

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

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Available in Trinity Term 2008, and in subsequent academic years (contact instructor for further information)

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)

Palace Walk [by Naguib Mahfouz], trans. William Maynard Hutchins and Olive E. Kenny. (Multiple editions. The edition of the *Trilogy* with the introduction by Sabry Hafez is recommended, but this introduction will be made available to students who use other editions)

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Week 6

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

Story of Zahra. London: Quartet, 1986.

Accad, *Sexuality and War: Literary Masks of the Middle East*. New York/London: NYU Press, 1990. (SELECT PAGES)

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

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

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.

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.

Week 8

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

On Narratological Theory and Method

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.

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