

# Arab Cultures in Film & Music

## WLLC 3100

### Spring 2021

Class	Tuesday and Thursday ; 2:00 - 3:20 pm <a href="https://unt.zoom.us/j/84455929554">https://unt.zoom.us/j/84455929554</a>
Instructor	Caroline Najour
E-mail	<a href="mailto:Caroline.Najour@unt.edu">Caroline.Najour@unt.edu</a>
Zoom Office	469 4389603
Office Hours	By appointment

#### Legend

Zoom	Canvas > zoom
Quizzes	Canvas > Quizzes
Midterm Exam	Canvas > Quizzes
Final Paper	Canvas > Assignments

Your success in this class is important to me. If any aspects of this course prevent you from learning, please reach out as soon as possible. I will do my utmost best to work with you and to develop strategies that support your success.

#### Communication Expectations

The best way to reach me is via email. Please avoid using canvas to email me; rather, send an email directly to [Caroline.Najour@unt.edu](mailto:Caroline.Najour@unt.edu). I respond within 24 hours on weekdays, and on Monday, when email is sent after 5 pm on Friday.

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.

#### Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

#### 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. Diverse materials from across the region will help students move past any misconceptions of uniformity in the Arab world. From Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, to Egypt and beyond, students will enhance their global competencies and reflect upon the varied life experiences of people from around the Arab World.

## Course Structure

The class will be meeting synchronously via zoom twice a week. Students are required to watch films (and in a few instances, read articles) prior to class.

## 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.

## Texts and Course Materials

Students will watch the following movies and documentaries (subject to change), available mostly online through the UNT library:

“About Some Meaningless Events”

“Capernaum”

“Wajib”

“Wadjda”

“Mosul”

“Write Down I am an Arab”

“Umm Kulthum, A Voice Like Egypt”

“The Insult”

“Paradise Now”

“Ghadi”

“Baraka meets Baraka”

“Cairo 678”

“Where Do We Go Now”

## 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.

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

## Course Technology & Skills

### Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Plug-ins
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)  
(<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

### Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Below is a list of course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course:

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UIT Help Desk:** [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

**Email:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130

**Walk-In Availability:** 8am-9pm

**Telephone Availability:**

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)  
(<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

### Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis 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 will not be tolerated

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates. In Arab culture, the instructor is not addressed by first name only; make sure you use “Isteeze Caroline” both in email correspondences and when addressing the instructor
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

## Grade Distribution

### Attendance, Participation and Preparation (25%)

I look forward to you being in class on time and well-prepared (i.e., having watched the assigned film for the week). Daily attendance and participation are graded on a scale of 1 to 5, and will be posted on Canvas after every class.

- 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 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.” The lowest two 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 and for any announcement made during their absence.

To get a full participation score, you need to:

- Join the zoom classroom a couple of minutes prior to class and have the camera on
  - Attendance and participation points will be deducted for tardiness as follows:
    - Arrival during the first 5 min of class = 1 pt.
    - Arrival during the first 15 min of class = 2 pts.
    - Arrival during the first 30 min of class = 3 pts.
    - Arrival during the first 40 min of class = 4 pts.
    - If you arrive more than 40 minutes late, you will receive a “0” for that day’s participation.

- Camera policy: I believe that the class feels more personal if we can see each other. If, however, you feel uncomfortable having your camera on, please inform the instructor before class. There is no need to explain the reasons behind your decision.
- Be fully prepared for class activities, and participate actively in class and group activities during zoom synchronous meetings. Two points on attendance and participation points will be deducted for being unable to participate in discussions in a meaningful way because of not having watched the film being discussed in class.

### Quizzes (25%)

- A short quiz will be given at the beginning of each session when watching a new movie has been assigned in preparation for class.
- The Lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

### Midterm (10%)

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

### Presenting a movie and leading class discussion (20 %)

- The assignment involves research, collaboration and presentation. You will work on this assignment in pairs and both students will receive the same grade.
- Details and rubric will be shared on Canvas

### Final research paper (20 %)

- The final research paper must be a minimum of 5 double spaced pages (font 12) in which students will examine a prominent social, cultural, or political issue reflected upon in one or several of Arab movies. It will require research and a bibliography.

### Grade distribution

Attendance, Participation and Preparation: 25 %

Quizzes: 25 %

Midterm: 10%

Movie presentation (leading class discussions): 20 %

Final paper 20 %

### Grading Scale

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

## Below is a list of important links

### Office of the Registrar— Spring 2021 Registration Guide

<http://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 2021 Exam Schedule

<http://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 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 provides you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. 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).

## UNT Policies

### 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.

## Academic Support & Student Services

### 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)  
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)  
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/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**

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

#### **Academic Support Services**

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

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