

OFF-UNIVERSITY

SUMMER SEMESTER

YAZ DÖNEMİ

SOMMERSEMESTER

2023

University without borders — Sınır tanımayan üniversite — Universität ohne Grenzen

Off-University creates new strategies to uphold and sustain academic life and knowledge threatened by anti-democratic and authoritarian regimes. Initially established for and by academics from Turkey, Off-University engages academics all over the world who have been purged from their institutions, forced to resign, legally and politically persecuted and even imprisoned because of their opinion and research.

Located in Berlin, Off-University offers researchers and students with limited options to move around freely a space to participate in online education. It combines the centuries-old ideal of academic freedom with contemporary technologies of digital communication and collaboration possibilities. Its mission is based on a commitment to world peace and living together in diversity. Off-University therefore seeks to develop emancipatory education and research activities that challenge traditional hierarchies in learning settings and render them more democratic.

So far, more than **a hundred** persecuted scholars have earned their living by teaching online courses with Off-University.

In **2023 Summer Semester** we're offering **five** new courses in a wide range of subjects from a multidisciplinary perspective:

Off-University anti-demokratik ve otoriter rejimlerin tehdit ettiği akademik hayatı ve bilgi birikimini korumak ve sürdürmek için yeni stratejiler yaratmak hedefiyle yola çıktı. Başlangıçta Türkiye'den akademisyenler için ve onlar tarafından kurulan Off-University, dünyanın dört bir yanında kurumlarından zorla koparılan, istifaya zorlanan, hukuki ve siyasi açıdan zulüm gören ve hatta görüş ve araştırmaları nedeniyle hapse atılan akademisyenlere hitap ediyor.

Berlin'de faaliyet gösteren Off-University, özgür dolaşım imkanı kısıtlı olan araştırmacılara ve öğrencilere, çevrim içi eğitime katılabilecekleri bir alan sunuyor. Yüzyıllardır süregelen akademik özgürlük idealini günümüzün dijital iletişim teknolojileri ve işbirliği olanaklarıyla birleştiriyor. Off-University dünya barışına ve farklılıklarla birlikte yaşamaya olan bağlılığı çerçevesinde, öğrenim alanlarındaki geleneksel hiyerarşiye karşı çıkarak, daha demokratik özgürleştirici eğitim ve araştırma faaliyetlerini geliştirmeyi amaçlıyor.

Şimdiye kadar **yüzden** fazla tehdit altındaki akademisyen Off-University'de ders vererek hayatlarını kazandı.

2023 Yaz Döneminde farklı disiplinleri bir araya getiren birçok konuda **beş** yeni ders sunuyoruz:

Off-University entwickelt neue Strategien zur Erhaltung und Unterstützung akademischen Lebens und Wissens, wo sie von antidemokratischen und autoritären Regimen bedroht werden. Ursprünglich für und von Wissenschaftler*innen aus der Türkei gegründet richtet sich Off-University an Wissenschaftler*innen aus aller Welt, die entlassen, zur Kündigung gezwungen, die juristisch und politisch verfolgt oder wegen ihrer Äußerungen und ihrer Forschung sogar inhaftiert wurden.

Mit Sitz in Berlin bietet Off-University Forschenden und Studierenden, die in ihrer Reisefreiheit eingeschränkt sind, Raum digital an Bildung teilzuhaben. Sie verbindet das jahrhundertalte Ideal von Wissenschaftsfreiheit mit zeitgenössischen Technologien digitaler Kommunikations- und Kooperationsmöglichkeiten. Ihr Engagement basiert auf einem Streben nach Frieden in der Welt und einem Zusammenleben in Diversität. Dafür arbeitet Off-University an der Entwicklung von emanzipatorischen Bildungs- und Forschungsformaten, die traditionelle Hierarchien in Lernsettings herausfordern und zu ihrer demokratischeren Gestaltung beitragen.

