

# Advanced Topics in Mid-East Culture

## ARBC 3040 : Arab Artistic Traditions

### Fall 2023

Class time	T, Th	2:00 - 3:20 pm	LANG 202
Instructor	Caroline Najour		
E-mail	<a href="mailto:Caroline.Najour@unt.edu">Caroline.Najour@unt.edu</a>		
Phone number	469 438 9603		
Office	LANG 401 L; Zoom Room ID: 469 4389603		
Office Hours	M and W , 9:00 - 11:30 am & by appointment		

#### Resources

Khallina خَلِينَا نَتَعَلَّمُ الثقافة العربية : an open source tool on Arab culture. [Khallina.org](http://Khallina.org)

اصوات عربية: an open source tool that provides authentic video excerpts for learners of Arabic as materials for listening comprehension. <https://www.laits.utexas.edu/aswaat>

#### Course Description

How are Arab cultures reflected through traditions and arts? This course is designed for students who have had at least four semesters of Arabic instruction. It explores calligraphy, fashion, cuisine, and traditional crafts that are a part of the Arab world. The course allows students to master vocabulary integral to the arts and exposes students to authentic reading and listening texts in order to build their accuracy in listening comprehension and develop critical reading skills. By the end of the semester, students are expected to carry out a writing project on Arab art.

#### 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.

#### Legend

Exit tickets	Canvas > Assignments" > Click "show by type" on the top right > "Attendance and exit tickets". Students will submit very short tasks as exit tickets at the end of every class to showcase what they have learned during class.
Homework	Canvas > "Assignments" > "homework assignments". Homework is posted on the "schedule" under modules as of the second week of class. During the first week of class, the homework is shared in announcements. Homework is due on canvas before every class.
Quizzes	In class
Final paper	Canvas > "Assignments" > "Final Paper".

Your success in this class is extremely important to me. If any aspects of this course prevent you from learning, please reach out as soon as possible. I will do my utmost best to work with you and to develop strategies that support your success.

### 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.

## Course Requirements and Grade Distribution

### Attendance, Participation and Preparation (25%) المشاركة في الصف

- Class time is the best opportunity to develop your Arabic oral fluency. Speaking in Arabic and avoiding the urge to use English is important to create a full immersion environment that is integral to your proficiency development. **Active** participation is essential to make good progress. Don't use short answers when you can elaborate; rather, try your best to express your thoughts in long sentences and to think at a paragraph level.
- You are expected to attend all classes and to show up to class well prepared. Your daily attendance and participation grade will be on a scale from "1 to 5". The grade will be posted on Canvas after each class, so please be sure to check there daily to see how well you are doing.
- Most of class time will be devoted to doing group or pair work. To actively participate, you need to prepare well prior to class. If for any reason, you have been unable to prepare for class adequately, be sure to inform your instructor beforehand and she can arrange for you to learn by listening that day.
- In case of an absence, please inform your instructor **before the class that will be missed, not afterwards**. The grade for that day's participation will be a "0."
- The lowest 2 "Attendance, Participation, and Exit Ticket" grades will be dropped.
- Students are responsible for any class work, homework, and for any announcement made during their absence.
- To receive a grade of a "5" on participation, students must:
  - come on time
    - Attendance and participation grades will be deducted for tardiness as follows:
      - arrival during the first 10 mins. of class = 1 Pt.
      - during the first 20 mins. = 2 Pts.
      - during the first 30 mins. = 3 Pts.
      - during the first 40 mins. = 4 Pts
      - If you arrive more than 40 mins. late for class, you will receive a "0" for that day's class participation

- abstain from checking their phones and be actively engaged in all activities.  
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.
  - abstain from using English during class time
    - Up to 1 point will be deducted for students using English during class
- .
- **Exit tickets:** Turn in your exit ticket on canvas before leaving the classroom. Your exit ticket assignment must showcase adequate preparation prior to class and an understanding of the material covered in class. You are encouraged to seek your classmates' or your instructor's help if you are struggling with the task of the exit ticket. Exit tickets are not quizzes; rather, opportunities for you and your instructor to be sure you understand the material before moving on.

