

**Advanced Arabic Language and Culture (ARAB 0800):
Media Culture – Spring 2014**

Meeting Time & Location: MW 12:00 - 1:20 PM;
Wilson Hall 106

Instructor: Mirena Christoff
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Office Hours: TR 12:00 - 1:30 PM, or by appointment

أهلاً وسهلاً !

About this class:

ARAB0800 is a content-based advanced course in Arabic language and culture. This spring the course will bring into focus the role played by the media, both formally and informally, in the shaping of public opinion, and of the political and cultural profile of present-day Arab societies. **The course objective** is to develop fluency and accuracy of oral and written expression in Arabic, and to expand students' trans-cultural competence by means of guided reading, writing, discussion, and independent research of authentic material drawn from a variety of sources, including, in addition to multimedia, literature, and the fine and performing arts. ARAB700 or the equivalent is prerequisite.

At the end of the spring semester, students should expect the following **learning outcomes**:

- to have expanded their advanced lexical knowledge and built a large bank of vocabulary, including terminology specific to the subject of study, idioms and realia, and newly coined terms;
- improved ability to understand and analyze concepts and opinions as formulated and expressed by native speakers of the language in oral and written form, and in a range of formal and informal styles and registers;
- to have polished the articulation of original ideas and opinions of their own in forms consistent with the linguistic conventions of written and oral expression;
- to have achieved a deeper and truer understanding of the relation between current events and the political and cultural past and traditions of Arab societies.

ARAB0800 students should be prepared to read a large amount of authentic texts; conduct individual research and interviews, and report the results in class; work on collaborative projects; participate in class discussions and make formal presentations. Students' active involvement in all learning activities is of utmost importance to the successful accomplishment of the course goals, especially since the in-class contact time is limited to three hours per week. Class sessions

will be used to practice speaking, reading aloud and discussing selections from the assigned texts, exercising in writing, and reviewing elements of grammar and style.

The course reading materials will be provided by the instructor. Students are also encouraged to contribute ideas and topics for study and discussion. The preliminary reading selection includes excerpts from the media, including written, video, and audio material, contemporary poetry and prose.

Homework includes extensive reading, compiling vocabulary lists, writing weekly reports on current events and response papers to their media representations and to specific topics discussed in class. In the course of the semester, students will be asked to conduct individual research of a particular subject of individual academic and cultural interest, and report their findings in class. The practice of intensive reading during class sessions and extensive reading at home will enhance students' ability to derive and analyze information from various textual sources. As a general rule, listening exercises will be assigned as homework first and then practiced with the entire class. Topics of grammar and style will be reviewed as needed in view of enhancing written and oral expression.

Course references:

1 - Grammar and Style:

Brustad, K., et al. *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya with DVD and MR3 CD: Part Three*. Georgetown: Georgetown University Press, 2007.

Al-Warraki, N., Hassanein, A. T. *The Connectors in Modern Standard Arabic*. Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 1995.

Ashtiany, J. *Media Arabic*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, c. 1993.

Dickins, J., et al. *Thinking Arabic Translation: A Course in Translation Method: Arabic to English*. New York: Routledge, 2002.

2 - Readers:

Frangieh, B. *Anthology of Arabic Literature, Culture, and Thought from Pre-Islamic Times to the Present*. New Haven, CT & London: Yale University Press, 2004.

Husni, R. and Newman, D. (eds.). *Modern Arabic Short Stories*. London & Berkley, CA: Saqi Books, 2008.

3 – Dictionaries:

Wehr, H. *A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic (Arabic – English)*. Ithaca, NY: Spoken Language Services, 1994.

Doniach, N. (ed.). *The Oxford English-Arabic Dictionary of Current Usage*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Grading policy:

The final grade in ARAB800 represents the sum of the following elements:

Completed homework assignments - 30%

Attendance and participation - 30%

Research and presentation – 25%

Final composition – 15%

Letter grades range from A = 90 – 100, to B=80 – 89, to C=70 - 79. If the grade option is S/NC, the equivalent of S is a cumulative grade of C or higher.

At the beginning of each week, a detailed day-to-day schedule will be posted on the course website.



و بالتوفيق إن شاء الله !