

**MENAS 160 A2 - Middle Eastern Humanities-  
Gen Ed “Building Connections/World Cultures and Societies”  
Fall 2022 - MW 12:00-12:50 - Plus Discussion Section**

Middle Eastern Humanities introduces students to the values, traditions, and development of Middle Eastern (largely Islamic and Arab) culture and civilization. This course is designed to familiarize students with traditions in cuisine, art, architecture, literature and popular culture of the Middle East, to help students understand these achievements in their social and cultural contexts, and to consider the historical evolution of our knowledge and understanding of these achievements. Students exiting this course should have gained a sound understanding of the geographical extent and variety, historic significance, cultural contributions, and ongoing importance of this region of the world. This is a “Building Connections” General Education Class which fulfills the “world cultures and societies” attribute.

**Instructor and Contact Information**

Professor: Dr. Leila Hudson

Online by appointment, lhudson@email.arizona.edu

Teaching Assistants, Mr. Muhammet Topal and Mr. Shabbir Agha

**Course Format and Teaching Methods**

Lecture in Person Mondays and Wednesdays, (public health conditions permitting)

Discussion Section in Person Wednesday, Thursday or Friday per schedule

Weekly Readings and Short Answer Online Quizzes

Four In-Class Essay Exams

“Signature Assignment”

**Course Objectives**

Students will become familiar with:

Media stereotypes of Middle Eastern cultures,

Middle Eastern physical and human geography

Basic Islamic religious values, history and culture

Patterns of popular culture in cuisine, art, literature, performing arts

Cultural patterns of nationalism and empire in the Middle East

Middle Eastern technical and technological innovations

## Expected Learning Outcomes

Student should be able to demonstrate that they can:

- think critically about cultural difference in relation to history and geopolitics
- communicate effectively in the form of five paragraph essays
- speak and inquire respectfully about cultural differences
- use cultural knowledge to increase understanding of current events and geopolitical relationships, in particular US relations in the Middle East
- appreciate the historical, geographical and individual sources and expressions of difference throughout Islamic history.

Weekly reading materials will be provided electronically on our D2L page.

Login at: <http://d2l.arizona.edu/>

## Introductory Matters

### Week 1

M Aug 22 - Course Guidelines

W Aug 24 - Why Study the Humanities? - Reading 1

**No Section**

### Week 2

M Aug 29 - On Stereotypes- Reading 2

W Sep 31 - Land, Water, People - Reading 3

Section - Humanities and Liberal Arts

## UNIT 1 - Middle Eastern Environments

### Week 3

M Sep 5 - LABOR DAY NO CLASS

W Sep 7- Geography, continued - Reading 3

Section - Stereotypes and Orientalism

### Week 4

M Sept 12 - Agriculture and Culture, – Reading 4

W Sept 14 – Food Traditions - Reading 4

Section - Environment and Culture and **GEOGRAPHY QUIZ**

### Week 5

M Sept 19 – Meat, Hospitality and Sacrifice - Reading 5

W Sept 21 - Review/Catch up/Writing Technique

Section - Talk about Food - **Signature Assignment Introduction**

### Week 6

M Sept 26–Review/Catch up/Writing Technique

W Sept 28– **TEST 1**

**NO SECTION**

## **UNIT 2 - The Values of Islam**

### Week 7

M Oct 3 – Messenger and Message – Reading 6

W Oct 5 – Islamic Practice – Reading 7

Section - Islam and other religions -watch Film “Empire of Faith” Part 1 (available on d2l)

### Week 8

M Oct 10 - Islamic Practice Part 2

W Oct 12 - Authority and Shi’ite Islam - Reading 8

Section - Divisions in Islam, Sunni and Shiite

### Week 9

M Oct 17 – Women and Family -Readings. 9

W Oct 19 - Private and Public -Reading 10

Section - Gender, Family, Sexuality

### Week 10

M Oct 24 Review/Catch Up

W Oct 26 - **TEST 2**

**NO SECTION**

## **UNIT 3 - Cultural Patterns and Expressions**

### Week 11

M Oct 31- Representations - Reading 11

W Nov 2- Watch film “Empire of Faith” Part 2 (available on d2l)

Section - Islamic Art and Science Before the Renaissance - **Signature Assignment Outline Due**

### Week 12

M Nov 7 – Film “A Voice Like Egypt” (Part 1)

W Nov 9 – VETERANS’ DAY No class

Section - Music, Dance, Nationalism

### Week 13

M Nov 13 – Nationalism - Reading 13

W Nov 15 – Middle Eastern Music or Film “A Voice Like Egypt” (Part 2) - Reading 14

Section - Nationalism and Modernity

### Week 14

M Nov 21- Political Islam and Media Revolution

W Nov 23 - Watch “Control Room” (available on D2L)