#### Homework Assignments (25%) الواجبات

- Expect to spend a minimum of two hours outside of class on homework in preparation for every following class session.
- Homework assignments must be turned in on canvas prior to class and late assignments will not be accepted unless you have received approval from the instructor prior to the due date. The lowest two grades for homework will not be counted when calculating the final grade at the end of the semester.
- Homework will be submitted on canvas. Click on assignments, then Click "show by type" on the top right, then "homework assignments" and scroll the right homework number. You will find the homework number on the schedule available on canvas, under "modules," schedule. Please note that whenever the assignment is a file upload, only pdfs are allowed.
- Homework assignments will be graded on a scale from 1 to 10. 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 a good job on the homework.
- The lowest two homework grades will be dropped.
- It is your responsibility to check that the grade you receive is fair. The grader is encouraged to write to let you know why you have less than a perfect score. If any grade does not make sense, please write in the comments on canvas to inquire. If the grade still does not seem fair to you, please let your instructor know.

#### Quizzes (15%) الامتحانات القصيرة

Quizzes may include writing and listening components in addition to grammar and vocabulary. Dates for the quizzes will be announced at least one week in advance.

### Oral presentations (15%) التقديمات الشفوية

- Three times during the semester, you will be delivering a seven to ten minute presentation. The first will be about a famous Arab artist. This could be a writer, a poet, a singer, a painter or a musician. The second is about Arab clothing, and the third about Arab cuisine. You are highly encouraged to include visual aids.
- Oral presentations may be delivered in MSA or in Educated Spoken Arabic.

### Final research paper (20 %) المشروع النهائي

- The final written project is a minimum of 750 words long and will explore an aspect of Arab arts. It will require research and a bibliography. It is due on Thursday December 14 by midnight.
- You must get your instructor's approval regarding your choice of topic.

### Grade distribution:

Attendance, Participation, and Preparation: 25 %

Homework: 25%

Quizzes: 15 %

Oral presentations: 15 %

Final research paper: 20%

### Grading Scale

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

## Course Policies

### Language

Please use only Arabic from the moment you enter class. English may be used on occasion to explain some grammatical concepts, during translation exercises, or for a quick translation of a word. In all other instances, only Arabic should be used in class including when chatting with classmates before class begins.

If you think you need to use English, ask for permission first. English may be used, however, during office hours and via email correspondence. Class participation points will be deducted for speaking English in class. This is a chance to practice, so take full advantage!

## 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.

## Academic Integrity

I expect you to submit your own work and participate in all aspects of the course with integrity and academic honesty. Do your own work. 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. Failure to follow this policy on any assignment will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

Working on the homework with other classmates is encouraged, but each student must submit to the instructor his or her own answers.

To learn more, check [UNT's Academic Integrity Policy](#).

## 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.

## 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, participation and exit tickets are graded on a scale of 1 to 5, and will be posted on Canvas after every 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 will be 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.

## Homework

Assigned homework will be posted on Canvas and, unless otherwise noted, must be submitted before the beginning of the following class session.

## Class Conduct

Remember to greet the instructor and your classmates when you enter class and to engage in small talk with your classmates (in Arabic, of course!) while waiting for class to begin.

Eating or chewing gum is not allowed, but feel free to bring coffee, tea, or water.

Please keep your cell phones in silent mode, in your bags, and out of sight during class time.

Lastly, please be respectful of the instructor and your classmates at all times. Behavior that is disruptive or disrespectful in any manner will not be tolerated. We are all here to learn, so please do not inhibit the learning process for yourself, your classmates, or the instructor.

## UNT Policies

### Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. 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.

### 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 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](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

### ODA Statement

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 Access (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, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

### **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.

## **Academic Support & Student Services**

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

### **Office of the Registrar— Fall 2023 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 2023 Exam Schedule**

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



## 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 eulDs 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?](#)

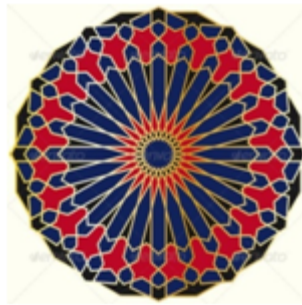
### Additional Student Support Services

- [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/)



حظاً سعيداً وبالتوفيق!

*\*\*This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified of all updates; then it becomes their responsibility to adhere to the changes.*