

**University of Florida  
Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures**

**ABT3500, Section 1C55  
Arabic Culture  
Fall 2017**

**Instructor:** Youssef A. Haddad  
**Meeting Time:** MWF 2<sup>nd</sup> period (8:30-9:20)  
**Room:** LIT 217  
**Office:** Pugh 357  
**Office Hours:** MW 1:00-2:00 p.m. or by appointment  
**Office:** Pugh Hall 357  
**Tel:** 352-273-2958  
**E-Mail:** [yah@ufl.edu](mailto:yah@ufl.edu)

**Required book:**

Stewart, Dona J. 2013. *The Middle East Today: Political, Geographical, and Cultural Perspectives*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. London and New York: Routledge.

Khalifeh, Sahar. 2005. *The Inheritance*. Translated by Aida Bamia. The American University of Cairo Press.

In addition, the following are available in Library West either on reserve or as e-books:

Video (VHS/DVD)

1. **Science and Islam – Three Parts** (DVD 8706)
2. **A Veiled Revolution** (DVD 2049)
3. **Islam, empire of faith** (DVD 3976)
4. **Islamic Mosques** (DVD: NA4670 .I85 2006)
5. **Paradise Now** (VIDEO 3396)
6. **Reel Bad Arabs** (DVD 6816)
7. **The Arab World Part 2- The Historic Memeory** (VHS Video 3643 pt.2)
8. **When the world spoke Arabic : the golden age of Arab Civilization-The Muslim town** (VHS Video DS36.85 .W44 2001)

Books

9. **Women and Islam: Critical Concepts in Sociology – Edited by Haideh Moghissi**. Three volumes (HQ1170 .W555 2005)
10. **Science and Islam: A History – Ehsam Masood**. Available as an ebook through UF Library West. Multiple users may access the book simultaneously.
11. **Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa (e-book)-Philip Mattar**
12. **Islam and Democracy-Fatema Mernissi** (BP163.M47 1992)
13. **Middle East Patterns: Places, Peoples, and Politics-Held, Colbert** (DS44 .H418 2000)

14. **Muslims: their religious beliefs and practices-Andrew Rippin** (BP161.2 .R53 2005)
15. **Nation, Society, and Culture in North Africa-James McDougall (ed.)** (DT176 .N38 2003)
16. **The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa-David E. Long, Bernard Reich, and Mark Gasiorowski (eds.)** (DS62.8.G68 2007 )
17. **The Islamic World-Andrew Rippin (ed.)** (DS35.63.I87 2008 )
18. **The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State-Halim Barakat** (DS36.88.B36 1993)

### **Course description:**

This course is a survey of Arabic culture from the sixth century to the present. It mainly focuses on Islamic civilization and culture of the people of the Middle East and North Africa.

### **Course Objectives:**

By the conclusion of this course, it is expected that students will:

- have deeper understanding of the Arabs' culture, with special reference to history, religion, society, politics, and art, as well as to the Arabs' contributions to medicine, mathematics and architecture;
- be familiar with and be able to assess and evaluate misconceptions about Arabs and Arabic culture;
- develop deeper understanding of own culture through comparison with the target culture;
- implement higher order thinking and analytic skills by going beyond comprehension and using application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Refer to Bloom's taxonomy on this website [http://ww2.odu.edu/educ/roverbau/Bloom/blooms\\_taxonomy.htm](http://ww2.odu.edu/educ/roverbau/Bloom/blooms_taxonomy.htm) .

N.B. The course has a writing requirement (WR) – 4000 words.

I will have office hours three days a week. Please do come to see me if you need help.

### **Course requirements:**

- 1) Four Essays (40%) – 100 points each

You will be assigned four take-home essays. These are expected to be turned in as typed 1,000-word essays (double-spaced, font Times 12, 1" margin all around). Each essay will be a response to one or more of the following: lecture notes, video, and assigned readings. Take-home essays are expected to be turned in as hard and electronic copies. Each essay will be graded according to content and organization, as well as language and formatting. A rubric will be provided. You have to score C or higher on these essays in order to fulfill the writing requirement.

**Essay 1: Friday September 1**

**Essay 2: Friday September 22**

**Essay 3: Friday October 27**

**Essay 4: Friday November 17**

**Important: To satisfy the WR requirement for this class, you need to earn C (73-76) or higher.**

2) **Country Presentation (10%) – 100 points**  
 Groups of 4 students will be assigned a country each. Members of the group are expected to give the class a 15-to-20-minute presentation to inform us about their country (its history, geography, demography, social issues, current situation, exciting and unexciting things about it). One group presents per day – though not necessarily every day – during weeks 6, 7, and 8.

