

Course Outline: Introduction to Arab Culture

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND LINGUISTICS

Course Code

AP/ARB2700/HUMA2710 6.0 Introduction to Arab Culture

Course Description

Overview of the diversity of Arab cultures. Multidisciplinary approach of the notion of culture, envisaged as a set of narratives, of practices and of values, and as an ensemble of cultural products. Major aspects of Arab cultures are reviewed from a historical and cultural point of view. Examples: identity, predominant discourses in society, religions and ideologies. Also, within the tradition of cultural studies, specific Arab cultural products will be studied: e.g. literature, music, internet and cinema.

Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: BLEN

The course is delivered in-class, in-person for 2 hours, and is complemented by a one-hour online tutorial. Each session includes a 30-45 minutes presentation by the professor. The remainder of the session's time is devoted to discussing video clips, reading of slides and materials on PDF or accessible through online links. Additional material is discussed in the recorded online tutorial, which includes video materials and additional recorded talks. All materials are posted on eClass.

Course Materials

S Articles, book chapters in PDF format available on eClass; video Youtube links, Power Point slide shows and presentations.

Each session's work comprises one article/chapter to be read, videos to watch & ppt to be studied. Examples of readings:

Maxime Rodinson, "Who are the Arabs?" Chap. in *The Arabs*, translated by Arthur Goldhammer, Chicago, University of Chicago Press; London: Croom Helm, 1981: pp. 1- 47.

Roger Allen, "The Quran : Sacred Text and Cultural Yardstick" Chap. in *An Introduction to Arabic Literature*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2000: pp. 52-64.

Michael Frishkopf, “ Tarab (Enchantment) in the Mystic Sufi Chant of Egypt” in Sherifa Zuhur (ed), *Colors of Enchantment. Theater, Dance, Music, and the Visual Arts of the Middle East*, Cairo, New York, The American University in Cairo Press, 2001: pp. 233-269.

Andrew Hammond, *Pop Culture Arab World. Media, Arts & Lifestyles*, Santa Barbara, California, ABC-Clio, 2005: pp. 141-171.

Viola Shafik, *Arab Cinema. History and Cultural Identity*, Cairo, The American University in Cairo Press, 1998: pp. 1-8, 20-44.

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Quiz posted on eClass	10%	Online	First week of OCT
Midterm Test	20%	Online	End of NOV
Essay Proposal <i>Two- Three double spaced pages, introducing the final essay presented by teams of two.</i>	10%	Online	First week of JAN
Midterm Test	10%	Online	Mid FEB
Final Essay <i>Students in teams of two write a collaborative Research paper. 8-10 double spaced pages (= each student writes 4-5 pages), Font: Times New Roman, 12.</i>	20%	Online	End of MAR
Active Participation	30%		All year long
	100%		