

**الصف المتقدّم**  
**المجتمع المدني في العالم العربي**  
**ربيع ٢٠٢١**

Class time	M, W 2:00 - 3:20 pm; join URL: <a href="https://unt.zoom.us/j/81909231960">https://unt.zoom.us/j/81909231960</a> Class meets for 50 min, and students will submit work online by Fridays
Instructor	Caroline Najour
E-mail	<a href="mailto:Caroline.Najour@unt.edu">Caroline.Najour@unt.edu</a>
Phone number	469 438 9603
Office	Zoom ID: 469 4389603
Office Hours	By appointment

### Legend

Zoom	Canvas > zoom
Homework	Canvas > Assignments. Homework is posted in “schedule” under modules. Homework is due by class time, not after the class has started.
Final paper	Canvas > Assignments

Communication Expectations: The best way to reach me is via email. Please avoid using canvas to email me; rather, send an email directly to [Caroline.Najour@unt.edu](mailto:Caroline.Najour@unt.edu). I respond within 24 hours on weekdays, and on Monday, when email is sent after 5 pm on Friday.

This class relies heavily on canvas where grades and assignments will be regularly posted. Be sure to check Canvas and your email daily as the instructor will share important information pertaining to class over the email.

### Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT’s full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

### Course Description

This course is designed for students who have had at least four semesters of Arabic instruction or who have tested out of the first 12 credits of Arabic. It explores cultural, social, political, and economic issues in the Arab world, placing particular focus on the contributions of civil society to promote cultural projects and bring awareness and work toward solutions to major problems plaguing Arab societies. The course will address a variety of issues that are currently at the forefront of civil society organizations’ focus such as children’s and women’s rights. By the end of the semester, students are expected to carry out a lengthy writing project.

## Course Structure

The class will be meeting synchronously via zoom twice a week for 50 minutes. Additionally, students are required to turn in work on Canvas by Friday at 8 pm. Homework details and class activities are posted on the weekly schedule in modules on canvas, and homework must be submitted on Canvas prior to class.

## Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

ARBC 2040 and ARBC 2050, or equivalent, are prerequisites for this class. Alternatively, students can take the placement test and test out of the first 12 credits of Arabic.

## Course Objectives

1. Developing language skills to write and discuss issues relevant to civil societies in the Arab world.
2. Learning about social, cultural, economic and political issues in the Arab world.
3. Developing research skills.

## Required Textbooks and Materials

There are no required textbooks for this class. All resources will be provided by the instructor and posted on Canvas.

## Teaching Philosophy

I am a firm believer in the importance of fostering learner agency and in creating a learning environment that encourages student autonomy. For that purpose, I encourage and expect students to assume responsibility for their learning and to view the instructor not as the source of knowledge but as a coach helping them on their learning journey. Finally, another important factor in successful learning is learner-learner interaction. Therefore, I strive to create a collaborative learning environment where students work together to accomplish tasks, drawing on each others' strengths and resources.

## Course Technology & Skills

### Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Plug-ins
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)  
(<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

## Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Below is a list of course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course:

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UIT Help Desk:** [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

**Email:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130

**Walk-In Availability:** 8am-9pm

**Telephone Availability:**

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)  
(<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

## Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.

- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

## Course Requirements and Grade Distribution

### Attendance, Participation and Preparation (20%)

This is a student centered class; I look forward to you being in class on time and well-prepared. Regular attendance is crucial to keeping up with the pace of the class and your overall success. Daily attendance and participation are graded on a scale of 1 to 5, and will be posted on Canvas after every class.

- Most of class time will be devoted to activities in a collaborative format. To participate actively and engage others with the material, you need to read the assigned articles, listen to the podcasts or watch the designated movie. During the semester, it might happen that you were unable to prepare for a particular class adequately. In this case, please make sure to inform your instructor via email or the chat function on zoom, and she can include you in larger groups and will avoid asking you questions in class.
- In case of an absence, please inform me before, not after, the class you will be missing. The participation grade for that day will be a “0,” but the lowest two grades for attendance and participation are automatically dropped on Canvas allowing you to miss two classes without impacting your grade.
- You are responsible for any class work, homework, and for any announcements made in your absence.

### **For get a full participation score, you need to:**

- Join the zoom classroom a couple of minutes before class starts and have your camera on
  - Attendance and participation points will be deducted for tardiness as follows:
    - Arrival during the first 10 min of class = 1 pt.
    - Arrival during the first 20 min of class = 2 pts.
    - Arrival during the first 30 min of class = 3 pts.
    - Arrival during the first 40 min of class = 4 pts.
    - If you arrive more than 40 minutes late, you will receive a “0” for that day’s participation.
  - Camera policy: I believe that the class feels more personal if we can see each other. If, however, you feel uncomfortable having your camera on, please inform the instructor before class. There is no need to explain the reasons behind your decision.

- Be fully prepared for class activities, and participate actively in class and group activities during zoom synchronous meetings. The homework due prior to class will help prepare you for class activities. Attendance and participation points will be deducted for participation as follows:
  - Not actively participating in every class activities= 1 pt.
  - Being unable to participate in an activity because of lack of preparation for class, such as not having watched the video being discussed in class= 2 pts.

