



UNC CHARLOTTE

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of Languages and Culture Studies**ARAB 3051 | Understanding Millennials of the Middle East through Literature, Culture, and Mass Media | 3 credits****Faculty:** Dr. Noha M. Ghali**Email:** nghali@uncc.edu**Office:** COED 430 D**Phone:** 704-687-8754**Office Hours:** Tue, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and by appointment

My preferred method of contact is by email. I will respond to all emailed questions within 24 hours Mon-Fri. I do not respond to emails over the weekend.

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to engage students in a study of Middle East diversity and change by focusing on young adults. Middle Eastern millennials – young adults aged from late teens to early thirties – can provide important insights into Middle Eastern societies and the changes they are experiencing. Young adults make up 60% of the population of most Middle Eastern countries and play an important role in affecting society as a whole. For one thing, their technological knowledge make certain that their influence will continue both now and in the future.

The course will address topics such as the historically changing definition of youth, ethnic identity, the role that youth play in modern political movements, changing notions of gender and sexuality (with generational as well as individual differences), and relationship with various religious organizations: (participation, identity, and attitudes,). This course will create many opportunities for students to participate in an informative, practical, and engaging learning environment.

Pre or Co-requisite:

None

Meeting Times:

Monday/Wednesday, 4:00 pm to 5:15 pm, COED 032

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

- identify countries, principal cities, ethnic groups and major historical and geopolitical features in the Middle East;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of contemporary Middle East culture as reflected in language, history, arts, social, and political institutions;
- demonstrate knowledge of youth political movements;
- demonstrate knowledge of religious diversity in the region;
- demonstrate close reading, critical and analytical skills through reading assignments, class discussions, writing, and presentations; and
- conduct analysis of literary and cultural texts with sociocultural, religious, and political themes;
- reflect on the role of cultural producers in communicating the complexity of Middle Easterners' thoughts and concerns;
- identify main narratives of belonging in Middle Easterners' collective memory;

Required Materials:

1. Cole, Juan. (2014). *The New Arabs. How the Millennial Generation Is Changing the Middle East*
2. Other materials will be available in Canvas such as:
 - Lüküslü, Demet. "Creating a Pious Generation: Youth and Education Policies of the AKP in Turkey." *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies* 16, no. 4 (2016): 637-649.
 - Honarbin-Holliday, Mehri. *Becoming Visible in Iran: Women in Contemporary Iranian Society*. Vol. 14. IB Tauris, 2013, pp. 127-161.
 - Spiegel, Avi Max. *Young Islam: The New Politics of Religion in Morocco and the Arab World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015, pp. 115-150.
 - 2019 ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller Arab Youth survey. White Paper (<http://arabyouthsurvey.com/whitepaper.html>)
 - They Die Strangers – Mohammad Abdul Wali's novel (on nostalgia)

Films

- In Between – Maysaloun Hamoud (on young Arab women challenges in Tel Aviv)
- From A to B – Ali Mostafa (on Arabs and fragmented identities)
- City of Life – Ali Mostafa (on class division in the Arab World)
- Paradise Now (on Terrorism and resistance)
- On the Way to School - Turkish documentary film directed by Orhan Eskiköy and Özgür Doğan (on the Kurds Minority and their challenges in Turkey)

Other required films and articles will be available for the duration of this course.

Course Website: Canvas, a course management software, is the official website for this class. Using this tool, you will be able to

- check class schedule
- check some of the class materials
- view and submit your discussion guide entries
- submit your mid-term and final project
- receive class announcements
- view your course grades and monitor your progress
- participate in the class periodic feedback

Expectations:

You are required to attend classes, contribute to discussions, and stay engaged with the course assignments throughout the semester.

Grading Criteria:

| Course Element | Percentage |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Presentation | 15% |
| Discussion guide entries | 15% |
| Attendance and participation | 10% |
| Concept Test | 10% |
| Midterm project | 25% |
| Final project | 25% |
| Total | 100% |

Evaluation Criteria

- **Attendance and Participation (10%):** This class requires regular attendance and active participation. Missing a class, coming late or leaving early will jeopardize your progress and affect your final grade negatively; and so will your lack of contributions to class. Please, note that you are entitled up to two unexcused absences and that excused absences must be properly documented.

To ensure strong attendance and participation, you will earn points every time you come to class prepared with your required material. Your voluntary participation in discussion will also factor into your receiving these points. These points add up to 10% of your grade.

