

82650 ARB 3380.01
CONTEMPORARY ARAB WORLD
3 CREDIT HOURS
FALL 2018
MWF 11:00- 11:50 AB4 205
Office AB IV 325
Telephone (936) 294-3894
Dr. Samar Zahrawi
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Required textbooks & video recordings: (mostly available in the library)

- Video recording: Where do we go now? (library or Netflix)
- Video recording *Wadjda*. (library or Netflix)
- Video recording: Caramel (Library or Netflix)
- Video recording: Yacoubian building (Omarat Yacoubian) (Library or Youtube)
- Alaa Al-Aswany *The Yacoubian Building translated by Humphrey Davies, New York: Harper Perennial, 2004 (Library)*
- Video recording: A New Day in Old Sana'a (library or Netflix)
- Video recording: The Lemon Tree. (library or Netflix)
- Video Recording of The Syrian Bride (library or Netflix)
- Video Recording , *The Wanted 13* (Netflix)
- Video recording: Reel Bad Arab (Library)
- Video recording, The Return To Homs (library or Netflix)
- Video Recording, The Square (library or Netflix)
- Margaret K. Nydell, Understanding Arabs: A Guide for modern Times. (bookshop)
- *The King's Elephant*, a play by Sa'dallah Wannous in *Short Arabic Plays: An Anthology*, Salma Khadra Jayusi (ed) (Library & on blackboard)
- "Yasmin's picture" a short story by Hanan Al-Shaykh in *Modern Arabic Short Stories: A Bilingual Reader*, Ronak Husni and Daniel L. Newman (ed) (Library & on blackboard)
- *The Garbage Collector*, a play by Mamdouh 'Adwan in *Short Arabic Plays: An Anthology*, Salma Khadra Jayusi (ed) (Library & on blackboard)
- *The Mask*, a play by Mamdouh 'Adwan in *Short Arabic Plays: An Anthology*, Salma Khadra Jayusi (ed) (Library & on blackboard)
- Amin Maalouf, *In the Name of Identity: Violence and the need to belong*, New York: Arcade, 2001 (Library and excerpts on Blackboard)

Some more additional material from youtube and websites will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Description:

This course is varied in its scope. It uses a limited selection of films, drama, short story, and journalistic writings as a spring board for discussion about modern issues in the Arab world such as the individual versus society, variety within the Arab world, class structure, love and passion, taboos, status of women, arranged marriages, dictatorship, repression, the aspiration for freedom and democracy, political corruption, coexistence

between Muslims and Christians, sense of humor, tolerance, civil war, displacement, colonialism, tolerant Islam versus fundamentalism.

GOALS

This course aims at presenting an authentic image of contemporary Arab world and breaking the stereotype connected to Arab personality. It aims at exposing the aspirations and dreams of Arab men and women and surveys the challenges that face and deter them from achieving freedom and democracy. The ultimate goal is to broaden the horizon of students, replace old misconceptions with new more authentic ones, invite them to think critically, and increase their awareness of being citizens of the world who are capable of bridging differences and come to better understanding of international cultures.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To achieve this goal, the course will feature films from various regions in Arabic world, ranging between conservatism and openness, tradition and modernism. Students will be required to watch films at the music room in the library and read the literary works and come prepared to class in order to discuss and compare their initial reception. They are also required to do the necessary research and essay writing through which they are expected to promote a deeper understanding of the discussed issues. Students will be required to write four short essays within the semester and a long essay to be turned in before the last week. They are strongly encouraged to be active in class, air their views and show the willingness to revise their initial statements due to deeper thought or research.

Grading Policy:

Presence is mandatory. **Three hours** of absence (whether justified or not) are permitted. After 3 hours of absence, each subsequent hour will deduct **One Point** from the semester final grade. Please note that this policy reflects SHSU's current attendance policy as stated in the Student Handbook.

Four 1500 word essays, one of them un-assessed (3 X 100 points each)	300
One Final 3000 word essay + presentation	200
Timely reading and watching videos	100
Attendance and class participation	100
Writing reflections and filling in questionnaires	100
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	800

At the end of the semester the total points a student obtains will be divided by 8 to obtain a 100-point scale.

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: 59 and below

Course Schedule:

