



LIGHTS! CAMERA! ARABIC!
Advanced Arabic Conversation and Culture
ARAB 413 - Autumn 2021
اهلاً وسهلاً!

Class Time	Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30-2:20 pm
Location	Mary Gate Hall 253
Instructor	Makda Weatherspoon
Email	makdag@uw.edu
Office	DENNY HALL Room 220A
Office Hours	Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00 pm, and by appointment

Prerequisite: ARAB 203 or higher or approval of the instructor.

Course Objectives هدف المنهج الدراسي

In this course, we will continue to develop the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through the extensive use of Arabic films and video clips coupled with structured materials such as study guides, short readings, and other authentic resources. Students will also have an opportunity to get an inside look of Arabic cinema and deepen their understanding of the diverse cultures, societies and linguistic variants of the Arabic-speaking world as portrayed in film. Each class will include student-centered and interactive activities that will help students relate the context of the film to their own personal lives, compare and contrast, analyze and offer personal opinions.

Instructional Materials الكتب والمصادر

- No textbook is required. Films, selected reading passages, other supporting materials, weekly schedule and course announcements will be made available via the course's Canvas page throughout the quarter. Therefore, please be sure to check Canvas regularly.
- Dictionary: Wehr, Hans, *A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic* (any edition) or a legitimate online dictionary such as <https://www.almaany.com/ar/dict/ar-en/>.

Preparation and Attendance التحضير والحضور

Since the course only meets twice per week, a substantial amount of independent study is therefore required. Moreover, regular attendance, coming to class on time and active

participation is essential. For each class meeting, you will be asked to prepare the selection to be discussed ahead of time in order to be able to participate in class discussions and to maximize understanding and absorption of new material. All films are to be watched at home and discussed and analyzed in class.

Learning Outcomes *النتائج المرغوبة*

By the end of the course, expected learner outcomes include:

- Vocabulary development and improved understanding of reduced and rapid native speech
- Improved speaking fluency and accuracy
- Improved literacy skills
- Development of reporting and narration skills
- A higher degree of awareness pertaining to the cultural and linguistic diversity in the Arabic-speaking world.

Testing and Grading *توزيع العلامات*

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Preparation and Homework including watching the films and completing assignments on them	20%
Attendance and Participation including mini presentations and dialogues	20%
5 Quizzes	15%
5 Essays (after dropping 1 essay), ~200 words each	25%
Final Project (oral presentation and ~ 500-word essay)	20%
Total	100%

Note: There is no final exam in this class.

Arabic Program Grading Scale

%	GRADE	%	GRADE	%	GRADE
≥ 95	4.0	84	2.9	73	1.8
94	3.9	83	2.8	72	1.7
93	3.8	82	2.7	71	1.6
92	3.7	81	2.6	70	1.5
91	3.6	80	2.5	69	1.4
90	3.5	79	2.4	68	1.3
89	3.4	78	2.3	67	1.2
88	3.3	77	2.2	66	1.1
87	3.2	76	2.1	65	1.0
86	3.1	75	2.0	64	.9
85	3.0	74	1.9	63	.8
				62	.7

The Films الأفلام

Each film has been chosen based on its appeal to the student audience, the relevance of cultural topics explored, linguistic compatibility, and availability. Information on how to access each film will be posted on Canvas whenever possible.

Film الفيلم	Country الدولة	Director المخرج/المخرجة	Year of Production سنة الإخراج
1. Captain Abu Raed - كابتن ابو رائد	Jordan	Amin Matalqa	2008
2. Amreeka - أمريكا	Palestine/America	Cherien Dabis	2009
3. Wadjda - وَجْدَة	Saudi Arabia	Haifaa al-Mansour	2013
4. Capernaum - كفر ناحوم	Lebanon	Nadine Labaki	2018
5. Hassan and Murqus - حسن ومُرْقُص	Egypt	Ramy Imam	2008
6. You will die at 20 - ستموت في العشرين	Sudan	Amjad Abu Alala	2021
...and other selected clips from media, television series and programs, music videos, advertisements, etc.			

Additional Notes:

Student Conduct: [The University of Washington Student Conduct Code](#) (WAC 478-121) defines prohibited academic and behavioral conduct and describes how the University holds students accountable as they pursue their academic goals. Allegations of misconduct by students may be referred to the appropriate campus office for investigation and resolution.

Access and Accommodations: Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with [Disability Resources for Students \(DRS\)](#), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

Religious Accommodations: Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities.