

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

**ABT3500, Section 2R12, Class # 26793**

**Arabic Culture**

**Fall 2021**

**Instructor:** Youssef A. Haddad  
**E-Mail:** [yah@ufl.edu](mailto:yah@ufl.edu)  
**Meeting Time:** MWF 3rd period (9:35-10:25)  
**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
or by appointment  
In-person: Pugh 357  
Online: Zoom link:  
<https://ufl.zoom.us/my/yhaddad>  
**Teaching Assistant:** Athmane Antara  
**E-Mail:** [aantara@ufl.edu](mailto:aantara@ufl.edu)  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Required book:**

Alsanousi, Saud. 2012. *The Bamboo Stalk*. Translated by Jonathan Write. Doha, Qatar: Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press.

**Recommended book:**

*MLA Handbook 8<sup>th</sup> Edition*. 2016. The Modern Language Association of America.

Additional printed and audio-visual material will be posted on Canvas or made available through Smathers Libraries.

**Course description:**

This course is a survey of Arabic culture from the sixth century to the present. It focuses on Islamic civilization and culture of the people of the Middle East and North Africa. It starts with a discussion of culture and the elements it constitutes. It then provides an overview of the geopolitical aspects of the Arab world. The focus then shifts to cultural components such as religion, science, family values, women rights, and arts in the Arab world and how they compare to the students' native culture. The discussion of these topics is always framed within the definition of culture proposed at the beginning of the course.

**Course Objectives:**

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

1. Identify, describe, and explain elements of Arabic culture, with special reference to history, religion, society, politics, and art, as well as to the Arabs' contributions to medicine, mathematics and architecture. **(Content)**
2. Compare elements of the target culture with elements of own culture and evaluate them on the basis of specific standards and/or supporting evidence. **(Critical Thinking)**

3. Identify, analyze, and evaluate misconceptions about Arabs and Arabic culture. (**Content & Critical Thinking**)
4. Identify elements of the Arabic culture that they may personally understand, embrace, and/or reject, and justify stance on the basis of clear reasons and supporting evidence. (**Connection**)
5. Develop clear, organized, and effective presentation and evaluation, both in oral and written forms, of scholarly research on specific topics pertaining to the Arabic culture. (**Communication**)

This course satisfies three General Education requirements: Humanities – International – Writing:

- **HUMANITIES DESCRIPTION:** Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.
  - **HUMANITIES SLOS:**
    - Identify, describe, and explain the history, underlying theory and methodologies used in the course (Content).
    - Identify and analyze key elements, biases and influences that shape thought within the subject area. Approach issues and problems within the discipline from multiple perspectives (Critical Thinking).
    - Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively (Communication).
- **INTERNATIONAL:** International courses promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness. Students examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world. Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world.
  - **INTERNATIONAL SLOS**
    - Identify, describe, and explain the historical, cultural, economic, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world (Content).
    - Analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate understandings of an increasingly connected contemporary world (Critical Thinking).
    - In conjunction with the Humanities, communication outcomes are listed there (Communication).
- **WRITING DESCRIPTION:** The Writing Requirement (WR) ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. The writing course grade assigned by the instructor has two components: the writing component and a course grade. To receive writing credit a student must satisfactorily complete all the assigned written work and receive a minimum grade of C (2.0) for the course. It is possible to not meet the writing requirement and still earn a minimum grade of C in a class, so students should review their degree audit after receiving their grade to verify receipt of credit for the writing component.

- WRITING EVALUATION:
  - This course carries 4000 words that count towards the UF Writing Requirement. You must turn in all written work counting towards the 4000 words in order to receive credit for those words.
  - The instructor will evaluate and provide feedback on the student's written work with respect to content, organization and coherence, argument and support (when appropriate), style, clarity, grammar, punctuation, and other mechanics, using a published writing rubric.
  - More specific rubrics and guidelines for individual assignments may be provided during the course of the semester

**Course requirements:**

1) Essays (20%)

You will be assigned four take-home essays, each worth 5% or 50 points. These are expected to be turned in as typed 1,000-word essays (double-spaced, font Times 12, 1" margin all around).

- a. Essay One is a practice essay.
- b. Essays Two, Three, & Four are evaluation essays in reaction to the assigned novel *The Bamboo Stalk*.
  - i. Essay Two targets Parts 1 & 2 of the novel.
  - ii. Essay Three focuses on Parts 3 & 4.
  - iii. Essay Four deals with the rest of the novel.

Each essay is expected to select certain aspects of the assigned parts (e.g., characters, events), make a judgment about them, and present arguments in favor of this judgment. Students are expected to support their arguments by giving specific evidence/details from the novels and by making specific reference to other reading and audiovisual material used in the course.

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.

