

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAMME

(FALL 2021)

(29 August- 16 December)

The programme

The Middle East Studies programme at NVIC targets second and third year bachelor students of the humanities, social sciences or related fields. The interdisciplinary programme aims to familiarize students with various topics on the region with a particular focus on Egypt. The programme is made up of 5 modules, three of which explore political, economic, and cultural issues taught in English, and two Arabic language classes at various levels. Students will attend guest lectures by experts in their fields, and weekly excursions are an integral part of the programme.

The programme consists of the following courses:

Course module Hours/week ECTS

1. Contextualising Contemporary Egypt 2 5
2. Development and Egypt 2 5
3. Gender in Egypt 2 5
4. Egyptian Colloquial Arabic 6 10
5. Modern Standard Arabic 2 5

TOTAL 14 30

Important Note: Please be advised that the content courses (1-3) are subject to change. All modules will be based on Middle East politics, history, and culture.

Module Summaries:

Contextualising Contemporary Egypt: 5 ECTS

This course will shed light on the various narratives that have appeared since the revolution in 2011, and will frame these within their historical, colonial and postcolonial contexts. The course will help students historicize current developments. Theoretically, the course tackles questions of representation and the transformation of identity politics to subjectivities, nationalities, and the politics of popular culture.

Development and Egypt: 5 ECTS

This course focuses on the interplay between current postcolonial development politics and their histories. We use the work of Timothy Mitchell as a starting off point to explore various questions of cultural representations and force. The module will examine contemporary examples and case studies that can help us better understand the politics of development in Egypt. Discussions will touch upon the notion of the “foreigner complex”, the construction of foreign aid as gift, and other forms of power relations.

Gender in Egypt: 5 ECTS

This course explores gender issues in Egypt while taking into account the intersectionality of class, gender, ethnicity and race. Against the backdrop of colonialism (including the West’s Orientalizing depiction of local men and women), the state, cultural constructions of gender, and Islamism, the course will look into (Islamic and non-Islamic) women’s movements, masculinities, and feminist activism. In order to do so, the course material will consist not only of theoretical texts, but will also look

into cultural productions, like films, literature, music (mahraganat pop), and art. Key concepts from the social sciences, especially critical gender studies, will be introduced to serve as theoretical underpinnings.

Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (three entry levels): 10 ECTS

The focus in this module is to develop the students spoken Arabic. Egyptian colloquial Arabic is the most widely understood dialect in the Middle East. Students will be placed in classes depending on their individual levels.

Modern Standard Arabic (three entry levels): 5 ECTS

The focus in this module is to develop reading and writing skills. There will be a focus on media Arabic. Students will be placed in classes depending on their individual levels.

Language Level

Students will be placed in classes depending on their level of Arabic. Levels start from beginners.

Admission

Admission to the programme is subject to the following conditions :

- The student has successfully completed at least three semesters of in a relevant programme;
- The student has the written permission (on the registration form) of a lecturer at the home university to join the programme;
- The student is registered at one of the affiliated universities during her/his stay in Cairo If

maximum capacity is reached, an admission test will be organized.

Fall semester dates

(29 Aug – 16 Dec. 2021)

29 August: Orientation Day

30 August: classes begin

10-14 October: Mid-term exams

17-21 October: BREAK

24 October: classes recommence

5-9 December: STUVAC (Study vacation)

12-16 December: Final Exams

About NVIC

The Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo (NVIC) is an academic institute located on the island of Zamalek, in the heart of Egypt's bustling capital. It is one of five Dutch Scientific Institutes Abroad (NWIB) and is supported by the Research Fund–Flanders (FWO–Vlaanderen). NVIC provides services to six Dutch and two Flemish universities. It offers undergraduate and graduate programmes in Arabic & Islamic Studies as well as Egyptology & Archaeology. For more information on NVIC, its staff, its activities, and its teaching programmes, visit <http://www.institutes.leiden.edu/nvic/>

Security and safety in Cairo

In all its activities, NVIC adheres to the security and travel advice of the Dutch and Belgian Embassies in Egypt. We forward any travel or security notice to the students. The student's stay in Cairo is, however, voluntary and their own responsibility. NVIC is not accountable for any harm or damage caused by students to third parties during their stay in Cairo, nor for any physical harm or material loss or damage suffered by the students during their stay. Upon arrival, participants of the programme will be required to sign an indemnification statement. Participants also agree to inform NVIC of any physical or psychological condition that could cause problems during their stay in Cairo or harm NVIC in any way. This information is treated confidentially. Travel and health insurance are not covered by the programme. Please inquire with your public or private insurance provider and take the necessary measures.

Application/registration

Application forms must reach the institute (info@nvic.leidenuniv.nl) by 1 June.