**The Literatures of the Arab Spring: From Egypt to Libya**(MA)

PD Dr. Pavan Malreddy

SS 2025

**Thursday 16-18 hours, Room 1.19.0.31**

If the Arabic-speaking world is united by its very *language* and linguistic heritage, could English play a potentially divisive role in representing the local, regional, and the vernacular expressions within the pan-Arabic spectrum? And what are the contexts that provide the basis for Anglophone literary interventions in the Arab-speaking world? Through a careful selection of texts in the context of post-9/11 and post-Arab Spring politics, this course provides a critical introduction to contemporary Arab literature written in English.

Hisham Matar, *The Return*, 2016

Robert Hamilton *The City Always Wins*, 2011

Lyla Alammar, *Silence is a Sense*, 2021

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| Session 1  10.04. | 1. Living in Arabic by Edward Said   1. Why Isn’t Arabia a Country? - [Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGMMoiubMY0) |
| Session 2  17.04. | 2. Arab Nationalism from a Historical Perspective: A Gradual Demise? by İsmail Kuran  3. Arab Voices in Western Writing: The Politics of the Arabic Novel in English and the Anglophone Arab Novel by Geoffrey Nash |
| Session 3  24.04. | 4. Anglophone Arab Literature: An Overview by Layla Al Maleh  (*Read the article except for the Australia part*)  5. The Anglophone Imaginary and Agency in Contemporary Egyptian Novelsby Pavan Malreddy and Stefanie Kemmerer |
| Session 4  08.05. | Robert Hamilton. *The City Always Wins* (story, plot) |
| Session 5  15.05. | Robert Hamilton *The City Always Wins* (Arab Spring legacy) |
| Session 6  22.05. | 6. The Betrayed Revolution in Syria by Z Majed [Syrian Civil War](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkyTdaP0J-0) documentary |
| Session 7 & 8  05.06. | Lyla Alammar, *Silence is a Sense* (story, plot)  Lyla Alammar, *Silence is a Sense* (Arab Spring legacy) |
| Session 8a  19.06. | Mid-term exam, **in class** (write one paragraph each on something you’ve learnt new: one theortical/secondary text from the reader, a scene from one of the novels; a comment from inclass discussions)  /Recap of texts and concepts |
| Session 9  26.06. | 7. Qaddafi and Libya (1973) by Anthony McDermott  The Lust for Libya - [Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sn16bsEHJFY) |
| Session 10  03.07. | Hisham Matar, *The Return* (story, plot) |
| Session 11  10.07. | Hisham Matar, *The Return* (Arab Spring legacy) |
| Session 12  17.07. | Concluding Remarks |

Requirements:

In order to pass this seminar, students will be expected to hand in a mandatory midterm assignment. Details will be announced in the first session.

3 ECTS: 1000 words (should be presented as a written summary of **session leading**) + midterm assignment

6 ECTS: 6000 words (and a summary of **session leading**) + midterm assignment

**Session leading**: all students are required to **lead a session** (in groups of three maximum) with the following tasks: present the central argument of the reading/s assigned for that session with a critical and reflective perspective. At least one of the session leads is expected to bridge the session, i.e. summarize the discussion from the previous session and present it (5 minutes maximum) at the opening of the class. *Each student prepares and sends 1500 words of summary of their part in session leading to me by email one day before their session.*