

ARAB 0700: Advanced Arabic: Tales of the City
Fall 2014

Meeting Time/ Location: MW 12:00 - 1:20 PM; Center for Language Studies 202

Instructor: Mirena Christoff

Center for Language Studies

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

أهلاً وسهلاً !

About this course:

ARAB0700 is an advanced course in Arabic language and culture, with varying thematic content. Offered in the fall of the fourth year of Arabic study at Brown, this course is designated for students who have completed the first three years of the curriculum, or demonstrate equivalent linguistic and cultural knowledge.

In ARAB0700 instruction employs an integrated-skill approach to language teaching and learning. The **course objective** is the concurrent formation of an advanced communicative ability and a sound cross-cultural perspective of modern Arab societies and cultures. In Fall'14, ARAB0700 will strive to achieve those goals by involving students in an active exploration--through reading, writing, discussion, and independent research--of the politics of urban life. Coursework will focus on the present-day Arab city, the site of a major political upheaval, societal and cultural change. Images of cities, as multifaceted as the people who inhabit them, animate cinema screens and daily news reports, inspire masters of writing, artists, and musicians, arouse political activism. By engaging the complex representation of the urban theme in contemporary discursive and art forms, ARAB0700 will enhance students' understanding of the dynamics of urban life and politics in the Middle East, while building a content-specific lexicon, and advancing their capacity to communicate in oral and written form with accuracy and fluency.

Upon completion of this course, students should expect to have accomplished the following **learning outcomes**:

- Mastering new vocabulary, in particular, terms related to urban life, urban identities, urban communities, and urban politics.
- Increased reading speed and ability to analyze new content and conjure meaning from context.
- Significantly improved understanding of oral and written discourse of various genres, formal and informal registers.
- Ability to articulate ideas in ways consistent with the conventions of written and oral expression in Arabic.
- Gaining direct knowledge of the cultural realities of urban life in the Arab Middle East from authentic multimedia sources.

Final grades will be determined as follows:

Vocabulary lists - 20 %

Response papers - 20 %

Class attendance and participation - 20%

Individual research and presentation project – 20%

Final composition – 20%

و بالتوفيق إن شاء الله !

