

# Advanced Topics in the Culture of the Middle East: Holidays and Cultural Traditions ARBC 3040 Spring 2016

Time	M, W	2.00 – 3.20 pm in LANG 109
Instructor	Caroline Najour	
E-mail	Caroline.Najour@unt.edu	
Office	LANG 401 L	
Office Hours	Mondays and Wednesdays	9:00 - 9:50 am and 1:00 - 1:50 pm
	Fridays	9:00 - 9:50 am and by appointment

## Required Textbook

Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal, and Abbas Al Tonsi. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-Arabiyya with DVDs: A Textbook for Intermediate Arabic. Part Two*. Third Edition. Washington, D.C. Georgetown University Press, 2013.

Students need to enroll in the instructor's course at the companion website. Check blackboard for the registration instructions.

## Course Description

This course is designed for students who have had at least four semesters of Arabic instruction. It allows student to master vocabulary typical of holidays and cultural traditions and to develop critical reading skills as well as speed and accuracy in reading. The course will also expose students to authentic listening texts and will build their accuracy in listening comprehension. By the end of the semester, students are expected to carry out a lengthy writing project about a cultural issue they are interested in. Also, students will continue to be exposed to the Shaami dialect, which will be integrated with MSA in this course.

## Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

### I. Listening:

Listen to long authentic texts discussing culturally significant topics and delivered in clear speech and normal speed.

### II. Speaking:

Express opinions regarding matters of cultural relevance to the Middle East.

### III. Reading:

Read and understand long authentic texts dealing with matters of cultural relevance to the Middle East

### IV. Writing:

Write a 1250 word project on a topic related to traditions.

## Course Policies

### Attendance policy

- You are expected to attend all classes and to show up to class well prepared.
- In case of absence, please inform your instructor before not after the class you will be missing.
- Students are responsible for any class work, homework, and for any announcement made during their absence.

### Academic Honesty

- 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 instructor** 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.

### Blackboard and E-mail

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

## Grade Distribution

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

- You are expected to attend all classes and to show up to class well prepared. Your grade for participation in class will account for 20 % of your final grade. Your attendance and participation grade will be on a scale from 1 to 5.
- 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.
- In case of absence, 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 3 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%)

- 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 prior to the assignment's due date.
- Homework must be double spaced, and **sheets of papers must be stapled**. Make sure you write the homework number. Points will be deducted when submitted work does not follow these guidelines.
- 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.

### Quizzes (20%)

You will have several short vocab and grammar quizzes covering the material learned throughout the course. Dates for quizzes will be announced at least one week in advance.

### **Writing portfolio (25%)**

This semester you will create a writing portfolio. One of your classmates as well as you instructor will give you feedback on your first draft for each writing assignment. You will revise your writing accordingly, and only your second draft will be graded. Make sure you staple your first draft to the revised version. You need to keep all your writing assignment in a folder. Please submit your folder along with all previous writing assignment any time you turn in a new piece of writing. This will allow your instructor to trace the progress you are making throughout the semester.

### **Final project (15%)**

The final written project is approximately 1250 words long about a cultural aspect of the Arab world you are interested in. It must be typed using the Traditional Arabic font at size 16.

### **Grade distribution:**

Attendance, Participation and Preparation: 20 %

Homework: 20%

Quizzes: 20 %

Writing portfolio: 25 %

Final Project: 15%

### **Grading Scale**

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

**Here is a list of important links:**

#### **Office of the Registrar— Spring 2016 Registration Guide**

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

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

#### **Office of the Registrar— Spring 2016 Exam Schedule**

<http://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/spring>

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.

### **Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)**

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 short SPOT survey will be made available April 18th – May 1st to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. For the spring 2016 semester you will receive an email on April 18th (12:01 a.m.) from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at [www.spot.unt.edu](http://www.spot.unt.edu) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

### **Disability Accommodation**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic 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