

Special Problems: Advanced Topics in Arabic: Implications of the Syrian Civil War Fall 2020

Course Description

This course is designed for students who have had at least four semesters of Arabic instruction. It explores factors leading to civil protests and disobedience in Syria beginning in 2011, as well as events and reactions that led to the outbreak of civil war in 2012. This paper will examine social, political, and economic stressors that created the conditions necessary for protest and violence. Finally, this paper will discuss implications of civil conflict on Syria's future. 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.

Vocabulary lists (20%)

- Throughout the semester, the student will be compiling a vocabulary list on google doc where new words or expressions are added throughout the semester. A list of a minimum of 12 words must be emailed to the instructor bi-weekly by Saturday at 8 pm. Please email your first list by the third Friday 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.
 - o For nouns, please provide singular and plural forms.
 - o 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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- Your instructor will give you feedback on your list. You must make any required changes before you submit your next list. Please submit a print out of the previous list of vocabulary (to show that you have made any necessary changes) along with your new list.

Quizzes (20%)

- You are expected to study and use the words and expressions compiled in your vocabulary list ; they will be included in the quizzes.
- Two vocabulary quizzes will take place during the semester. The first quiz is during week 8 and the second one is during week 12.

Presentation (10%)

- After the paper is written and submitted (during week 12), the student is expected to deliver an 8 to 10 minute presentation about their research paper. It is expected that the student uses a majority of the vocabulary learned throughout the semester (from their personal vocabulary list) in the presentation.

Research paper (50%)

- The research paper is approximately 2000 words long and will explore intricacies relating to the Syrian Civil War which began in 2012 as well potential ramifications for the state. It will require research and a bibliography.
- It 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 due on December 11th. The student is expected to email the instructor three progressive writing drafts throughout the semester that show the student's research and progress in writing.
 - First draft (minimum of 500 words): due by Saturday 8 pm of week 4.
 - Second draft (minimum of 1000 words): due by Saturday 8 pm of week 6.
 - Third draft (minimum of 1500 words): due by Saturday 8 pm of week 8.
 - Paper (approximately 2000 words) is due by Saturday 8 pm of week 10.

Grade distribution:

Vocabulary lists: 20 %

Quizzes: 20 %

Presentation 10 %

Research paper: 50 %

List of Major graded Assignments:

Week 2: Paragraph about your research topic
Week 3: First list of vocabulary
Week 4: First draft (minimum 500 words)
Week 5: Second list of vocabulary due
Week 6: Second draft (minimum 1000 words)
Week 7: Third list of vocabulary due
Week 8: Quiz 1 (Vocabulary); Third draft (minimum 1500 words)
Week 9: Fourth list of vocabulary due
Week 10: Final paper due
Week 11: fifth list of vocabulary due
Week 12: Quiz 2 (Vocabulary); presentation.

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— Fall 2020 Registration Guide**
<http://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-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 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 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) 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>.

The UNT Survivor Advocates can be reached by emailing 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.*