Arab Cultures in Film & Music
WLLC 3100
Spring 2024

Class   Tuesdays 5:00 -7:50 pm; LANG 114
Instructor   Caroline Najour
E-mail   Caroline.Najour@unt.edu
Office   LANG 401 L; Zoom Room ID: 469 4389603
Office Hours   Wednesdays and Fridays 12:00 - 2:00 pm and & by appointment

Course Description

This course will explore Arab modern histories and cultures through the lens of film and music. Students will examine the roots of some of the most prominent social, cultural, political, and gendered norms often attributed to the Arab World. Also, students will examine the relationship between music and politics, and the role singers and bands play in advocating for social justice. Throughout this course, students will enhance their global competencies and reflect upon the varied life experiences of people from around the Arab World. Diverse materials from across the region will help students move past any misconceptions of uniformity in the Arab world. From Saudi Arabia, to Lebanon, to Egypt and beyond

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 and Course Materials

There are no required texts for this course. Supplemental readings and links to movies, songs, and websites will be on Canvas. We will watch the following films:
"Reel Bad Arabs"
"Write Down, I am an Arab"
"Five Broken Cameras"
"The Insult"
"Yacoubian Building"
"My Makhzen and Me"
"Last Men in Aleppo"

"Ten Days before the Wedding"
"You will Die at Twenty"
"Papicha"
"Where Do We Go Now?"
"Cairo 678"
"Wadjda"
"Our River, Our Sky"

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 Preparation (25%)

- 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 be sure to check Canvas daily to see how well you are doing.
- In case of an absence, please inform your instructor before and not after the class you will be missing. The grade for that day's participation will be a "0." You can waive up to three absences by writing a one and a half to two-page critical observation of the film we discussed on the day of your absence. Your essay must be uploaded on canvas under participation **by the next class meeting**.

- For the 1.5 to 2-page critical observation, you will need to watch the film from the perspective of a cultural observer. DO NOT summarize the film; rather pay attention to cultural aspects such as communication and interactions, and cultural rituals. Feel free to briefly explore the context of the film before you move to your cultural analysis, which could focus on themes such as family norms, religion, customs, class, social and gendered norms.
- Students are responsible for any class work, homework, and for any announcement made during their absence.
- To receive a grade of a 5 on participation, students must:
    - be on time, having read or prepared anything that was assigned
    - Remain on task and actively engaged in all class activities and discussions
- Attendance and participation grades will be deducted for tardiness as follows:
    - Arrival during the first 20 mins. of class = 1 Pt.
    - During the first 40 mins. = 2 Pts.
    - During the first 60 mins. = 3 Pts.
    - If you arrive more than an hour late for class you will receive a "0" for that day's class participation.

Homework (25%)

- In preparation for class, students will need to research the history of the country where the events are taking place or a specific theme that is central to the film. After the research, students record a 2 to 3-minute audio on canvas summarizing what they have learned.
- Students will be informed of the homework on canvas.
- The lowest homework grade will be dropped.

Music List preparation, summary of major references, and class presentation (25%)

- Each student will sign up to prepare a list of 8 to 12 of their favorite as well as the most prominent songs in a certain musical genre. Compiling the list on Spotify or Youtube would work great.
- Students will then have a class presentation with two or three classmates about the development of this genre in the Arab world and the relationship between this genre and politics and social issues.
- Although the presentation will be group work, the following component must be done individually. One week prior to the presentation date (on the Tuesday preceding the presentation) by midnight, students will turn on canvas under" Music List Preparation and Presentation" a document that consists of:

- ○ Hyperlinks to 2 scholarly references about the genre or the musicians they are presenting on. If any reference is not available online, students can upload a pdf of the reference as a separate document.
- ○ A detailed outline summarizing the main points and listing all the major ideas of the scholarly references.

Annotated playlist (25%)

- As we go over songs from various genres throughout the semester, students are encouraged to listen to the lists their classmates have prepared and decide on their favorite song from each list.
- On April 30 (last day of the course), students will turn in an annotated playlist that shows the interrelationship between music and politics in the Arab world. For this list students will select 3 to 5 songs (at least from two different genres) and analyze them both historically and thematically.
- Details and rubric are on canvas.
- It is due by Midnight on April 30. Should you need an extension, please reach out to your instructor at least a few hours in advance.

Grade distribution:

Attendance, Participation and Preparation: (25%)
Homework assignments (25%)
Music List preparation and class presentation (25%)
Annotated playlist (25%)

Grading Scale

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

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course.
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 survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

ODA Statement

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 Access (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, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at

https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

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. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence 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 where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Academic Support & Student Services

Here is a list of important links:

Office of the Registrar— Spring 2024 Registration Guide
https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide
This is a link to important dates for adding, dropping, withdrawing, and so forth.

Office of the Registrar— Spring 2024 Exam Schedule
https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/spring
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 Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- UNT Psychiatric Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- Individual Counseling (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- UNT Records
- UNT ID Card
- UNT Email Address
- Legal Name

*UNT euIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.

Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

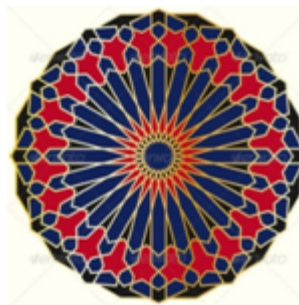Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

Additional Student Support Services

- [Financial Aid](#) (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- [Student Legal Services](#) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- [Career Center](#) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- [Multicultural Center](#) (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [Pride Alliance](#) (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- [UNT Food Pantry](#) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](#) (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- [Academic Success Center](#) (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- [UNT Libraries](#) (https://library.unt.edu/)
- [Writing Lab](#) (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)

***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.**