3) **Two Exams (30%) – 150 points each**  
 These are a midterm and a final.

**Midterm: Monday October 17**  
**Final: Wednesday December 6**

4) **Ten Assignments (20%) – 20 points each**  
 These are mainly reading and audio-visual assignments accompanied with questions. You are expected to type all answers and turn in assignments electronically on Canvas.

**Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):**

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	63-66	62-60	59-
(4.0)	(3.67)	(3.33)	(3.0)	(2.67)	(2.33)	(2.0)	(1.67)	(1.33)	(1.0)	(0.67)	(0)

**Note:** A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>;  
<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

**Canvas:** All assignments, announcements, exercises, study guides, grades, etc. will be posted on the course website on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check the website regularly and keep up to date with the class.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. Students will lose 1% from their final grade for each unexcused absence. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, & military obligation:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. These need to be documented excuses. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to the material covered. Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on return to classes. You may miss 2 sessions without any penalty. Every absence thereafter results in minus 1% deducted from your final grade unless the absence is a documented excuse. Arriving late or leaving early is considered a half absence and results in minus 0.5% from the final grade. Refer to the following website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences>

**Late and Make-Up Work:** No late work will be accepted or make-ups will be offered unless the

student offers a legitimate documented excuse. See **Attendance** above.

**Cell phones and other electronic devices:** Students are expected to put on silent and put away all cell phones during class sessions. No electronic devices are needed in this course. Accordingly, all electronic devices must be put away as well.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Violations of the honor code include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, bribery, misrepresentation, fabrication, and conspiracy. Such violations may result in the following: lowering of grades, mandatory 0 on assignments, redoing assignments, a final failing grade in the course, expulsion from the course, referral to the student-run Honor Court. The Honor Code states: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.* For more information, refer to: [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/Academic\\_Honesty.html](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/Academic_Honesty.html)

**Students with Special Needs:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (Disability Resources in Reid Hall). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources.

**Counseling & Mental Health Resources:** Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

**Online Course Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

**Other Issues:** Appointments – Letters of Recommendation – E-mail

1) Appointments: No appointment is needed for meetings during office hours. If you make an appointment with me outside my office hours, please make sure you show up on time. If you wish to cancel, do so at least two hours in advance. Students who violate these will not be given a second chance.

2) Letters of recommendation: If you wish me to write you a letter of recommendation, before you approach me with a request, please make sure that:

- You do so at least three weeks before the deadline of the letter.
- You will earn / have earned at least B+ in all classes you had with me.

- You had regular attendance.
- You did all required work, including ungraded work.
- You never behaved in a disrespectful way - tacitly or otherwise - with me or your classmates.

3) E-mail: Please note that e-mail messages WITHOUT the following will be ignored:

- A meaningful subject line
- A proper greeting (at least in the first message in a series of related messages; i.e., messages with the same subject line). Examples of proper greeting include 'Dear/Hello Dr. Haddad.' No 'hey' or simply 'hello'.
- And please make sure you read your message over before you hit 'send'.

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### SCHEDULE

*The dates and distribution of the topics are tentative and subject to modifications.*

Week	Topics	Readings and Audio-Visual Material
1-3	Introduction What is Culture The geo-political Arab World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewart Ch. 1 – 3</li> <li>• Reel Bad Arabs (DVD PN1995.9.A68R44 2006)</li> <li>• du Bois – “The Dominant Value Profile of American Culture”</li> </ul>
4-6	Religion: Components and Practice of Islam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Islam: An Empire of Faith 1 (DVD 3976 or youtube)</li> <li>• Stewart Ch. 4 – 7</li> </ul>
7-8	Religion and Society: Islam and Social Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Muslim Town - Urban Life Under the Caliphate (Video <a href="#">DS36.85 .W44 2001</a> )</li> <li>• The Arab World: The Historic Memory (Video 3643)</li> <li>• Barakat – Tribe, Village, City</li> <li>• Bennet – Rites of Passage</li> </ul>
9-10	Science in the Golden Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science Islam 1, 2, &amp; 3 (BBC Documentary) + “Why Does the Muslim World Lag in Science?” by Aaron Segal</li> </ul>
11-13	Family and Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caramel or Arranged (Video 3607) + Discussion – 96 minutes running time</li> <li>• The Syrian Bride (Video 1846) + Discussion – 96 minutes running time</li> </ul>

14-15	Art and Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Arab House – The Islamic City (Video <a href="#">NA380 .I841 1983</a>)</li><li>• The Mosque – DVD <a href="#">NA4670 .I85 2006</a></li></ul>