

Attention!

This is a representative syllabus. The syllabus for the course you are enrolled in will likely be different.

Please refer to your instructor's syllabus for more information on specific requirements for a given semester.

Arabic 367: Issues In Arab American Society, Culture, and Literature

Course Syllabus

Class Time:

Instructor:

Department: Office:

Office Hours:

Phone:

E-mail:

Course Description:

Students discuss, analyze, and write about issues in Arab-American culture, society, and literature within the context of social diversity in the United States.

Required Texts:

Grammar Smart: A Guide to Perfect Usage. Villard Books, 1994 (SBX)

Shakir, Evelyn. *Bint Arab*. Praeger, 1997. (SBX)

Course Packet: Supplementary [Reading Materials], PARTS I, II, & III (Cop-ez/ Neil)

Evaluation:

	Points
Attendance & Class Participation (-.25 points for each absence)	5
Writing Assignments (essays) #1-4 (10)	40
Grammar Quizzes (no make-ups) #1-3 (5)	15
Quiz on PART I: Who is an Arab? (Objective questions)	5
Oral Report	5
Vocabulary Quizzes (no make-ups) #1-2 (5)	10
Final Writing Assignment (essay) #5	20

Objectives:

The first aim is to introduce students to the history and structure of the Arab-American community in the United States, providing a diachronic and synchronic cross-cultural approach to the development of American society. Reading materials derived largely from critical, anthropological, sociological, and literary texts will be discussed from the perspective of important social issues such as gender, class, race, marginality, identity, ethnicity, discrimination, assimilation, representation, alienation, and otherness.

Through close reading, discussion, and writing assignments, students will think critically about social issues in the United States from the perspective provided by the Arab-American response to the American vision and experience.

An overall objective of the course, therefore, is to encourage students to reflect on the social diversity of experience, to think beyond the language and codes of their own culture, and to appreciate and articulate, using newly acquired writing skills, other points of world-view.

Expectations:

(1) Students are expected to develop basic skills in expository writing and in oral expression;

(2) Student articulation should be characterized by a clear purpose, effective development and organization of ideas, excellent control of grammar and mechanics, and adherence to rules of logic and proper usage; and

(3) Students are also expected to engage actively in class discussions and, through their writing on socially relevant issues, to develop an understanding that a culture is neither natural nor universal but a social construction, that identity is an on-going negotiation of difference, and that ethnicity, gender, class, and identity are reinvented and reinterpreted in every generation by the individual.

Writing Assignments: Students are required to prepare several word-processed essays and submit them on the dates they are due in class or (upon request by the student) after class via e-mail (See syllabus). The instructor will comment upon each initial version in writing or in conference with the student, providing the opportunity for one revision prior to submission of final version. Refer to the guidelines for each writing assignment.

Grammar Review and Quizzes: Students do all reading assignments and sample quizzes in *Grammar Smart* and then check their answers outside of class by reference to the answer keys, in preparation for in-class quizzes.

Vocabulary Enrichment: Students are responsible for all vocabulary and terms used in the reading assignments and lectures. Vocabulary lists will be distributed to students in preparation for vocabulary quizzes.

Oral Reports: Students are required to make an oral presentation on some Arab-American personality, to be selected from a list provided by the instructor.

Final Exam: Students prepare an essay on "Who is an Arab-American?" outside of class and submit it by final exam time.

Course topics, readings, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change as a function of student interests and special circumstances.

Students are reminded that they are responsible for being aware of and obeying the University rules regarding academic misconduct and the *Code of Student Conduct* (See Master Schedule for latter document).

The Writing Center is located at 485 Mendenhall Lab, 125 South Oval Mall. Appointments can be made in person or by calling the Writing Center at 688-4291 or 292-5607. The Writing Center provides free tutorial services at any stage of the writing process, except proofreading, and is open to all members of the Ohio State University community.

PART I: WHO/WHAT IS AN ARAB?

Monday, January 3

Introduction to the Course
Lecture & Discussion:
Paragraph and Essay Structure
Some Aspects of the Arabic Language

Wednesday, January 5

Lecture & Discussion:

Review of Model Essay: Some Aspects of the Arabic Language

Reading Assignments: Course Packet: PART I, pp. 1-15

Grammar Smart, Parts 1 & 2; do Quizzes & Drills & refer to Answer Keys**Grammar Quiz #1, Parts 1-2****Monday, January 10**

Lecture & Discussion:

(1) Some Christian Sects in the Arab World

Reading Assignments: *Course Packet: PART I*, pp. 16-20*Grammar Smart, Part 3*; do Quizzes & Drills & refer to Answer Keys**Grammar Quiz #2, Parts 1-3 (Cumulative)****Wednesday, January 12**

Lecture & Discussion:

