

## WLLC 3100: Arab Cultures in Film & Music

Class	Mondays 3.30 - 6.20 pm in LANG 305
Instructor	Caroline Najour
E-mail	Caroline.Najour@unt.edu
Office	LANG 401 L
Office Hours	Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 - 1:50 pm

### Course Description

This course involves watching Arabic movies with English subtitles. It explores Arab modern histories and cultures through movies and music. It aims to introduce students to the social, cultural, political, and economic realities of the Arab world. In addition to Arabic cinema, students will also learn about music as Arab musicians from “Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture” will visit our class to offer talks about and demonstration of Arabic music. No knowledge of Arabic or music is required.

### 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. Supplemental readings and links to movies, songs, and websites will be on canvas. Students are required to watch the movies outside of class.

### Learning Objectives:

- Learning about social, cultural, and political issues in the Arab world.
- Learning about Arabic music such as maqam and quarter tones, Arabic rhythms and differences with western classical music.
- Learning about the historical and political backgrounds of major Arabic movies.
- Analyzing the form and content of movies.
- Developing research skills.

### Grade Distribution

#### Attendance, Participation and Preparation (15%)

- 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.

- This is a student-centered class, so most of the class time will be discussions and activities in a collaborative format. To participate actively, you need to watch the required movie before class. If for any reason, you have been unable to prepare for class adequately, make sure to inform your instructor beforehand.
- 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 grade 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 10 mins. of class = 1 Pt.

during first 20 mins. = 2 Pts.

during first 30 mins. = 3 Pts.

during first 40 mins. = 4 Pts

If you arrive more than 40 mins. late for class you will receive a "0" for that day's class participation.

### **Homework (15%)**

- Assigned homework will be posted on canvas and, unless otherwise noted, must be submitted at the beginning of the following session.
- In case of absence, please email the homework to your instructor.

### **Quizzes (15%)**

- You will have a quiz at the beginning of each session when watching a new movie has been assigned in preparation for class.

### **Midterm (10%)**

- The midterm will cover films and readings discussed from the beginning of semester until the midterm. It consists of short answer questions as well as a short essay that will demonstrate your understanding of the movies discussed.

### **Presenting a movie and leading class discussion (10 %)**

- The assignment involves working in groups of 4. All members of the group will receive the same grade.
- Your group will decide on a movie, share a list of questions about the movie you would like your classmates to work on as homework one week before your

presentation, start the session with a 10 - 15 minute introduction, and be in charge of the activities and class discussion of the movie throughout the session.

- Write the names of your group and the film you have chosen to work on on the google doc "Movie Presentations" on canvas by the end of week 5.
- Student need to schedule a meeting with the instructor to discuss their movie choice and their presentation at least a week prior to the presentation date.

### **Creating a short movie (Or participating in concert) (15%)**

- Students will work in small groups of 2 or 3 to film a 15 minute short movie that explores some of the political, historic, and/or social issues discussed in class. The short movie is due at the end of week 14.
- Alternatively, students could participate in the concert presented by the Al-Bustan ensemble toward the end of the semester. The concert will be held outside of class time.

### **Final research paper (20 %)**

- The final research paper must be a minimum of 10 double spaced pages (font 12) about Arabic cinema. It will require research and a bibliography.

### **Grade distribution:**

Attendance, Participation and Preparation: 15 %

Homework: 15%

Quizzes: 15 %

Midterm: 10%

Movie presentation (leading class discussion): 10 %

Short movie group project or participation in recital 15 %

Final paper 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.

**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

---

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