Section- Test Review - **Signature Assignment DUE**

### Week 15

M Nov 28 – Discuss/Review/Catch Up

W Nov 30 – **TEST 3**

Last Section- Review for Final Exam

### Week 16

M Dec 5 – War and Islamic Extremism

W Dec 7 – Middle East today - Review for Final Exam

Only Wednesday Sections - Wrap up

**FINAL EXAM – Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:30-12:30**

### **Absence and Class Participation Policy**

**Do not come to class if you are sick. Contact your instructors for information on how to keep up with class.**

Attending lectures either in person or virtually and participating in other course events are vital to the learning process. As such, students are required to attend all lectures either virtually through D2L or in person, personal and public health circumstances allowing. Discussion section meetings are designed to meet in person, public and personal health allowing, but virtual options will be available for students who cannot attend discussion sections.

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop>

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable:

<http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>.

Absences preapproved by the UA Dean of Students (or dean's designee) will be honored. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/employmenthuman-resources/attendance>.

### **Makeup Policy for Students Who Register Late**

Students who register late may work with their TA to complete any missed assignments no later than September 7th.

### **Course Communications**

Online communications will be conducted through D2L and UA email.

### **Assignments and Examinations: Schedule/Due Dates**

There will be a weekly online quiz assignment due on Sunday of each week.

There will be weekly lecture and discussion activities due on Sunday of each week.

There will be one short answer ID geography quiz in section the week of September 13.

There will be three essay exams on September 28, October 26, and November 30.

The final exam will be on Thursday December 14, 2022, at 10:30 am.

The "signature assignment" will be introduced in Week 5, outlined by Week 11 and submitted by Week 14.

Students may choose one of their six exam essays to revise and resubmit as an additional grade component.

### **Writing Requirement**

Weekly homework will consist of structured paragraph writing; there may be in class ungraded writing; all tests will be essay tests and will focus on construction of 5 paragraph essays. Students will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit at least one exam essay working with their TA.

### **Final Examination**

<http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/courses/final-examination-regulations-and-information?audience=students&cat1=10&cat2=31>, and Final Exam Schedule, <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/schedules/finals.htm>

## Grading Scale and Policies

Your grade for this class will be comprised of six equal parts. Each part constitutes 16.66% of your final grade.

1) **“The Signature Assignment”** (20% topic choice, 20% outline and sources, 60% final)

2) **Section Participation Grade– Weekly Homework-** Each week there will be a short writing assignment due on by 5:00 Sunday after that week’s lectures and will be based on that week’s readings (50%) Attendance in section is mandatory and students will be graded on attending section and participating actively in discussion (50%). Students will receive a grade of 0-4 for each section meeting. Scale:

3 - Participates actively and constructively in session (2 or more substantive contributions)

2 - Participates perfunctorily/ reluctantly in class session (1 contribution, question, monosyllabic)

1 - Present but silent, sullen, asleep, impaired, or undermines discussion in session

0 - Absent

3) Test 1 (Wednesday, September 28)

4) Test 2 (Wednesday, October 26)

5) Test 3 (Wednesday, November 30)

6) Final Exam (Wednesday, December 14, 10:30-12:30)

Tests will usually be evaluated by each section’s TA, but may occasionally be graded by another active TA for the class based on a standard rubric to be provided to the students before Test 1. All tests will be essay format.

Grades for all assignments, tests and final class grade will be assigned as follows:

### Grading Scale

A: 100-90 %

B: 89-80 %

C: 79-70 %

D: 69-60 %

Fail: Below 60%

**Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W)** must be made in accordance with University policies, which are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#incomplete> and <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#Withdrawal> respectively.

### **Honors Credit**

All Tier One and Tier Two courses must be available for Honors credit. If the course does not have a stand-alone Honors section, the requirements to fulfill an Honors contract should be listed. Honors contract information is available at <http://www.honors.arizona.edu/future-students/honors-credit-across-campus>.

### **Classroom Behavior Policy**

To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility. We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all of us feel comfortable with each other and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. To that end, our focus is on the tasks at hand.

### **Threatening Behavior Policy**

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>.

### **Notification of Objectionable Materials**

This course will contain material of a mature nature, which may include explicit language, depictions of nudity, sexual situations, and/or violence. The instructor will provide advance notice when such materials will be used. Students are not automatically excused from interacting with such materials, but they are encouraged to speak with the instructor to voice concerns and to provide feedback.

### **Accessibility and Accommodations**

Our goal in this classroom is that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on the Disability Resource Center and reasonable accommodations, please visit <http://drc.arizona.edu>. If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

### **Code of Academic Integrity**

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at <http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>.

*Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent.* Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA email to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student e-mail addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

### **UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy**

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see

<http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.

### **Additional Resources for Students**

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>.

Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>

### **Confidentiality of Student Records**

<http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm>

### **Subject to Change Statement**

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy,

may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.