(2) Some Muslim Sects in the Arab World

Reading Assignments: *Course Packet: PART I*, pp. 21-35*Grammar Smart Parts 4-7*; do Quizzes & Drills & refer to Answer KeysDVD: *Islam: Empire of Faith (Introduction & The Messenger)***Grammar Quiz #3, Parts 1-7 (Cumulative)****Writing Assignment #1: Some Christian and Muslim Sects in the Arab World**

(Due Saturday, January 15 at noon via e-mail)

Monday, January 17 No Class**Wednesday, January 19**

Lecture & Discussion:

(3) Arab Contributions to Western Civilization

Reading Assignments: *Course Packet: PART I*, pp. 36-59

(4) Fragmentation of the Arab World

Reading Assignments: *Course Packet: PART I*, pp. 60-71DVD: *Islam: Empire of Faith (The Awakening)***Revision of Writing Assignment #1**

(Due Saturday, January 22 at noon via e-mail)

PART II**WHO/WHAT IS AN AMERICAN?****Monday, January 24**

Lecture & Discussion:

American Popular Culture: A Historical Perspective

Reading Assignments: *Course Packet: PART II*, pp. 1-46**Quiz on PART I: Who is an Arab?**

Wednesday, January 26

Lecture & Discussion:

Multiculturalism in American Society: Unity in Diversity

Reading Assignments: Review vocabulary for quiz

Vocabulary Quiz # 2 (Course Packet, PARTS I and II)

Note: This is an objective (multiple choice, matching, etc.) quiz that covers reading materials (including boxed words), lectures and vocabulary list.

Writing Assignment #2: Who is an American?

(Due Saturday, January 29 at noon via e-mail)

PART III**WHO/WHAT IS AN ARAB-AMERICAN?****Monday and Wednesday, January 31 and February 2**

Lecture & Discussion

Early Arab Immigration (1875-1925): Causes and Patterns

Women Immigrant Experience and Choices of Employment

Process of Acculturation

Reading Assignments: *Bint Arab*, pp. 13-76Video: *Arab-Americans* (1993/30 min.)DVD: *Muslims in the United States***Revision of Writing Assignment #2**

(Due Saturday, February 5 at noon via e-mail)

Monday and Wednesday, February 7 and 9

Lecture & Discussion:

Arab Immigration (1925-Present): Causes and Patterns

Stereotyping and Politicization of Arab-American Women

Awareness and Evolvement of Arab-American Women Identity

Reading Assignments: *Bint Arab*, pp. 79-123

Intermarriage and Assimilation

Reading Assignments: *Course Packet: PART III*, pp. 104B-116**Writing Assignment #3: Arab Women Immigrant Experience and Assimilation**

(Due Saturday, February 12 at noon via e-mail)

Monday and Wednesday, February 14 and 16

Lecture & Discussion:

Is There an Arab-American Literature?

Reading Assignments: Literary Selections (*Course Packet: PART III*):

Rihani and Gibran, pp. 43-47

Gibran, Hamod, and Nassar, pp. 117-123

Geha, pp. 145-152 and Mattawa, pp. 178-187

Majaj, pp. 162-168 and *Gabriel*, pp. 169-177

The Politics of Memory and Literary Narratives

Reading Assignments: *Course Packet: PART III*, pp. 188-215**Revision of Writing Assignment #3**

(Due Saturday, February 19 at noon via e-mail)

Monday and Wednesday, February 14 and 15

Lecture & Discussion: Construction of Arab-American Identity (1)
Religious and Political Identity

Reading Assignments: *Course Packet: PART III*, pp. 72-95 and 48-71

Demographic Developments

Reading Assignments: *Course Packet: PART III*, pp. 96-104A

Gender Identity and Stereotyping

Problems of Assimilation

Reading Assignments: *Bint Arab*, pp. 125-164

Video: *Who Are the Arabs?*

Writing Assignment #4: Literature and Arab-American Identity

(Due Saturday, February 26 at noon via e-mail)

Monday and Wednesday, February 28 and March 2

Lecture & Discussion: Construction of Arab-American Identity (2)

Ethnicity and Stereotyping

Reading Assignments: *Course Packet: PART III*, pp. 124-144 and 153-161

Bint Arab, pp. 165-199

Video: *Tales from Arab Detroit*

Revision of Writing Assignment #4

(Due Saturday, March 5 at noon via e-mail)

Monday and Wednesday, March 7 and 9

Lecture & Discussion: Construction of Arab-American Identity (3)

Emerging New Images: Arab-American Personalities

Reading Assignments: *Reading Materials: PART III*, pp. 216-227

Oral Reports are presented in class

Topic is selected by student or assigned by instructor

Vocabulary Quiz # 2 (Course Packet, PART III)**Final Exam (Writing Assignment #5): Who is an Arab-American?**

Send via E-mail by midnight March 14