



Course Description: Advanced Readings in Arabic

	Title	Advanced Readings in Arabic
	Academic year	2026-2027
Admission	EC	3 EC
	Level	Postgraduate
	Language	English
	Convener	Dr Harald Viersen (RU)
	Hosted by	Radboud Universiteit (RU), Nijmegen

Requirements

Proven ability to read and translate Arabic texts. If in doubt, please contact the convener.

Description

In the course “Advanced Readings in Arabic,” extracts from Arabic texts (usually ca. 10-20 pages) are read sentence by sentence (or paragraph by paragraph), translated, and analysed for linguistic and intellectual content. This year’s reading group will be dedicated to the writings of the Moroccan contemporary philosopher Abd al-Rahman Taha. Which texts are read will be decided on in consultation with the participants. The participants include staff, students and other interested researchers.

Course objectives

- Enhance participants’ ability to read difficult Arabic texts
- Produce translations that fulfil the criteria of academic English
- Train participants’ grasp of advanced grammatical issues in Arabic.

Time table

The reading group meets once a week on Wednesday, starting in November 2026. One can join the group whenever one sees fit, as long as one attends 80% of the meetings. Please check with the convener for more information.

Mode of instruction

No rights can be derived from this course description. Information may be subject to change.



A group discussion led by the convener.

Course load

Participants need to carefully prepare each week's reading, that is, look up words and produce a draft translation. In order to obtain 3 ECTS, participants also need to complete an assignment.

Assessment method

To successfully pass this course, participants must prepare and attend ten consecutive meetings, and write an academic translation of one of the texts that were read and discussed in the meetings. This assignment should be 4.000-5.000 words, and should include information about the author, the context in which the text was written and the influence the text had in that context and today.

Reading list

After consultation with the convener.

Application

Per email to the convener: harald.viersen@ru.nl

Websites

<https://nisis.sites.uu.nl/training-programme/programme/>

<https://www.ru.nl/en/people/viersen-h>