

# Arab Cultures in Film & Music

## WLLC 3100

### Summer Session 2022

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores Moroccan modern histories and cultures through the lens of film and music. Through the medium of movies and music genres, students will examine the roots of some of the most prominent social, cultural, political, and gendered norms often attributed to the Arab World. Diverse materials will enhance student's global competencies and enable them to reflect upon the varied life experiences of people from North Africa.

#### **NO PREREQUISITES**

- No knowledge of Arabic required
- Taught in English
- Three credit hours
- Can be used as an Advanced Elective
- Fulfills the CLASS requirement for Diversity and Global Issues

#### **Dates**

Monday May 16 - Friday June 3

#### **Locations**

Rabat: May 16 - May 19 and May 28- June 3

Casablanca (one day field trip): May 20

Fez: May 21- May 25

Chefchaouen: May 25 - May 28

Airport departure: June 4

#### **Prerequisite**

There are no prerequisites for this course. No knowledge of Arabic is required as all the movies will have English subtitles. Also, no knowledge of music is required.

#### **Required Texts**

There are no required texts for this course.

## Texts and Course Materials

Students will watch the following movies and documentaries:

Marrock

A Door to the Sky

Looking for my Wife's husband

Horses of God

Wechma

Casanegra

Adios Carmen

Trances

## Learning Objectives:

This course fulfills the CLASS requirement for Diversity and Global Issues.

At the end of this course, students should be able to do at least three of the following:

1. Identify the origins, influences, and limits of one's own cultural heritage.
2. Demonstrate the ability to learn from and empathize with perspectives and experiences different from one's own.
3. Show an understanding of the interrelationships of the self, local society, and global environments.
4. Describe the impacts of complex, worldwide systems.
5. Explain the reasoning for one's ethical responsibilities within worldwide systems.

Other learning objectives are:

- Developing global competence and understanding and appreciating different perspectives by learning about the history, economy, values, beliefs and practices of the Arab world.
- Analyzing the form and content of movies.
- Developing research skills.

## Grade Distribution

### Attendance, Participation, and exit tickets (50%)

- You are expected to attend all classes and scheduled activities. Your daily attendance and participation grade will be on a scale from 1 to 10. It will be posted on Canvas after each class/activity, so be sure to check Canvas daily to see how well you are doing.
- There will be one exit ticket or attendance and participation grade for each activity.
- This is a student-centered class, so most of the class time will be discussion and activities-based in a collaborative format.
- In case of an absence, please inform your instructor **before and not after the class or activity you will be missing**. The grade for that activity's participation will be a "0."

Students are responsible for any class work and for any announcement made during their absence.

- To receive a grade of a 10 on participation, students must:
  - Be in class/ attend the scheduled activity on time
  - Remain on task and actively engaged in all class activities
  - Be respectful of instructor and classmates
  - Participate in all activities and contribute to class discussions
  - Reply to all messages requiring feedback during the day and answer phone calls from instructor or Amideast staff
- Attendance and participation grades will be deducted for tardiness as follows:
  - Arrival during the first 5 mins. of class = 1 Pt.
  - Arrival during the first 10 mins. of class = 2 Pt.
  - Arrival during the first 15 mins. of class = 3 Pt.
  - During the first 20 mins. = 4 Pts.
  - During the first 30 mins. = 6 Pts.
  - If you arrive more than 30 mins. late for class you will receive a “0” for that class participation.

#### **Music List preparation and class presentation (15%)**

- The assignment involves working in pairs
- Each student will sign up to work on a Moroccan music genre.
- Students will have a class presentation about the development of this genre in North Africa and particularly in Morocco and the relationship between this genre and politics
- Their presentation must include a compilation (Spotify or Youtube) of 5 to 8 of their favorite as well as the most prominent songs in a certain musical genre.
- Rubric is [here](#)

#### **Presenting a movie and leading class discussion (15 %)**

- The assignment involves working in pairs; each pair will sign up for a discussion of one of the movies that will be covered in class.
- The session will start with a 10 minute introduction, and students will be in charge of the activities and class discussion of the movie throughout the session.
- Students will need to watch the film prior to the rest of the class to prepare for the presentation
- Guidelines for this assignment are [here](#)

#### **Creating a short movie (30%)**

- Students will create a 5 minute short movie chronicling their trip to Morocco. Alternatively, they could work with another student to create a fiction short movie

exploring some of the political, historic, and/or social issues in Morocco portrayed in films we have watched or discussed in class. If students work in pairs (only allowed for fiction short movies), their film must be 10 minutes long; if they work in groups of 3 their film should be 15 minutes long.

**Grade distribution:**

Attendance, Participation and exit tickets: 50 %

Music genre presentation: 15%

Movie presentation (leading class discussion): 15 %

Short movie 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:**

**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 provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. 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 ODA to verify

their eligibility. If a disability is verified, 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. For study abroad courses, students requesting accommodations should notify their faculty leader as early as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Note that while the ADA does not extend beyond US borders, and international accessibility requirements vary broadly from US standards, UNT study abroad programs will endeavor to provide accommodations wherever practicable. 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: UNT Office of Disability Access. You may also contact ODA 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](http://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](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0). Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT's Student Advocate and she can be reached through email at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

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