

Advanced Topics: Arabic Media

ARBC 3060

Fall 2014

Class: T/TH 11.00- 12.20 LANG 113

Instructor: Caroline Najour

E-mail: Caroline.Najour@unt.edu

Office: LANG 403 A

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30- 10.50

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Elgibali, Alaa and Nevenka Korica. *Media Arabic: A coursebook for Reading Arabic News*. American University of Cairo, 2014.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for students who have had the equivalent of four semesters of Arabic instruction. It allows students to master vocabulary typical of news stories and the Arabic media and to develop critical reading skills as well as speed and accuracy in reading. The course will also expose students to authentic listening texts from the Arab media and will build their accuracy in listening comprehension.

COURSE POLICIES:

Class Conduct:

Be considerate of other student's opinions. We will discuss in class some politically and socially sensitive topics, which is not always easy nor comfortable. Don't be reluctant to voice your opinion but make sure you do so respectfully.

Remember to greet the instructors and your classmates when you enter class. In Arab culture, you don't enter a room without greeting others. Also, you are expected to engage in small talk with your classmates while waiting for class to start.

Eating or chewing gum is not allowed, but feel free to bring coffee, water or soft drinks to class. Please keep your cell phones in silent mode and in your backpacks.

Academic Honesty

- Do your own work. It is against the policy of this course to use *Google Translate*, 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.

Language:

Please use only Arabic from the moment you enter class. If you think you need to use English, ask for permission first. English could be used, however, during office hours and in communication via email. Points from class participation grades will be deducted for speaking in Arabic. Raise your hand when you need help saying something in Arabic.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Blackboard and E-mail:

For your success in this class be sure to **check your email regularly** as the instructor will share important information pertaining to class over the email.

This class relies heavily on blackboard where grades, a working schedule and assignments will be regularly posted.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Attendance, Participation and Preparation (25%) :

- You are expected to attend all classes and to show up to class well prepared. Your grade for participation in class will account for 25% of your final grade. Your daily attendance and participation grade will be on a scale from 1 to 5. It will be on blackboard by 8 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, so make sure to check blackboard to see how well you are doing.
- Most of class time will be devoted to doing group or pair work. To participate actively and engage others with the material, you need to prepare well before class! If for any reason, you have been unable to prepare for class adequately, make sure to inform your

instructor beforehand and she can arrange for you **to learn by listening that day**. Also, make sure you refrain from using English during group activities; just raise your hand when you need help.

- If you have to miss class, please inform your instructor **before not after the class you will be missing**. The grade for that day's participation will be "0." The lowest 2 grades for attendance and participation will not be counted when calculating the final grade at the end of the semester.

- Students are responsible for any class work, homework and for any announcement made during their absence.

- Attendance and participation grades **will be deducted for tardiness as follows:**

arrival during first 5 mins. of class = 1 Pt.

during first 10 mins. = 2 Pts.

during first 15 mins. = 3 Pts.

during first 20 mins. = 4 Pts

If you arrive more than 20 mins. late for class you will receive a "0" for that day's class participation

Homework Assignments (20 %) :

- It is our philosophy that new material will not be presented in class. Rather, you will prepare for it at home. Class time is reserved for the activation and practice of what you have studied and prepared at home. Expect to spend an average of 3 hours of learning new material, reviewing and writing homework at home for every class session. Homework assignments must be turned in before the beginning of class. **Late homework assignments will not be accepted** unless you have received an approval from the instructor before the date when the assignment is due.

- Homework must be hand written, double spaced, and sheets of papers must be stapled. Make sure you write the homework number (from the assignment schedule). Points will be deducted when submitted work does not follow those guidelines. Please refer to the sample homework attached to the syllabus as an example.

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.

Quizzes (15%):

Vocabulary quizzes will take place throughout the course to encourage you to study key words. Dates for quizzes will be announced at least one week in advance.

Interview with a classmate (15%):

You will work on this project with a classmate. One of you will act as one of the Arab public figure and the other will be his or her interviewer. The interview should be around 8 minutes long and should address the main issues that concern the person supposedly being interviewed.

Semester Project (25%):

In the first two weeks of the course, you will be required to identify a broad topic you are interested in exploring. You will be the class' expert on the topic and you will fill us in on developments occurring through:

1. several short presentations throughout the semester.
2. a 400 word analysis of the issue and its coverage in the media due toward the end of the semester.
3. A 15 minute presentation in which you will explain the issue, offer solutions, and critique alternative arguments. The presentation is due in the final week of classes.

Grade distribution:

Attendance, Participation and Preparation: 25 %

Homework: 20%

Interview: 15 %

quizzes: 15 %

Final project: 25 %

Grading Scale

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

Office of the Registrar—Fall 2014 Registration Guide

<http://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

This is a link to important dates for adding, dropping, withdrawing, and so forth.

Office of the Registrar—Fall 2014 Exam Schedule

<http://registrar.unt.edu/exams/fall>

This is a link to the official schedule for final exams.

Undergraduate Catalog

<http://catalog.unt.edu/>

This is a link to the official catalog for all undergraduate students.

UNT Policy Manual

<http://policy.unt.edu/policy-by-number/1>

This is a link to the official policy manual for faculty and students.

Disability Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class.

Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student.

For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

[1] This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