<u>1</u>	W	Aug 23	Arabs and Muslims
	F	Aug 25	Sadallah Wannous, <i>The King's Elephant</i>
<u>2</u>	M	Aug 28	The Arab spring, democracy or fundamentalism
	W	Aug 30	The Return To Homs
	F	Sep 1	The Square
<u>3</u>	M	Sep 4	Labor Day, no class
	W	Sep 6	Arab Spring
	F	Sep 8	Related political issues (check the web for Information about Arab spring (essay #1 due))
<u>4</u>	M	Sep 11	The Liberal Middle East, The Lebanese civil war, Lebanon in the present times, (Check the web for info)
	W	Sep 13	Where Do We Go Now
	F	Sep 15	Hanan Al-Shaykh, "Yasmine's Picture" The experience of displacement, Home and identity
<u>5</u>	M	Sep 18	Caramel, coexistence, feminism
	W	Sep. 20	Amin Maalouf, <i>In the name of Identity</i> , "My Identity, My Allegiances", pp 1-43 (Essay # 2 due)
	F	Sep. 22	The Conservative Middle East Life, values, Society, family and the individual Faith
<u>6</u>	M	Sep 25	Video recording: <i>A new Day in Old Sana'a</i>
	W	Sep 27	<i>Wadjda</i> Read the chapters Men and Women, Formalities and Etiquette, Social Structure, The Role of the family In <i>Understanding Arabs</i> PP 43- 78
	F	Sep 29	Men, Women and family in Yemen and Saudi Arabia, (check the web for info)
<u>7</u>	M	Oct 2	Facts about the Arabic Gulf (check the web for info) (Essay # 3 due)
	W	Oct 4	The Israeli- Arab conflict

	F	Oct 6	The Lemon Tree
8	M	Oct 9	The Syrian Bride
	W	Oct 11	Life in Gaza, Facts about Palestine (check the web for info)
	F	Oct 13	<i>Omar</i>
9	M	Oct 16	<i>The Wanted 13</i>
	W	Oct 18	Discussions, (Essay # 4 due)
	F	Oct 20	Egypt, The Jacobean Building
10	M	Oct 23	Egypt, The Jacobean Building
	W	Nov 25	Egypt, The Jacobean Building
	F	Oct 27	Egypt, The Jacobean Building
11	M	Oct 30	(Essay due), Video: <i>Reel Bad Arabs & Anti-Americanism pp 113-130 in Understanding Arabs A Guide to Modern Times</i>
	W	Nov 1	"Modernity and the Other" pp47-83, <i>In the name of Identity</i>
	F	Nov 3	Mamdouh Udwan, "The Mask" pp- 356-372 in <i>Short Arabic Plays</i>
12	M	Nov 6	Facts about Arabic countries in North Africa (search the web)
	W	Nov 8	The Arab Countries similarities and differences pp- 147-190 in <i>Understanding Arabs A Guide to modern times</i>
	F	Nov 10	Facts about Arabic countries in North Africa (search the web)
13	M	Nov 13	Mamdouh "Adwan, The Garbage Collector
	W	Nov 15	Student's research and presentations, discussions
	F	Nov 17	Student's research and presentations, discussions
14	M	Nov. 20	Student's research and presentations, discussions
	W	Nov. 22	Thanksgiving, no class
	F	Nov 24	Thanksgiving, no class
15		Nov 27	Student's research and presentations, discussions
		Nov 29	Student's research and presentations, discussions
		Dec 1	Student's research and presentations, discussions
16	M,T,W R	Dec 4-7	Final exam

GENERAL COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES AND DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES POLICIES

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the University. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. The students should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the counseling Center.**

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Please refer to <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

No profanity at any time.

Mutual respect required.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Please refer to Academic Policy Statement 810213.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of f resource materials.

YOUR ENROLLMENT IN THIS CLASS CONSTITUTES YOUR LEGAL AND MORAL OBLIGATION TO THE HONOR CODE. Because this course is a listening, speaking, reading, and writing one, I encourage you to work together. **HOWEVER,** plagiarism--copying others' work with out crediting them for it--is legally and ethically unacceptable--AND GROUNDS FOR FAILURE, NOT JUST IN THE ASSIGNMENT, BUT IN THE CLASS. Paraphrases, as well quotes, must be documented. See the article, *Plagiarism*, posted in documents in Blackboard.

I use *Turn-It-In*; so should you! Avoid any misunderstandings, send your papers through *Turn-It-In* before you turn it in! If you don't know how to do this, make an appointment and I'll show you how.

PHILOSOPHY

This is an UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACADEMIC COURSE WITH APPROPRIATE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS. You earn your grade on that basis. You do not receive university credit for "ethnic consciousness" or language ability per se. Academic credit is based upon your intellectual and academic efforts, willingness and ability to reflect upon and respond to requirements of the class.

INTERACTION

RESPECT FOR OTHERS' VIEWS AND SPACE, not necessarily in agreement with one's own, is required on the part of every participant, including what is expressed, shared, etc., in the course of class interaction.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS IN GENERAL, particularly in the case of disagreement about class management issues, is required on the part of every participant. Presentation style is important. Treat others as you would have them treat you!

PERFORMANCE CONCERNS

Faculty are committed to facilitating each student's performance. Students must be committed to maximizing their own performance. This is a dual responsibility.

Please evaluate your personal class progress at least weekly, beginning at the first of the semester, and particularly after your first grade. Take responsibility and action right away! Do not wait until mid-semester and certainly do not wait until late in the semester to act on your concerns.