For one-on-one assistance with writing, visit the University Writing Program ([www.writing.ufl.edu](http://www.writing.ufl.edu)) & Writing Studio (<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>)

Recommended website for MLA formatting and style guide:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html)

Recommended website for APA formatting and style guide:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html)

2) Country Presentation (10%) – 100 points

Groups of 3-5 students will be assigned a country each. Members of the group are expected to give the class a 15-25-minute presentation (5 minutes per student) to inform us about their country (its history, geography, demography, social issues, current situation, exciting and unexciting things about it, how it compares to their native culture). One group presents per day – though not necessarily every day – during weeks 3, 4, and 5.

3) Two Exams (35%)

These are a midterm (15%) and a final (20%). Each exam contains questions that may take one or more of the following formats:

- a. Multiple choice questions – fill-in-the-blanks questions – matching questions
- b. Questions that require a short answer or a paragraph (a 100-word answer) –
- c. Essay questions (300 words).

4) Homework Assignments (35%)

These are reading and audiovisual assignments accompanied with online questions. They are all available under Quizzes on Canvas:

- a. Arab Nation States: Locations, Capitals, Flags 20 pts
- b. Reel Bad Arabs 30 pts
- c. Islam: Empire of Faith – Part I: The Messenger 30 pts
- d. Islam: Empire of Faith – Part II: The Awakening 30 pts
- e. Tribe – Village – City 50 pts
- f. Science & Islam – Part I: The Language of Science 30 pts
- g. Science & Islam – Part II: The Empire of Reason 25 pts
- h. Science & Islam – Part III: The Power of Doubt 30 pts
- i. The Arab Family 50 pts
- j. Family Life in the movie *Arranged* 25 pts
- k. Islamic Art 30 pts

**Grading Scale & GPA Equivalent**

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93	92.9-90	89.9-87	86.9-83	82.9-80	79.9-77	76-73	72.9-70	69.9-67	66.9-63	62.9-60	59-
(4.0)	(3.67)	(3.33)	(3.0)	(2.67)	(2.33)	(2.0)	(1.67)	(1.33)	(1.0)	(0.67)	(0)

Students will need to earn a C or higher to use this course toward a major or minor and/or earn General Education Credit.

To receive writing requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course.

For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

<https://student.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

### Canvas

All assignments, lecture notes, handouts, 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 and make-ups

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

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

Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. You may miss 2 sessions without any penalty. 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. 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. Arriving late or leaving early (before class is dismissed) is considered a half absence and results in minus 0.5% from the final grade. After 15 unexcused absences, a student is not allowed to attend class anymore and s/he will receive a failing grade.

### Class Demeanor & Academic Integrity

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and eating during class time. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. 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.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. For more information see

<https://disability.ufl.edu/>.

## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

- ▶ U Matter, We Care: [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu); 392-1575
- ▶ Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> ; 392-1575
- ▶ Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center; 392-1161
- ▶ University Police Department: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/> ; 392-1111 (911 for emergencies)

## ACADEMIC RESOURCES

- E-learning technical support: [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu); <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml> ; 352-392-4357 (opt. 2)
- Career Resource Center: Reitz Union; <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/> ; 392-1601
- Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall; 392-2010 or 392-6420
- Writing Studio: 302 Tigert Hall; <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> ; 846-1138

### Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations 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/results/> .

### In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

## SCHEDULE

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

Assignments – Color Codes:

Exams

Essays

Country Presentations

Assignments

Week	Topics	Assignments
1.	Introduction What is Culture	Wed: Arab Nation States: Locations, Capitals, Flags  Fri: Reel Bad Arabs
2.	The geo-political Arab World	Thurs: Islam: Empire of Faith – Part I  Fri: Islam: Empire of Faith – Part II
3.	Religion: Components and Practice of Islam	Mon: Essay One  Mon & Wed: Country Presentations
4.	Religion: Components and Practice of Islam – Cont.	Wed & Fri: Country Presentations
5.	Religion: Components and Practice of Islam – Cont.	Wed & Fri : Country Presentations
6.	Religion and Society: Islam & Social Structure The Muslim Town - Urban Life Under the Caliphate (Video <a href="#">DS36.85</a> <a href="#">.W44 2001</a> )	Mon: Tribe, Village, City  Fri: Essay Two
7.	Religion and Society: Islam & Social Structure – Cont. Thur.: The Arab World: The Historic Memory (Video 3643)	

8.	Science in the Golden Age	<p>Mon: Midterm Exam</p> <p>Wed: Science &amp; Islam – Part I</p> <p>Fri: Science &amp; Islam – Part II</p>
9.	Science in the Golden Age – Cont.	<p>Mon: Science &amp; Islam – Part III</p>
10.	Family and Women	<p>Mon: The Arab Family</p>
11.	Family and Women In the movie <i>Arranged</i>	<p>Mon: Essay Three</p>
12.	Family and Women In the movie <i>Caramel</i>	
13.	Art and Daily Life The Arab House – The Islamic City (Video <a href="#">NA380 .I841 1983</a> )	<p>Mon: Essay Four</p> <p>Fri: Islamic Art</p>
14.	Art and Daily Life The Mosque – DVD <a href="#">NA4670 .I85 2006</a>	
15.	Art and Daily Life: Food	
16.	Final Exam (scheduled by Registrar)	