Bisher haben mehr als **ein hundred** verfolgte Wissenschaftler*innen ihren Lebensunterhalt damit verdient, einen Online-Kurs bei Off-University anzubieten.

Im **Sommersemester 2023** veranstalten wir **fünf** Kurse, die sich aus einer multidisziplinären Perspektive mit einem breiten Feld von Themen auseinandersetzen:

The Arab Spring: Its Makings, Transitions, and Political Art in Perspective
FERIAL KHALIFA, HASSAN ALMOHAMMED

Gastro-Politics, Migration and The City
NEVR AKDEMİR

Çevresel ve Sosyal Sürdürülebilirlik için Modada Küçülme
MURAT YAVUZ

Literature and Social Issues in the Middle East
SHADA BOKIR, MOHAMMED ALMAHFALI

Feminist and Cross-Cultural Readings: Women's Art and Literature
IMAN AL-GHAFARI

You can find the detailed course descriptions and start dates on the following pages.

Detaylı ders içeriklerini ve başlangıç tarihlerini sonraki sayfalarda bulabilirsiniz.

Die detaillierten Kursbeschreibungen und -daten finden Sie auf den folgenden Seiten.

All our courses are **free of charge** and **open to anyone**: students, scholars, activists... We invite anyone who wishes to broaden their horizons and supports Off-University's vision of a less hierarchical and more democratic university to our courses.

Bütün derslerimiz **ücretsiz** ve **herkesin katılımına açık**: öğrenciler, akademisyenler, aktivistler... Ufkunu genişletmek isteyen ve Off-University'nin daha az hiyerarşik ve daha demokratik bir üniversite vizyonunu destekleyen herkesi derslerimize davet ediyoruz.

Alle unsere Kurse sind **kostenlos** und **offen für alle**: Studierende, Wissenschaftler*innen, Aktivist*innen... Wir laden alle herzlich ein an unseren Kursen teilzunehmen, die ihren Horizont erweitern und Off-University's Vision einer weniger hierarchischen, demokratischeren Universität unterstützen möchten.

The Arab Spring: Its Makings, Transitions, and Political Art in Perspective

HASSAN ALMOHAMMED

For more info and registration

[OFF-UNIVERSITY.COM](https://off-university.com)

The Arab Spring - the Arab World's largest mass mobilization protests since its 1950s-1960s national liberation movements - has swept most of the Arab Middle East and North Africa since 2011. How can we understand the eruption and the development of such large-scale mass protests and mobilization movements in the Arab world? What trajectories and transitions did the Arab Spring take in the various Arab countries and why? What role did political art and digital mass media play in this mobilization?

This online course/seminar will analyze the Arab Spring in light of the questions of the Arab world's politics which had contributed to its making and transitions. Also, the course will be focused on the agency of the political art of the Arab Spring, such as graffiti, murals, and digital street art. It will analyze such arts in Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Yemen, and Libya.



HASSAN ALMOHAMMED

completed his Masters at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris in 2008, specializing in the theory and practice of language and art. He completed his PhD in French civilization and literature with a dissertation on the Premonition of the death within French "meteor" poets in the XX century, 1945-1992) at Université d'Auvergne Clermont (previously known as Université Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand II) in France in 2009.

Almoammed was a professor in at Aleppo University and a visiting professor at UC Santa Barbara, Brandeis University and Wesleyan University in 2016-2018. He is interested in cultural studies of the Middle East and the Arab World, media, communications and ecocriticism. He is also interested in French and Francophone Studies and visual culture.

Start Date: **12 APR 2023 / Wednesday / 16:00 - 18:00 (CET)**

*Participants will receive a certificate covering **6 ECTS** credits upon successful completion of the course.*

This course is co-sponsored by *The New University in Exile Consortium* and hosted by *Philipps University of Marburg, Center for Conflict Studies*.

