

## Advanced Topics in Arabic: Arab Culture Through Film Fall 2018

Class	Monday & Wednesday	2.00 - 3.20 pm in LANG 219
Instructor	Caroline Najour	
E-mail	Caroline.Najour@unt.edu	
Office	LANG 401 L	
Office Hours	Monday, Wednesday	10:00 - 10:50 am and 1:00 - 1:50 pm
	Friday	10:00 - 10:50 am and by appointment

### **Tutoring sessions in LANG 108 A:** (Priority is given to 1010 students)

Mondays	2:00 - 3:00 pm (Jennifer)
Tuesdays	12:00 - 1:00 pm (Becca)
Thursdays	1:00 - 2:00 pm (Jennifer)
Fridays	01:30 - 2:30 pm (Becca)

### **Required Textbook**

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.

All other course materials will be provided by the instructor.

### **Course Description**

This course is designed for students who have had at least four semesters of Arabic instruction. It explores Arabic modern histories and cultures through movies while focusing on building language skills. The course aims to introduce students to the social, political, and economic realities of the Arab world, specifically focusing on the Levant and Egypt areas. In addition to Arabic cinema, students will also learn about Arab music as Arab musicians from “Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture” will visit our class three times this semester to offer talks about and demonstration of Arabic music. By the end of the semester, students are expected to carry out a lengthy writing project.

## Learning Objectives:

- a. Developing language skills through watching movies, reading articles, and writing essays.
- b. Learning about social, cultural, and political issues in the Arab world.
- c. Learning about the historical and political backgrounds of major Arabic movies.
- d. Developing research skills.

## 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. If you need to speak in English, please ask permission first.

### 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 Canvas 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 your cell phones in silent mode and in your backpacks.

### Canvas and E-mail:

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.

## Grade Distribution

### Attendance, Participation and Preparation (20%)

- This is a student centered class, so 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 canvas after each class, so make sure to check Canvas daily to see how well you are doing.
- Most of class time will be devoted to activities in a collaborative format. 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

### Homework Assignments and vocabulary lists (20%)

- Expect to spend a minimum of 2.5 - 3 hours of homework in preparation for every class session (excluding time spent watching movies). 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 are not counted toward your final grade.

- 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.
- Each student will be working on a vocabulary list on google doc where new words or expressions are added throughout the semester. To add the google doc link, please go to discussions on Canvas and click on "قائمة بالمفردات الجديدة" and then hit reply. After adding the subject (which must include your name)t, click on the "Link to URL" icon (it looks a little like an attachment), and then add the URL of your google doc. Once you add the URL, please check that the hyperlink is working. Also make sure that you enable viewers of your google doc to make edits.
- Vocabulary lists must include words or expressions that you believe are important to understand the movies or the readings and that will help you write about the movies. You are expected to study and use these words and expressions in your blog entries and in class discussions; they will be included in the quizzes.
  - o For nouns, please provide the singular and the plural forms.
  - o For verbs, please list the past, the present and the 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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- The daily schedule will inform you of due dates for the vocabulary lists.

### Tests (20%)

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

### Blog entries (20%)

- The purpose of the blog entries is to reflect on the movies as well as to activate the vocabulary and grammatical structures you have learnt. Writing is a very effective way to help in retention of new vocabulary, so remember that you are expected to use vocabulary you have included in your google doc vocabulary list.

- Throughout the semester, you will write 4 blog entries. Each blog entry will consist of 300 to 350 words in Arabic; it must be posted under discussions on Canvas, and print out must be submitted in class. Your entry must include words and expressions we have studied in the course and three of the following: 1) a summary of the plot and theme(s) of the movie, 2) your reaction/ point of view, 3) a comparison to other movies we've watched in class or readings we've done for this class, 4) a comparison to other movies you've watched in other languages.

### **Final Written project (20 %)**

- The final written project is approximately 1250 words long and will explore one aspect of Arabic cinema. You may choose to focus on films by a certain director, cinema in a particular Arab country, or a specific social, political or historical aspect analyzed in movies we've watched.
- The paper must be typed and will require research and a bibliography. It is due on December 11th.

### **Grade distribution:**

Attendance, Participation and Preparation: 20 %

Homework: 20%

Quizzes: 20 %

Blog entries: 20 %

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— Fall 2018 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 2018 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 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 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](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.