ARABIC 221 Syllabus

Course Title: ARABIC 221.1001 Middle East Peoples and Cultures  
Instructor Name: Dahlia Dwedar, ABD  
Email Address: DDwedar@unr.edu  
Meets on: M & W @ 1:00-2:2:15 PM  
Office Location: 241Q  
Office Hours: MTR 1:00-2:00

Course description

This course will explore the social, cultural, historical, economic and political aspects of the 22 countries of the Middle East and present an introductory overview of how the different societies in the Middle East maintain their traditions and customs as well as how the different 22 countries of the Middle East keep current with the modern world.

Course Pre/Co-requisites, Recommended preparation

Students should have an open mind, a commitment to full participation, and the desire to have fun while learning.
Required Text, Course materials


Course objectives

This course aims to provide students an understanding of Middle Eastern countries as ancient yet modern societies as a whole as well as Middle Eastern peoples’ world view. This class will promote intercultural exchanges between the U.S and the countries of the Middle East, which will eventually open the doors for people to overcome cultural barriers, have effective mutual understanding, and improved communications.

CO11 - Global Contexts: Students will apply and evaluate modes of academic inquiry, creative expression, or results of research to problems in historical and contemporary global contexts. Students will articulate connections among local, national, and international contexts and evaluate the ways that historical and contemporary global influences affect their current situations.
Students Learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Interpret the history of the Middle East as a civilization from various perspectives.
- Describe the geography of the Middle East.
- Describe the historical evolution and praxis of Middle Eastern religions.
- Describe the relationship of Islam, the dominant regional religion, to other faiths.
- Recognize Middle East key countries’ current sociopolitical affairs.
- Recognize the essential social structures of Middle Eastern societies.
- Demonstrate knowledge of traditional Middle East customs, art, entertainment, cultures and etiquettes through class presentations and skits.
- Evaluate the impact of past imperial practices on current Mideast societies.
- Evaluate regional responses to modernity, especially to pressures to democratize and individual contemporary Mideast societies’ interactions with modern life.

Students should develop an understanding of key components of Middle Eastern culture, as well as acquiring deep knowledge of the numerous societies, states, and non-state actors, which shape the region’s different cultures today.

Unique Class Procedures/ structures: Web-based, group work, Etc

Periodic Internet Access - it is recommended that you access the online version of the course through WEBCAMPUS (https://wcl.unr.edu) at least once a week to print lesson materials and homework as instructed. You may also interact with the instructor and other students about the material.

You will have the opportunity to seek help from your instructor in at least three (3) office hours with one (1) office hour for each lesson module. You are also welcome to write to your instructor for additional help.

Attendance Policy
Class attendance is mandatory. In addition, regular attendance is essential to achieving a passing grade in a course. A class constitutes lectures, discussions, quizzes, and examinations.

Class attendance is formally recorded and incorporated into a student’s final grade.

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. If you are absent due to sickness, you must bring me a note from your doctor or the Student Health Center. Do not be late for class, as it is disrespectful and disruptive to me and to your classmates and will lower your grade. If you miss one class without documentation your participation grade will automatically drop to 90% (A-); 2 missed classes: 85% (B); 3 missed classes: 75% (C); 4 missed classes: 65% (D); 5 or more missed classes: 50% (F).

Late Submission of Written Work / Assignments

Written Homework may be submitted later than the due date only with express permission from the faculty. Credit will not be given in full for work received late, it will be (-5%) except in exceptional circumstances of personal illness or similar (which must be made known at the time).

Documentation of exceptional circumstances from a third party, such as a doctor’s note will be required. Any extensions made beyond the last class meeting must be committed to writing and include information on the exceptional circumstances that require the extension, the nature of work yet to be submitted, and the date by which the work will be received. If said work is not received by the agreed extension date, barring further exceptional circumstances, the work will not be given credit.

Participation and discussion on the reading materials are essential for this course. Group work will be held regularly in class. Participation points will be deducted if someone does not participate or cooperate in group discussions. The instructor will observe the class during discussion sections.

Description of Assignments: Exams, quizzes, Projects, papers.