If you must miss class for an excused absence (a school-sponsored event), opportunities to

make up the missed points will be provided. Opportunities to make up missed points for reasons such as illness, car troubles, family crises, etc. will be decided on a case by case basis. However, you must contact me as soon as possible after the crisis to discuss the missed work. In addition, if you arrive more than 10 minutes late to class, you will be marked absent for the day. Consistent tardies will result in a zero overall participation grade.

- **Concept Tests (2 x 10% = 10%):** Each test will be administered in class. You will be given 75 minutes to answer one of two critical questions related to class materials covered prior to the test date. The answer should be constructed in an essay format. You will be provided with a study guide for every test to help you in your preparation.
- **Discussion Guide Entries (15%):** You are required to submit paragraph-long discussion guide entries in Canvas. Each guide entry registers your personal critical response to one question usually raised at the end of each class. The question is based on readings and course materials specified for the following class. You will be asked to post your response in the course website no later than 11:59 pm on Sundays.
- **Mid-Term Paper (25%):** You will be asked to answer one of two questions in the form of a four-to-five-take-home page critical essay. In your response, you will be expected to analyze a selected number of class texts. Your analysis should also include references to the cultural materials presented in class.
- **Final Project (25%):** This is an eight-to-ten page-long paper in which you will be asked to identify a specific Arabic primary source (Arabic or English translated) nurturing a particular theme in the course. Examples of primary sources include but are not limited to novels, short stories, poems, plays, films, songs, performances, and drawings. Your paper should analyze the item in line of a well-defined thesis statement that adds depth to our study of the Arabs' narratives of identity and belonging. You are expected to cite at least 4 scholarly sources. There is a timeline for students to follow in order to progress in a timely fashion. The grades of this project are distributed as follows:
 - Submitting a project proposal: 5%
 - Submitting draft: 10%
 - Submitting the final project: 85%
- **Presenting final project: 15%**
- **Extra-Credit Assignments:** Extra-credit assignments are usually scaled down to particular campus or public events related to the course's highlighted themes. There are NO ways for students to make up the missed deadlines for such assignments.

Formatting & Writing Style: All your written assignments should be formatted as follows: font type (Times New Roman); font size (12); lines (double-spaced); margins (1-inch in each side).

Bibliographies are not required in this course, but all sources must be cited in footnotes (no endnotes). Your assignments should follow the APA writing style.

Grading Scale:

A 100 % to 90.0%

B <90.0 % to 80.0%

C <80.0 % to 70.0%

D <70.0 % to 60.0%

F <60.0 % to 0.0%

Course Policies:

Syllabus Revision:

The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the course instructor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class or by written or email notice or by changes to this syllabus posted on the course website at <https://canvas.uncc.edu>.

Classroom Conduct:

I will conduct this class in an atmosphere of mutual respect. I encourage your active participation in class discussions. Each of us may have strongly differing opinions on the various topics of class discussions. The conflict of ideas is encouraged and welcome. The orderly questioning of the ideas of others, including mine, is similarly welcome. However, I will exercise my responsibility to manage the discussions so that ideas and argument can proceed in an orderly fashion. You should expect that if your conduct during class discussions seriously disrupts the atmosphere of mutual respect I expect in this class, you will not be permitted to participate further.

Classroom Culture:

- We will discuss various issues that might be controversial and emotional to some members of the class. You are encouraged to share your perspective. Class discussions, however, should be conducted in a mature and civil manner. Any personal attacks, name calling, or demeaning language will NOT be tolerated.
- If you prefer to be addressed by a name or pronoun different from what appears in your University records, please do not hesitate to inform me.
- Using laptops and tablets in class is NOT permitted I class

- I will send periodic announcements regarding coursework. You are responsible for checking them through email and/or Canvas's announcement section.
- The primary means of communication beyond classroom is email. Please, allow 24 hours for me to respond to your emails.

Late Work and Make-Ups:

- Small assignments that are submitted late will receive a zero.
- In some situations, I will offer make-up work to make up missed in-class points; however, this will be decided on a case-by-case basis and the reason for missing the assignment must be legitimate. As this class relies so heavily on collaboration, making up missed work will be very difficult or impossible in some cases.
- Major Writing Assignments submitted after the due date and time will receive an automatic one-time deduction of 25%. Assignments submitted more than a week after the due date will receive a zero.

Revisions:

Revisions of all major writing assignments must be completed and submitted no later than 2 weeks after feedback has been returned.

Feedback:

Typically, feedback will be returned within one week for small assignments and two weeks for larger papers.

