Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Arabic Literature			
Final award (*exit awards will be made as outlined in the [Taught Degree Regulations](#)*)	BA	☐	MA	☒
	BSc	☐	MSc	☐
	Other …	☐		
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning	☐		
	On-campus	☒		
Professional body accreditation (*if applicable*)	n/a			
Academic year this specification was created	2016/17			
Dates of any subsequent amendments				

II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

1. The ability to read literatures of the Arab World and to assess their interaction with and reflection of crucial aspects of social and the political life.
2. A grounding in the scholarship on Arabic literatures and the cultures from which they emerged, in comparative Arab and Western contexts.
3. Expertise in the methods of literary analysis of Arabic literary texts in the original language and in related Arabic intellectual and critical traditions.

III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge
1. How to assess data and evidence critically from texts, manuscripts and digital sources, solve problems of conflicting sources and conflicting interpretations, locate materials, use research sources (particularly research library catalogues) and other relevant traditional sources.
2. How to obtain solid knowledge of the Arabic literature and literary field and their interaction with and reflection of aspects of social and the political life of the Arab world.
3. How to relate the development of Arabic literature to a wider European and world context.
4. How to deal critically with literary texts and probe their various layers of meanings, relate them to the context and the culture from which they emerged, place them within the development of the genre, movement, trend or school to which they belong.
5. How to read, translate and critically assess Arabic literary texts in the original language and how to conduct a critical appraisal of the text.

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
• Acquisition of 1 (above) through seminars and classes. Students are required to attend all classes, give presentations on specific topics, participate actively in the discussion of each other's presentations, study extensively on their own and prepare non-assessed work regularly.	• Through unseen examinations, long essays (6 essays of 4,000 words each), coursework and a dissertation (10,000 words).

• Acquisition of 2 through attending and participating actively in the core "Theory and Techniques of Comparative Literature" or "Social and Political Dimensions of Modern Arabic Literature" modules. The Theory module provides students with critical and analytical skills necessary for reading and assessing literary texts and relating them to their social, political and cultural context as well as world literatures. The Social and Political Dimensions module is a structured survey of the development of modern Arabic literature. This survey enables the students to research the development of modern literature and give presentations on a range of topics related to each stage of its development. • Acquisition of 3 through the active participation in the core and Major modules and researching the literary and cultural dimensions of each text or topic, for example, and the literature that influenced it. • Acquisition of 4 through any of the core, Major and Minor modules. Each student is additionally required to take minimum of two literature modules which provide an understanding of two different literary genres of classical and/ or modern Arabic literature. • Acquisition of 5 through the study of at least two literary genres of classical and/or modern Arabic literature in the original, and researching the original Arabic sources related to the texts studied.	

Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills

1. Students become precise and cautious in their assessment of evidence, and to understand through practice what documents can and cannot tell us.
2. Students question interpretations, however authoritative, and reassess evidence for themselves.
3. Student learn how to reason critically and apply linguistic, literary and historical concepts.
4. Students broaden their intellectual perspective on Arabic literature and acquire the ability to read and analyse literary texts critically.
5. Students acquire the ability to conduct their own research, question prevalent ideas and form their critical judgment in a rational, logical and enlightened manner.

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
• Acquisition of 1 and 2 is fostered in all modules offered in the programme, in that all modules will introduce information that will need to be assessed critically and will demonstrate that how conflicting interpretations arise from the same information. • Acquisition of 3, 4 and 5 is fostered through the classroom discussions and focused textual analysis of literary texts in the two Minor modules as well as through the discussion of presentations in the core module. The teacher who leads the discussion always complements the students' presentations and demonstrates to them how to advance their argument further and substantiate their interpretations of texts.	• Through unseen examinations, long essays (6 essays of 4,000 words each), coursework and a dissertation (10,000 words).