1. Attendance and Participation (10%). I expect you to complete all readings prior to coming to class, and you must be prepared to both answer and pose questions about them when I call on you. The grade will be calculated as follows. If you participate regularly and thoughtfully: 90-100% (A-/A/A+); if you participate occasionally but thoughtfully: 80-89% (B-/B/B+); if you rarely participate: 70-79% (C-/C/C+); if you never participate: 50-69% (F-/D-/D/D+).

2. Discussion (5%) You will also be asked to answer questions about specific readings in writing.
3. Research Papers (30%) Two papers (15 pages each) are due on Week 8 and Week 15. Detailed instructions will be provided separately. On Week 8 week 15, students should post a final research paper of 15 pages minimum length. The paper may cover any topic relevant to the course subject matter (see course objectives for broad, thematic suggestions). It should be a Word document (.doc, NOT .docx, in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, structured according to APA rules.) All assertions and conclusions must be supported with reliable print and/or electronic resources. Papers will be evaluated for coherence, persuasiveness, relevance of sources, style, content, and grammar. The paper should be posted (you can copy and paste it on WebCampus) in the appropriate discussion board area, as well as uploaded in the appropriate assignment area. The 2 papers will deal with one or more of the major course themes and objectives, and the topic(s) must be cleared with the instructor. A discussion board area will be set aside for discussing possible topics with both classmates and instructor. After the paper is posted, you should read all classmates’ papers posted prior to your own, and post a constructive critical comment on at least two papers (reading their papers may significantly help you in preparing for the final exam). Subsequently, you should respond to constructive comments posted on your paper, where appropriate and possible.

4. Midterm exam(15%).

5. Final exam (20%).

Grading Criteria: percentage assignments, class participation contribute to final grade. (Will plus/minus grading be used? What, if any, penalties will be imposed for late work? Will make-up exams be offered?).

The instructor will be available to discuss any questions or concerns regarding the course with you. Please feel free to make an appointment.

The best way to reach me outside of class and office hours is by email at ddwedar@aol.com. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours during the weekend.

Grading:
- Attendance and Participation 10%
- Discussion 5%
- Quizzes (weekly) 20%
- Papers 30%
- Midterm Exam 15%
- Final Exam 20%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>D-</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-91%</td>
<td>90-88%</td>
<td>87-85%</td>
<td>83-81%</td>
<td>79-77%</td>
<td>76-74%</td>
<td>73-70%</td>
<td>69-67%</td>
<td>66-65%</td>
<td>64-61%</td>
<td>60-56%</td>
<td>55-0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses" constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of this university. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include canceling a student's enrollment without a grade, giving an F for the course or for the assignment. For more details, see the University of Nevada, Reno General Catalog.

"Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me or the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations."

"Your student fees cover usage of the Math Center (784-443 or www.unr.edu/mathcenter/), Tutoring Center (784-6801 or www.unr.edu/tutoring-center), and University Writing Center (784-6030 or http://www.unr.edu/writing-center). These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student."

Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Intro to the Middle East, Lewis Chapters 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Intro to the Middle East Lewis Chapters 5-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Modernity and the Challenge from the west Lewis Chapters 10-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Modernity and the Challenge from the west Lewis Chapters 16-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Islamic Empire to Nationalism Israel/Palestine(Jordan) Kamrava Chapters 1-4; Country Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Revolution, War, and Stagnation Egypt/Libya(the Maghreb) Kamrava Chapters 5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Revolution, War, and Stagnation Egypt/Libya(the Maghreb) Kamrava Chapters 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st Paper submission; Midterm Exam</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Economies, Insurgencies, and Democratic deficits Syria/Lebanon(the Gulf States) Kamrava Chapters 8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Economies, Insurgencies, and Democratic deficits Syria/Lebanon(the Gulf States) Kamrava Chapters 10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Radical Islamism Saudi Arabia/Iran(Sudan) Rubin Chapters 1-3; Country Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Radical Islamism Saudi Arabia/Iran(Sudan) Rubin Chapters 4-6; Country Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Liberal Islamism Iraq/Turkey(Yemen) Rubin Chapters 7-10; Country Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Liberal Islamism Iraq/Turkey(Yemen) Rubin Chapters 11-14; Country Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 15</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Big Picture; 2nd Paper submission</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final Exams</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>