Academic Integrity:

All students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. Students are expected to submit their own work, either as individuals or contributors to a group assignment. Definitions and examples of plagiarism and other violations are set forth in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at: <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407> Faculty may ask students to produce identification at examinations and may require students to demonstrate that graded assignments completed outside of class are their own work.

Course Credit Workload:

This 3-credit course requires 3 hours of classroom or direct faculty instruction a week and 6 hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks. Out-of-class work may include but is not limited to: required reading, library research, written assignments, and discussion posts.

Non-Discrimination:

All students and the instructor are expected to engage with each other respectfully. Unwelcome conduct directed toward another person based upon that person's actual or perceived race, actual or perceived gender, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or veteran status, or for any other reason, may constitute a violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility. Any student suspected of engaging in such conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Title IX:

Title IX UNC Charlotte is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. UNC Charlotte has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. Please be aware that many UNC Charlotte employees, including all faculty members, are considered Responsible Employees who are required to relay any information or reports of sexual misconduct they receive to the Title IX Coordinator. This means that if you tell me about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, I must report the information to the Title IX Coordinator. Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can contact any of the following on-campus resources, who are not required to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator: (1) University Counseling Center (counselingcenter.uncc.edu, 7-0311); (2) Student Health Center (studenthealth.uncc.edu, 7-7400); or (3) Center for Wellness Promotion (wellness.uncc.edu, 7-7407). Additional information about your options is also available at titleix.uncc.edu under the "Students" tab.

Religious Accommodation:

Students who, acting in accordance with this Policy, miss classes, examinations or other assignments because of a religious practice or belief must be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a [Request for Religious Accommodation Form](#) to their instructor prior to the census date for enrollment for a given semester. The census date for each semester (typically the tenth day of instruction) can be found in [UNC Charlotte's academic calendar](#).

Student Grievances:

Student Grievances Students enrolled in courses at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte who would like to file a complaint regarding their experience may do the following: 1. Refer to the UNC Charlotte Student Grievance Procedure. Students may also contact UNC Charlotte's regional accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on

Colleges. 2. Students residing outside of North Carolina while attending UNC Charlotte may file a complaint in their state of residence. As required by federal regulations, students are directed to the list of resources here, compiled and updated by the State Higher Education Executive Officers.

Withdrawals:

Students are expected to complete all courses for which they are registered at the close of the add/drop period. If you are concerned about your ability to succeed in this course, it is important to make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible. The University policy on withdrawal allows students only a limited number of opportunities available to withdraw from courses. It is important for you to understand the financial and academic consequences that may result from course withdrawal.

Incompletes:

The grade of I is assigned at the discretion of the instructor when a student who is otherwise passing has not, due to circumstances beyond his/her control, completed all the work in the course. The missing work must be completed by the deadline specified by the instructor, and no later than 12 months. If the I is not removed during the specified time, a grade of F, U, or N, as appropriate is automatically assigned. The grade of I cannot be removed by enrolling again in the same course, and students should not re-enroll in a course in which they have been assigned the grade of I. University policy addressing Incompletes.

Student Support:**Disability Support Services:**

Students in this course seeking accommodations to disabilities must first consult with the Office of Disability Services and follow the instructions of that office for obtaining accommodations. The Office of Disability Services works with current undergraduate and graduate students along with prospective students to ensure equal access to UNC Charlotte's campus and educational programs.

All services are dependent upon verification of eligibility. Once approved for services, students receive accommodations which are based upon the nature of an individual's disability and documented needs. Students are strongly encouraged to register or check-in for their accommodations with a Disability Services counselor as soon as they have registered for classes. Accommodations are not retro-active and will not begin until the student notifies his or her faculty by providing the Letter of Accommodation.

Please visit the Office of Disability Services at for additional resources, email questions to disability@uncc.edu, or call 704-687-0040 (tty/v) for more information.

Student Support Services: Be sure to take advantage of the wealth of resources and support available at UNC Charlotte. Some of the resources available to you include the University Writing Resource Center, University Counseling Center, and the J. Murrey Atkins Library.

- [University Center for Academic Excellent \(UCAE\) | \(704\) 687 7837 | uncc-ucae@uncc.edu](#)
- [University Writing Resources Center \(WRC\) | 704-687-1899 | wrchelp@uncc.edu](#)
- [Veteran Student Services | 704-687-5488 | veteranservice@uncc.edu](#)
- [University Counseling Center | 704-687-0311](#)
- [Multicultural Resource Center | 704-687-7121 | mrc@uncc.edu](#)
- [List of computer labs on campus](#)
- [Atkins Library Laptop Lending program](#)