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Feminist and Cross-Cultural Readings: Women's Art and Literature

IMAN AL-GHAFARI

For more info and registration

[OFF-UNIVERSITY.COM](https://www.off-university.com)

How do women's arts and literature convey new meanings of sex, body, desire, identity, morality, and sexuality? This course provides a thorough insight into feminist approaches to literature and a comprehensive analysis of women's literary and artistic achievements from a feminist, lesbian, and cross-cultural perspective. Participants will learn how feminist literary criticism and queer theories can be used to interpret the works of female writers and artists. Through the application of feminist philosophy, they will explore the concept of the rebellious gaze both as readers and as viewers of various selected literary and artistic works created by many female writers and artists who come from different races and cultures and

who challenge the dominant representations of the female body and sexuality. The selected works encompass diverse modes of thinking, writing, doing, and being. Numerous disciplines will be included, such as visual arts, literary arts, and performing arts. Feminist and lesbian theories will be used as a tool for re-reading and re-looking at women's representations of the body, pleasure, sexuality, girlhood, womanhood, nudity, feminine beauty, and lesbian love in intercultural contexts. Hence, women's poems, songs, films, documentaries, interviews, TV programs, cartoons, photographs, short stories, and fine arts will be re-read and interpreted with a new semiotic approach that deconstructs the hegemony of 'patriarchal symbolic order' in both modernist and postmodernist discourses.



Iman AL-GHAFARI

has a PhD in English Literature and gender studies from Cairo University (1999). Her doctoral dissertation is about "*The Quest for Identity in the Poetry of Sylvia Plath: A Feminist Approach*." She worked as a Professor in Syria and was a pioneer in writing about the lesbian identity in the Arab culture. Her academic publications revolve around gender, sexuality, and epistemology in media, literature, and translation. Starting from 2012, she has held post-doctoral research positions at Amsterdam University and Utrecht University. In 2016, she was invited to be a guest writer in Sweden where she published poems and articles about exile, identity and lesbian love. Currently, she is affiliated to Off-University. She is also finalizing a manuscript on "*Lesbian Issues in Middle-Eastern Cultures Vis-a-vis Western Cultures: Between Theory and Practice*".

Start Date: **20 APR 2023 / Thursday / 16:00 - 18:00 (CET)**

Participants will receive a certificate covering **6 ECTS credits** upon successful completion of the course.

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This course is hosted by
University of Potsdam,
Institute for English and
American Studies.

Gastro-Politics, Migration and The City

NEVRA AKDEMİR

For more info and registration

[OFF-UNIVERSITY.COM](https://www.off-university.com)

This course looks at various theoretical and methodological works at the intersection of migration, gender, race and class studies in relation to critical food studies and spatial politics. It aims to envision how we can build gender equal, emancipatory and solidary kitchen and table practice by fusing fractured migrant identities and addressing intimidating power relationships in the kitchen triangle.

Thus, by considering food as an anchor for tracing the transformation of social relations and the kitchen as a nodal point, we can perhaps open a new space for a definition of value that takes care work into consideration



NEVRA AKDEMİR

Independent Feminist Researcher. She completed her undergraduate studies in Econometrics, her Masters degree in Development Economics, and her PhD in Urban Studies. She published a book titled *Accumulation with Subcontractors: Informalization in Tuzla Shipyards Region* and has articles on food studies, labour geography and migration. She continues to work at the intersection of gender, precarious working regimes, labour, migration and critical food studies.

Start Date: **12 APR 2023 / Wednesday / 10:00 - 12:00 (CET)**

*Participants will receive a certificate covering **4 ECTS** credits upon successful completion of the course.*

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This course is hosted by
*Osnabrück University,
Institute for Migration Research and
Intercultural Studies.*

Literature and Social Issues in the Middle East

SHADA BOKIR
MOHAMMED ALMAHFALI

For more info and registration

[OFF-UNIVERSITY.COM](https://www.off-university.com)

This course explores the significance of literature in the Middle East throughout history. It provides a survey of Arabic literature through a selection of texts on a wide range of topics. In this seminar, they will be examined in relation to the contextual settings during which they were written. Students will learn more about the lives of the classical Arab poets and the circumstances in which their poetry was created.