#### Homework Assignments and vocabulary lists (40%)

- Expect to spend a minimum of 2 hours of homework in preparation for every class session. Homework assignments must be submitted on canvas before the beginning of every class, and late homework assignments will not be accepted unless you have received an approval from the instructor prior to the assignment's due date. The lowest 2 grades for homework are not counted toward your final grade.
- Homework assignments will be graded on a scale from 1 to 5. You will be graded on the overall quality of your work, and on the effort you put into the homework and not on the number of incorrect answers.
- Each student will be working on a vocabulary list ( "قائمة بالمفردات المهمة" ) on quizlet. This vocabulary list is a compilation of vocabulary necessary to express the ideas discussed in the assigned material and in class. You will need to share a link of your quizlet set in assignments on Canvas according to the weekly schedule.
- Vocabulary lists are not necessarily words that are new to you. Rather the lists are for words that are necessary to express ideas relevant to this class, and that you will need to easily recall and be able to produce during class conversations. The list aims to help elevate your speech from everyday language to educated Arabic. You are expected to review your list and use these words and expressions in class discussions and in subsequent homework. You need to list the word and its English equivalent. There is no need to add the plural forms of nouns or the MaSdar of verbs. The daily schedule will inform you of due dates for the vocabulary lists.
- Homework will be submitted on canvas under assignments.
- Homework assignments will be graded on a scale from 1 to 5. You will be graded on the overall quality of your work, and on the effort you put into the homework and not on the number of correct answers. It is important to note that this is not a simple completion grade; rather you are required to put effort and review the necessary material to do well on the homework.
- The lowest two homework grades will be dropped.

#### Planning and leading class discussions (20%)

During the semester, each student will be in charge of leading class discussions for a week as well as providing all the material necessary for those classes. Each student will choose a cultural, social, political, or economic topic that is the focus of one of the civil society organizations in the Arab world. Students will research the topic thoroughly to decide on the most relevant articles for our class to read

as well as a podcast to listen to or an episode in a TV program or a film that addresses the topic in depth.

Students must meet with the instructor 3 weeks prior to the week in which they will be leading class discussions to go over the materials and their lesson plans.

### **Final Written project (20 %)**

The final written project is 800 to 1000 words long and will explore a salient cultural, social, political, or economic issue in any Arab country. You may not choose the topic you had worked on when leading class discussions. The paper will require research and a bibliography; it is due on April 26th, uploaded on canvas, under assignments.

### **Grade distribution:**

Attendance, Participation and Preparation: 20 %

Homework: 40%

Planning for and leading class discussions: 20%

Final written project: 20 %

### **Grading Scale**

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

### **Course Evaluation**

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course.

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the semester to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations

via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

## Course Policies

### Language

You are expected to speak only in Arabic from the time you enter the classroom including when you chat with your classmates before class officially starts and when working in groups.

### Late Work

Late homework assignments will not be accepted unless you received an approval from the instructor prior to the assignment's due date; however, the lowest two homework grades will be dropped automatically on Canvas. This will allow you to miss two homework assignments without impacting your grade.

### Academic Honesty:

I expect you to submit your own work and participate in all aspects of the course with integrity and academic honesty. It is against the policy of this course to use an answer key or any translation platform or resource, to enlist the help of a fluent Arabic speaker or to have your work checked by anyone other than your instructors before submitting it. Working on the homework with other classmates is allowed, but each student must submit to the instructor his or her own answers.

### Grading Concerns

I encourage you to reach out to your instructor as soon as possible if you have any questions about grades or if you feel that the grade is not accurate or fair. It is extremely important you understand the rubric and the reasoning for your grades. Grades for participation will be posted immediately after class; if you have questions about your attendance grade, please reach out to the instructor before the following class.

### Attendance Policy

I look forward to you being in class on time and well-prepared. Regular attendance is crucial to keeping up with the pace of the class and your overall success. Daily attendance and participation are graded on a scale of 1 to 5, and will be posted on Canvas after every class.

- Most of class time will be devoted to doing group work. To participate actively and engage others with the material, you need to prepare well before class. During the semester, you may be unable to prepare for class adequately, please be sure to inform me beforehand. I will arrange for you to learn by listening that day and will avoid asking you questions in class.
- In case of an absence, please inform me before, not after, the class you will be missing. The participation grade for that day will be a "0," but the lowest two grades for attendance and participation are automatically dropped on canvas allowing you to miss two classes without impacting your grade.

- You are responsible for any class work, homework, and for any announcements made in your absence.
- Starting the second week of class, you will submit work by Friday at 8 pm; it will count as an attendance grade.

### **Assignment Policy**

All assignments will be indicated on the schedule uploaded on canvas in modules.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

## **UNT Policies**

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

### **ODA Policy**

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/).

### **Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)**

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment



policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

### **Emergency Notification & Procedures**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### **Retention of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

### **Acceptable Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

### **Access to Information - Eagle Connect**

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](https://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

### **Sexual Assault Prevention**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal

laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at [oeo@unt.edu](mailto:oeo@unt.edu) or at (940) 565 2759.

### **Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses**

#### **Federal Regulation**

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](http://www.ecfr.gov/) (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

#### **University of North Texas Compliance**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

#### Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

#### Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

## Academic Support & Student Services

### Student Support Services

#### Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or

its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)  
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)  
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)  
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

### Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

\*UNT euIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.

### Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

### **Additional Student Support Services**

- Registrar (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

### **Academic Support Services**

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)