

Course Title: Arabic Manuscript

Course Code: ArLa4142

ECTS: 3 ECTS

Course Outline

Unit One: An overview of the manuscript age (preprint culture)

Manuscripts: their forms and content

The world of the scribe

Contents - forms of literature, subject and language, illustrations.

Unit Two Codicology:

Writing surfaces (papyrus, parchment, paper)

The text and its make-up

Writing materials (pens, inks, etc.)

Alpha-numerical and numerical systems

The forms of books (rolls and codices)

The text, its arrangement and presentation

The colophon

Dates and dating Calculation of dates

Unit Three: Introduction to paleography

Scripts and hands

Painted decoration (illumination)

Bookbinding:

Harari Binding

Comparing Christian and Muslim tradition of binding

Unit four: Transmission of texts (collation and certificates)

Textual corruptions and corrections

Manuscripts and popular culture (magic and superstition)

Forgeries in manuscripts

Unit five :

Cataloguing Manuscripts

History of cataloguing

Types and kind of Catalogues

Syntactical description

The physical description

Unit six : textual criticism and editing

Some remarks on textual criticism and editing,

Causes of Corruption

Emendations

Cannons of Textual Criticism

Editing of Text, collation and years

Problems of editing

Unit 6 Conservation and preservation:

Introduction and definitions

Defining

The need for conservation

Preservation: A comparative overview