Furthermore, we will evaluate how modern Arabic literature addresses social issues, by discussing a sample of modern Arabic literature including poetry, novels, and short stories. Through the reading provided in the course, there will be lively discussions on the literature in relation to the social context of the period from a variety of perspectives.



SHADA BOKIR

is a lecturer and sociocultural anthropologist. Her research interests are Literary Criticism, anthropology, Middle Eastern studies, and Yemeni studies. Shada finished her Masters in Literature as a Fulbright Scholar at Appalachian State University, North Carolina, USA, then her doctorate studies at the National University of Malaysia in post-colonial literature in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She currently works as a lecturer of literature and a Post-Doc researcher at the University of Vienna. She published several scholarly papers including: *Identity Experiments in two Female Photographers of Yemeni Women*, *Exploring 'Her' Depictions of the 19th Century Social Transactions in Alcott's Behind the Mask*.



MOHAMMED ALMAHFALI

is a research fellow at Columbia Global Centers – Amman. He received his Ph.D. from Cairo University in 2014, and then he worked as an assistant professor at Hadhramout University – Yemen, before moving to Lund University Sweden to work as a visiting researcher at the Center for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies. His research interests include Arabic political, media and literary discourse analysis, access to health, capacity-building in higher education and sustainable post-conflict recovery strategies to address the challenges in Yemen for the coming years. Among his latest publication are: *Human rights from an Islamic perspective: A critical review of Arabic peer-reviewed articles*.

Start Date: **12 APR 2023 / Wednesday / 14:00 - 16:00 (CET)**

Participants will receive a certificate upon successful completion of the course.

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This course is sponsored by *The New University in Exile Consortium*.



Çevresel ve Sosyal Sürdürülebilirlik için Modada Küçülme

MURAT YAVUZ

Daha fazla bilgi ve kayıt için

[OFF-UNIVERSITY.COM](https://www.off-university.com)

Ana akım Hızlı Moda endüstrisi, emeğin ve doğanın sömürülmesi üzerine kuruludur. Kıyafetlerimizi yapan insanların çoğu temel ihtiyaçlarını karşılayacak kadar maaş almıyor ve moda endüstrisinin körüklediği iklim krizinin etkilerini şimdiden hissediyor. Dünya Bankası'na göre moda endüstrisi, küresel karbon emisyonlarının %10'unu oluşturuyor, bu da tüm uluslararası uçuşlar ve deniz taşımacılığının toplamından daha fazla. Bu tür bir yıkım karşısında birçok alternatif moda kuramı ve akımı geliştirilmektedir.

Bunlardan biri Modada Küçülme fikridir. Küçülme teorisinin temelini oluşturan ilkelerin modaya uygulanması, hem çevresel hem de sosyal felaketlerin önlenmesi için birçok düşünür ve aktivist hareket tarafından önerilmektedir.

Bu dersin amacı, Küresel Moda Tedarik Zincirinin neden olduğu sosyal ve çevresel zararın nedenlerini ve sonuçlarını istatistik ve haritalara dayalı olarak ortaya koymaktır. Böylece on dört haftalık dersin ilk sekiz haftasında öğrencilerin bilgi ve tutumları dönüşecektir. Takip eden altı hafta boyunca öğrenciler Modada Küçülme için teorik, pratik veya sanatsal önerilerde bulunabilecek veya uygulamalar yapabileceklerdir.

Başlangıç Tarihi: **20 NİSAN 2023 / Perşembe / 19:00 - 21:00 (UTC+3)**

*Katılımcılar dersi başarıyla tamamladıklarında **6 ECTS** kredisi belirten sertifikalarını alabilecekler.*

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Bu ders *Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München*, *Institute for European Ethnology and Cultural Analysis* ev sahipliğinde gerçekleştirilmektedir.



University without borders — Sınır tanımayan üniversite — Universität ohne Grenzen

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