



Direzione Ricerca,
Innovazione e
Internazionalizzazione

**UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO**

ID

VP_193_STUDIUM

Visiting Professor Program Academic Year 2025/2026

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 18 hours

COURSE TITLE

Beyond Words: Identity, Ideology, and Borders in Modern Arabic and Hebrew Literature

TEACHING PERIOD

II semester

SCIENTIFIC AREA

Hebrew Language and Literature

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English

COURSE SUMMARY

Modern Hebrew and Arabic literature of the 20th and 21st centuries represent a rich textual space where themes of identity, ideology, and borders—physical, cultural, and emotional—are explored and challenged. The seminar *Beyond Words* focuses on the works of significant authors and poets, including Mahmoud Darwish, Amos Oz, Leah Goldberg and others. The course aims to investigate how these texts address issues of belonging, alienation, the definition of nationhood, and reconciliation, emphasizing the construction and deconstruction of "the Other." The historical and geopolitical contexts surrounding these works will be analyzed, with particular attention to the connections between Hebrew and Arabic literary traditions. Bilingual texts are a key focus, as they challenge cultural and political divisions while reflecting shared struggles and fostering literary dialogue. Critical thinking will be encouraged throughout the course, with a focus on linguistic and cultural translation processes and the tension between individual visions and collective narratives.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- develop critical analytical skills related to personal and national identity in modern Hebrew-Arabic literature;
- understand the historical, cultural, and geopolitical contexts that shaped the development of a bilingual literary tradition in the Middle East;
- explore a variety of literary forms, including poetry, short stories, and journalistic texts;
- trace the evolution of Hebrew-Arabic literature across a century, recognizing its interaction with historical and cultural transformations.

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDE THE COURSE

Beyond the course itself, the chosen candidate will be able to engage in research on materials housed in the University of Turin archive. This research could lead to an academic article, a book, or future seminars. Some seminar sessions may also be adapt

In some sessions, the course will include group work on analyzing literary works, practical in-class discussions, and the study of writing practices.

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

The ideal candidate for this course has a strong academic background in literature and an interest in the interplay between Hebrew and Arabic traditions. They possess analytical skills and an understanding of the cultural and historical contexts shaping modern literary works, with a particular interest in cross-cultural and bilingual texts. This individual values critical thinking and approaches literature as both a creative medium and a lens for examining social and cultural dynamics. Familiarity with archival research or unpublished materials is a plus, reflecting a curiosity for contributing to broader scholarly conversations. Above all, the candidate appreciates the transformative power of language and storytelling in fostering intercultural understanding.

CONTACT REFERENT

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