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills
The programme aims to help students with the following practical skills: 1. Communicate effectively in writing 2. Master the Arabic language at its high literary level. 3. Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources. 4. Plan, undertake and report on a bibliographically-based piece of research. 5. Present seminar papers, and discuss ideas introduced during seminars. 6. Apply key methods and concepts of literary, social, and historical analysis. 7. Practice research techniques in a variety of specialized research libraries and institutes.

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
• Acquisitions of 1, 2, 3 and 4 through initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in libraries and elsewhere. Students also develop their skills through the writing of long essays and the instructive feed-back they get from their teachers. The student is required to write 6 essays of 4,000 words each during the course of the programme and one dissertation of 10,000 words. These essays are all on different aspects of Arabic literature, which enable the student to master its most refined linguistic level. • Acquisition of 5, 6 and 7 through regular seminar presentations, the setting of clear deadlines for the submission of written work, and the active participation in class discussions, and the planning and writing of dissertation.	• Through unseen examinations, long essays (6 essays of 4,000 words each), coursework and a dissertation (10,000 words).

Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills	
The programme will encourage students to: 1. Write good essays and dissertations. 2. Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing. 3. Understand unconventional ideas, and develop the ability to challenge them if necessary. 4. Participate effectively, constructively and intelligently in groups, and assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others. 5. Manage time and work to deadlines 6. Work independently and form reasoned judgments. 7. Present (non-assessed) material orally.	
Typical Teaching Methods	**Typical Assessment Methods**
• Acquisition of 1 through long essays, coursework and dissertation. • Acquisition of 2 through seminar presentations, discussions and essays. • Acquisition of 3 and 4 through writing essays, making class presentations and participation in seminar discussions and respond to the discussion of his/her presentations by others. • Acquisition of 5, 6 and 7 through planning his/her work, meeting deadlines and participating in the reasoned discussion of his/her presentation as well as in those of others.	• Through unseen examinations, dissertation, long essays and coursework.

General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes
Masters programmes (with the exception of two-year full-time MAs) consist of 180 credits, made up of taught modules of 30 or 15 credits, taught over 10 or 20 weeks, and a dissertation of 60 credits. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional. As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/) such as reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on. Also included is class time, for example lectures, seminars and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules. At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary. More information can be found on individual module pages.

MA Arabic Literature

Dissertation

credits	60
module code	15PNMC999
module title	Dissertation in the Languages & Cultures of the Near & Middle East
status	compulsory module

	Taught Component		**Taught Component**		**Taught Component**		**Taught Component**
credits	30		30		30		30
module code **module title**	Arabic Literature as major (from List A or B)	**+**	from list below	**+**	from list below	**+**	from list below or open option
status	core module		guided option*		guided option*		guided option*

*List of modules (subject to availability)

Code	Title	Credits
15PCSC002	Theory and techniques of Comparative Literature	30
15PNMC347	Social and Political Dimensions of Modern Arabic Literature	30
15PNMC411	Arabic Women's Writing: Theories and Practices - (1 Unit) - Full Year	30
15PNMC410	Early and Medieval Arabic Linguistic Thought: Scholarship and Literature	30
15PNMC046	A Modern Arabic Literary Genre: Themes and Techniques	30
15PNMC048	Arabic Poetry and Criticism	30
15PNMC045	Arabic Popular Literature: Themes, Genres & Theory	30
15PNMC379	Modern Palestinian Literature	30
15PNMC047	Classical Arabic Prose Literature and Adab	30
15PNMC378	Reading Classical Arabic Historians: Themes and Trends in Islamic Historiography	30
15PNMC403	Arabic Critical Theory and Thought	30
15PNMC426	Culture, Society and Politics in Classical Arabic Literature	30
15PNMC403	Arabic Critical Theory and Thought	30
15PNMC426	Culture, Society and Politics in Classical Arabic Literature	30
15PLIH052	Practical Translation Arabic into English	15
15PLIH053	Practical Translation English into Arabic	15