

Literary Egypt: The World of Naguib Mahfouz

01:013:120

AMESALL

This course has been certified as satisfying Historical Analysis Learning Outcome Goal of the SAS Core Curriculum *HST* - (h) + k

ASYNCHRONOUS REMOTE

FALL 2020

Instructor: Samah Selim

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Course Description: This course will introduce students to the literary, cultural and historical world of Egypt's Nobel Laureate Naguib Mahfouz (1911-2006).

Selected Texts*: We will be reading three novels by Naguib Mahfouz as well as some short articles on modern Egyptian history. We will also be watching a couple of films based on Mahfouz's novels. These are the novels we will be reading:

Midaq Alley (1947)

Palace Walk (selections, 1956)

Karnak Cafe (1973)

*All readings in English translation

Learning objectives: Students will come out of this course with a solid working knowledge of the major trends in Egypt's modern cultural and political history (the impact of colonialism, nationalism and authoritarianism) and the intense social upheavals of the 20th century, including the changing roles of women. They will explore the concept of modernity as a universal condition that takes particular forms and presents particular challenges in different places in the world. They will become familiar with the range of Mahfouz' work and gain insight into the enduring narrative of Egyptian identity that he constructed through his novels. Students will also explore the differences between literature and film as narrative genres and how they can be put to different cultural uses in the same social context.

Course requirements: 1) Average 50 pages of reading per week; 2) Weekly Voicethread assignments; 3) Forum posts; 4) Blogs; 5) Take-home midterm 6) Final paper (6-8pp).

Grading:

Voicethread assignments: 20%

Forums posts: 20%

Blogs: 10%

Midterm exam: 25%

Final paper: 25%