

Advanced Topics in Arabic: Arab Traditions, Cultures & Arts ARBC 3040 Spring 2018

Class	Monday and Wednesday	2:00 - 3.20 pm in LANG 212
Instructor	Caroline Najour	
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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

Textbook and Resources

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

Khallina خَلِّينَا نتعلّم الثقافة العربية : an open source tool on Arab culture. Khallina.org

اصوات عربيّة : 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 holidays in the Arab world as well as calligraphy, cuisine, traditional clothing, and music as windows to understanding Arab cultures. The course allows student to master vocabulary typical of holidays, cultural traditions, and arts. Throughout the semester, students will give several short presentations about holidays and celebrations or about artists and musicians they are interested in. Students will continue 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.

Course Policies and Requirements

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.

Academic Honesty:

- Do your own work. It is against the policy of this course to use an answer key or 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.

Homework:

Assigned homework will be posted on blackboard and, unless otherwise noted, must be submitted at the beginning of the following session.

Class conduct:

- It is expected in Arab culture to greet others upon entering a room, so remember to greet the instructors and your classmates when you enter class.
- Eating or chewing gum is not allowed, but feel free to bring coffee, water or soft drinks to class.
- Please keep you cell phones in silent mode and in your backpacks.

Blackboard and Email:

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

المشاركة في الصف (20%) Attendance, Participation and Preparation

- Class time is your 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 important to your proficiency development. **Active** participation is essential to make good progress. Don't use short answers when you can elaborate; rather try 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. It will be posted on blackboard after each class, so make sure to check blackboard daily to see how well you are doing.
- Most of class time will be devoted to doing group or pair work. To participate actively, 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 s/he can arrange for you to learn by listening that day.**
- 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 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

الواجبات (20%) Homework Assignments

- Expect to spend a minimum of 3 hours of homework in preparation for every class session.
- Homework assignments must be turned in at 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 will not be counted when calculating the final grade at the end of the semester.
- Homework must be double spaced, and **sheets of papers must be stapled**. Make sure you write your name and the homework number. Points will be deducted when submitted work does not follow any of those 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 and not on the number of incorrect answers.

- Make sure you write your homework assignment in full sentences for fill-in-the blank exercises. You will not receive credit for the exercise when you submit just a list of words rather than full sentences.

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.

Short Oral presentations (10%) التقديمات الشفوية

- Every three weeks, you will be delivering a short 5 minute presentation about a topic of your choice pertaining to the overall theme of the course. You are highly encouraged to include visual aids.
- Also, you will be delivering a presentation about the preparation of a Arab dish of your choice during the “Annual Cooking Workshop” on April 17th from 2 to 3.20 in addition to a short presentation on traditional clothing during the “Annual Fashion Show” event scheduled on the first week of April.
- Oral presentation may be delivered in MSA or in Educated Spoken Arabic.

Reading text preparation and leading class discussion (5%) تحضير القراءة وإدارة الصف

- For one session this semester, you and a classmate will lead the classroom discussion and analysis of a reading text.
- Your group will choose a level appropriate Arabic text which explores an issue pertaining to Arab traditions and arts that you find interesting.
- Two weeks prior to the class discussion of your reading, you need to meet with your instructor and submit a list of 8 to 10 vocabulary words that are important for the understanding of the reading, along with a list of questions your classmates could work on as homework. Both must be submitted to the instructor for approval and then shared with your classmates under discussions (on blackboard)
- During class, your group will lead the discussion. Feel free to prepare a powerpoint or a game to activate the studied vocabulary, prepare additional questions to be explored in class, plan for a grammar activity that zooms in on one of the passages etc. The choices of activities are open. You will be the instructor for that day!
- For the vocabulary lists:
 - For nouns, please provide the singular and the plural forms.
 - For verbs, please list the past, the present and the gerund (MaSdar) forms.

To discuss	ناقش, يناقش, المناقشة
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Writing portfolio (10%) ملف الكتابة

- Writing is a very effective way to help in retention of new vocabulary. You will be writing 2 essays this semester. Your instructor will give you substantial feedback on your first draft, and you will revise your essay accordingly.
- Because the purpose is to activate the vocabulary and grammatical structures you already know, you are not allowed to use many new words. Feel free to look up to three words for each essay. Write your new vocabulary at the end of the essay (for

nouns, provide the singular and the plural forms, and for verbs, list the past, the present and the gerund (MaSdar) forms)

- The essay must be typed in large font and double spaced. Write your name on top of the page and **include a word count at the end of the essay.** Submit a hardcopy in class, and make sure you submit the first draft with the instructor's comments along with your revised essay.
- The topics must pertain to the themes of the course. Students are allowed to work on the same topic as one of their presentations.
- Essays must be composed primarily in MSA.
- The due dates and length of the word length requirement will be provided in the weekly schedule.

Final Written project (20 %) المشروع النهائي

- The final written project is a minimum of 1250 words long and will explore an aspect of Arab traditions or art. It will require research and a bibliography.
- You must get your instructor's approval regarding your choice of topic.
- The final project must be typed in large font and double spaced. Write your name on top of the page and **include a word count at the end of the essay.**
- It is due on blackboard on May 9th.

Grade distribution:

Attendance, Participation and Preparation: 20 %

Homework: 20%

Quizzes: 15 %

Short oral presentations: 10 %

Leading class discussion: 5%

Writing portfolio: 10 %

Final writing project: 20 %

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 2018 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 2018 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 provides you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. For the spring 2018 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 or email 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.

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. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, & Assault

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT's Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

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