested in the early history of the Arabic Novel)

Stefan G. Meyer, *The Experimental Arabic Novel: Postcolonial Literary Modernism in the Levant*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001.

Fatma Moussa-Mahmoud, *The Arabic Novel in Egypt, 1914-1970*. Cairo: Egyptian General Book Organization, 1973.

Robin Ostle, ed. *Modern Literature in the Near and Middle East, 1850-1970*. London: Routledge, 1991.

Edward W. Said, "Arabic Prose and Prose Fiction After 1948," in *Reflections on Exile and Other Literary and Cultural Essays*. London: Granta Books, 2001. 42-60.

On Narratological Theory and Method

H. Porter Abbott, *The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Mikhail Bakhtin, *Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics*. Ed. And trans. By Caryl Emerson. Theory and History of Literature, Vol. 8. Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 1984.

Seymour Chatman, *Story and Discourse: Narrative Structure in Fiction and Film*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1978.

Gérard Genette, *Narrative Discourse: an Essay in Method*. Trans. Jane E. Lewin. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1980.

—*Narrative Discourse Revisited*. Trans. Jane E. Lewin. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1988.

Yumna al-'Id, *Tiqniyyat al-sard al-riwa'i fi daw' al-manhaj al-bunyawi*. Beirut: Dar al-Farabi, 1990.

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