

Arabic 407
Readings in Arabic
TR, 9:30-10:45 pm/103 New West

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Tues. 11-12 pm, Thurs 2:30-3:20 am, or by appointment.

Texts

All texts are available on Blackboard under Course Documents.

سلوى بكر "عن الروح التي سرقت تدريجياً"
جبيرا ابراهيم جبيرا. *النبر الأولي* (مختارات)
توفيق الحكيم (مسرحية قصيرة)
سلمى الخضراء الجيوسي. *حقوق الإنسان في الفكر العربي*. (مختارات)
محمود درويش (قصائد مختارة)
أمين الريحاني. "من على جسر بروكلن"
هشام شرابي. *النقد الحضاري للمجتمع العربي في نهاية القرن العشرين*
الطيب صالح. "حفنة تمر"
محمود أمين العالم. "الرواية العربية،" *الفصول*, م. 12.
عبد الرحمن منيف. *سيرة مدينة - عمان في الأربعينات*. (مختارات)
عايدة نجار. *بنات عمان أيام زمان*. (مختارات)
ابراهيم نصر الله. *زمن الخيول البيضاء* (مختارات)

Course Description

ARAB 407 is designed to introduce students to selected topics from the literature of the Arab World. The course will involve both the close reading of texts and analysis of their aesthetic, cultural, social, and political dimensions. While developing reading fluency is a central objective of the course, Arabic courses at the 400 level are considered content rather than language courses. Thus, students can expect to engage with readings with the same level of intellectual inquiry that they apply to courses taught in English.

The course and its readings are entirely in Arabic. Up-to-date information about ARAB 407 is available on Blackboard. There you will find, in addition to the syllabus, announcements, information regarding changes to the course and relevant events taking place at UNC and the surrounding area. You are encouraged to visit the website regularly.

Course Objectives

1. Develop students' Arabic language skills such that they can read, write about, and discuss literary and academic texts intelligently.
3. Further develop an understanding of the Arab World and Arab culture and some of the issues that are of concern to creative writers and intellectuals of the region.
4. Learn to read imaginative literature thoughtfully and critically.
5. Develop analytical skills. That is, refine skills in thinking and writing, so that after the course students are able to offer informed and insightful analysis of topics in the literature of different cultures, including but not limited to the Arab World.

Grading

Grades will be assigned on the following basis:

Participation 15%

Attendance and class participation is mandatory. All students are expected to come to class prepared (having read and thought about the assigned reading) and ready to share their opinions and ideas with their peers. Any student who misses more than ten class meetings for any reason will not pass the class.

Three Class Presentations and Short Papers 25%

Students will be divided into small groups to prepare for leading class discussion of the readings. Each small group will be responsible for leading discussion three during the semester. Leading discussion will involve introducing the writer and the text to the class on the class meeting *before* we begin discussion of the text; reviewing the grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structures that the group found challenging and that facilitate understanding the content of the text; and, preparing questions about the text that will lead to a stimulating conversation about its literariness, as well as its social, political, and/or historical importance. Students will also write short individual papers (approx. 2 pages) about the three texts they prepare in their small groups. Papers must be typed, proofread for accuracy; and logically structured as essays (including introduction, thesis statement, body, and conclusion). The grade for all papers in the course will be based on writing mechanics, linguistic sophistication; essay structure, and the quality of ideas and argument. The first presentation/paper will count for 5% and the last two for 10% each of the final grade.

Midterms 25%

There will be three midterms during the course of the semester, one at the conclusion of each of the three units covered (memoirs; narrative fiction; modern Arab thought). The midterms are tentatively scheduled for Sept. 16, Oct. 9, and Nov. 11. The midterms will cover the grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary discussed in class as well as the content of the texts themselves. The first midterm will count for 5% and the last two for 10% each of the final grade.

Final Paper 20%

Students will write a final 4-5 page paper in which they treat in depth one of the themes or works covered in class.

Final Exam 15%

The final exam is scheduled for December 12 at 8:00 am. The exam will be cover readings and class discussion from the entire semester.

Extra Credit up to 3%

You may earn up to 3% extra credit by attending events (lectures, films, conferences, etc.) relating to the Arab World. You may obtain 1% extra credit for each event you attend. **To receive the credit, you must check with the instructor to ensure that the event is relevant to the course** and write a one-page (double spaced, 14 point type, 1 inch margins) review of the event within one week of the event. Your review should not just summarize the event, but include analysis and discussion of ideas, images, etc. presented. An excellent source of information about events related to Islam and the Middle East can be found at <http://www.unc.edu/depts/islamsem/2007-2008.shtml>. This list is continually updated by the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, so I encourage you to visit the site frequently. However, please note that many of the listed events, although worthwhile in their own right, do not relate to this course and therefore are not appropriate for extra credit. Do not assume that an event can count as extra credit if it is listed there. Please

note that events required (or used as extra-credit) for another course cannot be used for extra-credit in this course.

ARAB 407 students are encouraged to participate in all the activities organized by the Arabic Program. However, given the advanced level of this course, you cannot receive extra credit for attending coffee hour.

The Honor Code

All students are expected to follow the guidelines of the UNC honor code, In particular, students are expected to refrain from "lying, cheating, or stealing" in the academic context. If you are unsure about which actions violate that honor code, see me or consult the description of the honor code itself. More information about UNC's honor code can be found at

<http://honor.unc.edu/>.

Tentative Class Schedule

Below is a schedule of planned class discussions. Students are expected to read the entire text by the first date of class discussion. They should come to class with specific questions about grammar, structure and vocabulary, and be prepared to discuss the content of the readings. The first day of discussion will focus on reading comprehension. Students are expected to completely *reread* the entire text in preparation for the second day of class discussion. The second day of discussion will focus on the literary features and ideas in the texts and how they relate to their social, political, and historical contexts.

8/19 Introduction/ Mahmud Darwish	8/21 Darwish
8/26 Unit One: Memoirs `Aidah Najjar	8/28 Najjar
9/2 `Abd al-Rahman Munif	9/4 Munif
9/9 Jabra Ibrahim Jabra	9/11 Jabra
9/16 MIDTERM	9/18 Unit Two: Narrative Fiction Salwa Bakr
9/23 Bakr	9/25 Al-Tayyib Salih
9/30 Salih	10/2 Ibrahim Nasrallah
10/7 Nasrallah	10/9 MIDTERM
10/14 General Discussion	10/16 Fall Break
10/21 Unit Three: Arab Thought Salma Khadra al-Jayyusi	10/22 Jayyusi
10/28 Hisham Sharabi	10/29 Sharabi
11/4 Muhmud Amin al-`Alim	11/16 al-`Alim
11/11 MIDTERM	11/12 Amin al-Rihani
11/18 al-Hakim	11/20 al-Hakim
11/25 al-Hakim	11/27 Thanksgiving
12/2 al-Hakim performance Final Paper Due	
12/12 8:00 AM Final Exam	

Arabic Program Activities

Thursday, August 28 Coffee Hour. Details TBA

Thursday, Sept. 4 Possible screening of the film *The Dupes* (location and time TBA)

Monday, Sept. 22 Visit to Al-Iman School and Islamic Center 11 am-1:30 pm.

Monday, Nov. 3 Coffee Hour. Details TBA