

# Special Problems: Advanced Topics in Arabic: Cultural Islam in the Arab World Spring 2023

## Course Description

This course is designed for students who have had at least four semesters of Arabic instruction. It explores fundamental Islamic teachings about human rights, modern myths v. reality, Islam's compatibility with democracy, and comparisons between modern Islamic States and an authentic Islamic State. Throughout the semester, the student is expected to work on a lengthy research project and on building the required vocabulary to be able to discuss the researched topic.

## Homework (10%)

- Students will submit homework on Canvas during the first three weeks of the semester. Check the list of assignments for details.

## Vocabulary lists (15%)

- Throughout the semester, the student will be compiling a vocabulary list on a google doc, where new words or expressions are added throughout the semester. As of week 5, a list of a minimum of 12 words must be uploaded on Canvas bi-weekly by Saturday at midnight. Please share a link to your first list by the 5th Saturday of the semester.
- Vocabulary lists must include words or expressions that are important to know for your research paper or that you came across in your readings.
- For nouns, please provide singular and plural forms.
- For verbs, please list past, the present, and gerund (MaSdar) forms and the preposition when necessary. Pay attention to MaSdar patterns as you will need to list the verb in the past and the present along with the MaSdar.

To discuss	ناقش, يناقش, المناقشة
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- You are encouraged to consult the Hans Wehr dictionary when compiling your list. [Here](#) is a link to the website.

- Your instructor will provide feedback on your list. You must make any required changes along with your next list. Vocabulary lists will be graded on a scale of 1 to 12. Students will be graded on the:
  - Choice of words included on the list. Students will need to judiciously include words that are relevant to their topic and necessary to express their ideas. Students are encouraged to express their ideas using previously learned vocabulary. Only include vocabulary words you absolutely need to learn for your topic on your list and avoid including words you could have expressed with vocabulary you have previously learned.
  - Corrections made to the previous list.
  - accuracy of the words listed, and the forms required.

### **Drafts of research paper (15%)**

- The research paper is approximately 1200 words long and will explore cultural islam in the Arab World. It will require research and a bibliography.
- The writing is not a one-step process; rather, it will be based on several drafts which will be edited and polished up until the submission of the final version. Students must email the instructor four progressive writing drafts throughout the semester.
  - First draft (minimum of 300 words): due by Saturday midnight of week 4.
  - Second draft (minimum of 600 words): due by Saturday midnight of week 6.
  - Third draft (minimum of 900 words): due by Saturday midnight of week 8.
  - Fourth draft (minimum of 1200 words): due by Saturday midnight of week 10.
- Check the rubric on canvas, under “assignments.”

### **Vocabulary quizzes (15%)**

- You are expected to study and use the words and expressions compiled in your vocabulary list
- Two vocabulary quizzes will take place during the semester. The first quiz is during week 9 and the second one is during week 12. Contact your instructor to schedule the quiz at a convenient time.

### **Presentation (15%)**

During week 14, the student is expected to deliver a 10 minute presentation about their research paper. They are expected to incorporate a majority of the vocabulary learned throughout the semester (from their personal vocabulary list) in the presentation.

- [Here](#) is the rubric for the presentation

**Research paper (30%)**

- The revised final draft of the research paper is due on Canvas by December 10 at midnight

**Grade distribution:**

Homework 10%

Vocabulary lists: 15 %

Drafts of research paper: 15%

Vocabulary quizzes: 15 %

Presentation 15 %

Research paper: 30 %

**List of assignments:**

- Week 1: Write a paragraph about your research topic in English and get started on homework for week 2
- Week 2: Share on canvas (week 2 homework) a preliminary bibliography for your paper; with hyperlinks to the references.
  - Two references must be in English and must be scholarly.
  - Two of your sources must be in Arabic. The Arabic references do NOT need to be scholarly or longer than 2 pages; rather, choose texts that are not too difficult to understand (check week 3).
  - Get started on homework for week 3
- Week 3:
  - Print out your two Arabic references. Identify words that you consider central to your topic, circle them, and write their English translation on the margins.
  - Type an outline of each of your two Arabic references in Arabic and staple it to the printout and submit it to the instructor (the hard copy will be submitted to the instructor a few days after the deadline to upload it on canvas)
  - Upload the print out with circled vocabulary and outline on canvas under homework 3.
- Week 4: First draft (Minimum 300 words) due on Canvas
  - Do not forget to check last week's homework for help with vocabulary you might need.
- Week 5: First list of vocabulary; share the google doc link on canvas.

- Check “vocabulary lists” on the first page of the syllabus for instructions about the format and expectations
- Please be sure your instructor has permission to edit the google doc.
- Week 6: Second draft (Minimum 600 words)
- Week 7: Second list of vocabulary due
- Week 8: Third draft (Minimum 900 words)
- Week 9: Quiz 1 (Vocabulary of first and second lists); third list of vocabulary due but not included in quiz
- Week 10: Fourth draft of the paper due (minimum 1200 words; this draft must include your concluding paragraph/s)
- Week 11: Fourth list of vocabulary due
- Week 12: Quiz 2 (All the vocabulary covered in all 4 lists)
- Week 13: Nothing is due.
- Week 14: Presentation
- May 10: Revised final paper due on Canvas by midnight

### Grading Scale

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

### Other Important Links & Policies

- **Office of the Registrar— Spring 2023 Registration Guide**  
<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide>  
 This is a link to important dates for adding, dropping, withdrawing, and so forth.
- **Undergraduate Catalog**  
<http://catalog.unt.edu/>  
 This is a link to the official catalog for all undergraduate students.

## **Disability Accommodation**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations 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 the 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 their 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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/07.012\\_CodeOfStudConduct.Final8\\_.19.pdf](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/07.012_CodeOfStudConduct.Final8_.19.pdf)

## **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) have experienced or experienced 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>.

The UNT Survivor Advocates can be reached by emailing [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or calling 940-565-2648. The UNT Survivor Advocates connect students who have been impacted by violence to resources (counseling, health, safety, academics, legal, etc.), and act as their advocate. They can assist a student 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 (if needed), and connecting students to the many other resources that are available, both on and off campus. They are here to help! For more information see <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct/reporting-sexual-misconduct>



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*\*\*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.*