If you are concerned about your progress, please follow this chronological format:

1. Are you personally spending (minimum) equal time in outside-class preparation as you spend in the classroom itself? (Very many students need more preparation time for language acquisition classes; you may personally need more and you may need study-strategy assistance! Ask for help!)
2. Have you contacted the SAM Center about study-skills suggestions/workshops in general?
3. Are you following the suggested syllabus scenarios to incorporate the target language into your life and maximize your experience?
4. Have you contacted your professor via personal appointment to discuss specific actions which will help you improve your performance?
5. Have you arranged study sessions with other students in the class?
6. Have you contacted the Writing Center and scheduled personal tutoring (free)?

CELL PHONES & PAGERS

Please refer to Section 5.2.22 of the Code of Conduct.

CELL PHONES AND PAGERS must be on vibrate during class time except in pre-arranged-with-the-professor possibility of medical emergency to avoid grade sanctions.

GENERAL STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIAL, in books, presented in class, etc., whether you are listening or not.

YOU ARE PERSONALLY & SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIVITIES (ASKING QUESTIONS OR DOING HOMEWORK) IN ORDER TO MEET YOUR PERSONAL EXPECTATIONS AND DESIRE FOR SUCCESS/GRADE. Probable daily time needed for homework outside class will be a minimum of one to two hours per hour spent in class (3-6 hours per week). "Homework" is largely left to your discretion--you must assess how well you understand and how much practice, reading or written work outside of class you need. You are responsible for anything and everything in the syllabus, book or said in class. You are expected to highlight reading and take notes in class. You are expected to keep in contact with the professor and other students as personally needed.

All papers must include a heading in this format:

(sample)

Student name

Class: ARB 3380.01, fall 2016

Assignment title: Exam # or p. #, exercise#, etc.

If essay, Word count: # (10% variation under/over the assigned is acceptable)

GENERAL FACULTY RESPONSABILITIES

I INTEND TO BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS, ADVISE, ETC., DURING AND OUTSIDE OF CLASS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE but please set prior appointment times via email.

Drop-in visits welcome when my office door is open, although once in a while, I may not be available then due to other appointments/commitments. If so, I will leave a note as to my return. If the door is closed, I am not available. Please email for an appointment.

Please also either honor your appointment or call to cancel. I will afford you the same courtesy if I have an unavoidable conflict.

Email is always better than telephoning.

I INTEND TO RETURN ASSIGNMENTS WITH COMMENTARY AND/OR GRADES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, usually within a week.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

Students will be asked to

-complete an anonymous formal course/instructor evaluation (IDEA) form towards the end of the semester.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: BE IN CLASS, BARRING CONTAGION OR CATASTROPHY!!!

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED for every SINGLE minute of every SINGLE class meeting. If you are absent without making arrangements with the professor, with or without justification, your grade will be affected. A previously negotiated excused absence means that you may make up work missed; the attendance/participation grade will still be deducted.

Students are encouraged to “buddy” with other students to get class notes/assignments.

Always refer to your syllabus and your grades on Blackboard and/or in your notebook.

It is the student’s responsibility to request and turn in make-up work, which normally must be completed within one week after returning. Permitting make-up work, granting full or partial credit, etc. are at the discretion of the professor according to university guidelines.

IF YOU WANT TO USE OUR FOREIGN LANGUAGES AUDIO/VIDEO LAB

VISITORS in the Language lab

All students who are enrolled in FL classes may use the lab during regular hours but must register with the lab monitor

All LAB visitors, including students not enrolled in the lab section at that day/time must register with the Department of Foreign Languages (E305). Unregistered visitors cannot remain in the lab. Children, escorted or not, cannot be admitted into the lab at any time.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES in the Evans 212 Audio/Video lab :

Students, please note that you are responsible for damages occurring to your lab workstation. You are also responsible for leaving your workspace in a clean and tidy

5. STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

5.2 Student Misconduct. . . . Specific examples of misconduct for which students may be subject to disciplinary action include, but are not limited to, the following: (1)

Commission of an act that would constitute an offense under appropriate federal, state, or municipal law.

(8) Stealing, destroying, defacing, damaging, or misusing component property (including misuse of fire or life-safety equipment or property) or property belonging to another.

Please refer to: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Problems of a disciplinary nature are not tolerated in the Languages lab. Students who pose a discipline problem will be asked to leave the lab immediately and will not be readmitted for the remainder of the day (a notice will be sent to the FOL office).

Please refer to <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

DEADLINES

Syllabus assignments will be performed or handed in at the corresponding class.

Daily grades will be assigned at the professor's discretion. In case of serious illness or death in the family, advance or concurrent notice of your absence is required. Call or email and leave a message and, if possible, send your corresponding assignment with another student.

NO LATE PAPERS OR EXAMS WITHOUT WRITTEN EXCUSE (DOCTOR, HOUSEMOTHER, MORTICIAN, ETC.) AND USUALLY MUST BE MADE UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ABSENCE.