

Jordan University of Science and Technology
Faculty of Science and Arts
Department of Basic Sciences and Humanities
Course Specifications
2023/ 2024

Title & Instructor	
Course Title	The Arab society
Course Number	HSS 212
Instructor	
Office Location	Department of Basic Sciences and Humanities
Office Phone	
Office Hours	
E-mail	humanity@just.edu.jo

Course Aims and Objectives

To think critically about how concepts of “The Arab society ” are used and misused;
To place contemporary conditions in historical context;
To analyze the complexities, challenges, and opportunities of living in an interconnecte especially in a time of globalism, social aspects, and political and social polarization;
To move from concept to practice through collaborative work throughout the semester

Course Description

1. “Arab Societies” is a General Education course in Area 3: The Global and Cross-Cultural Experience intended to offer students a deeper, yet not an in-depth, look into various components constituting the “Arab World.” The Arab world is a heterogeneous region made up of countries that at base share a common language- Arabic, and varying degrees of history, social makeup, culture, and modes of production. These countries include members of the Arab League, which conspicuously leave out Iran, Israel, and Turkey that nonetheless share the label Middle Eastern. In this class, we will confine ourselves to discussion of Arab countries, with any discussion of Middle Eastern countries coming under foreign or regional relations. This is not a political science, policy, anthropology, or history class, but it will incorporate readings from all these fields. Our perspective will be sociological, which will mean being able to critically assess readings’ evidence, argumentation, and overall contributions to better understanding our cultures/societies. You will be reading materials from different perspectives (not only disciplines), and at times, ones that you do not agree with or seem provocative. Take this as your cue to explore these ideas and to reflect on how they fit in with other readings for the week. We will ask and try to answer questions about how to read and define Arab societies? How Arab identity came about? What are the different roles men and women play in these societies? How these societies are formed? And why were they once seen as passive and now galvanized? Included in our topics will be regional distinctions, gender relations, governmental structures, colonial experiences, youth, sexuality, religion, social movements and relations to the US. We will discuss these issues generally for Arab societies, but we will also take a micro-level look at cases, ethnographies, and specific problems to give us a more nuanced and tangible depiction of various countries. We will begin and end the course with the “Arab Spring,” however our scope is much broader than the events of the past few years that will continue (and at times surprise us) throughout the semester. Our objective will be to make sense of the events by contextualizing them in the larger questions posed above.

References :

Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP):

<http://www.merip.org> The Middle East Journal: Includes articles and chronology of events in Arab countries in every issue. Available through AU library database.

Al-Ahkbar English: <http://english.al-akhbar.com/> Al-Jazeera English online

<http://english.aljazeera.net/> Arab Studies Quarterly:

<http://arabstudiesquarterly.plutojournals.org/> (the library has hardcopies of older issues) Arab Studies Journal: <http://www.arabstudiesjournal.org/>

Most Arab countries have an English daily newspaper.

They are often “weaker” intended for a non-Arab audience who are assumed to have little investment and “need/want” to know less about the ins-and-outs of these societies.

Listed on: <http://www.al-bab.com/arab/newspapers.htm> Al-Bawaba

Portal, General <http://www.albawaba.com/> Carnegie Middle East Center:

<http://carnegie-mec.org/?lang=en>

Text Book & References	
Title	Arab society and Culture
Author(s)	Samir khalaf
Publisher	-
Year	2006

Intended Student Learning Outcomes(ISLOs)		
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:		
ISLOs	Related Objective(s)	Reference(s)
Set up....	Arab history knowledge	Brief Historical Overview
Identify....	Existence of Arabs	Who are Arabs
Solve....	Cultural differences	State formation and Independence
Interpret solutions....	Modern unity of Arabs	How Arab identity came about
Define and describe.....	Arab World	How to start reading the Arab World

Teaching & Learning Methods
A traditional way to structure classroom learning is the lecture format, in which teachers explain information while students observe. Teachers lead a lesson by presenting on, showing visuals of and modeling examples of a topic. While a teacher is presenting, students can listen, watch, take notes and copy the teacher's demonstrations. While this is a conventional and helpful approach, teachers may alter it for different learning environments.

Useful Resources
Textbook, References, Class notes, Internet, LINDO, LINGO and Excel

Course Content		
Week	Topics	Chapter in Text/handouts
1	Introduction	Chapter xxx (sections
2	How to start reading the Arab World	Chapter xxx (sections
3		Chapter xxx (sections
4	Who are the Arabs	Chapter xxx (sections
5		Chapter xxx (sections
6	Brief Historical Overview	Chapter xxx (sections
8		Chapter xxx (sections
9	State formation and Independence	Chapter xxx (sectionS
10		Chapter xxx (sections
11	Families	Chapter xxx (sections
12		Chapter xxx (sections
13	The Arab spring	Chapter xxx (sections
14		Chapter xxx (sections
15	How Arab identity came about	Chapter xxx (sections

Additional Notes	
Exams	All exams are closed book and notes. The final exam is comprehensive (covers all the material). Incomplete exams need approval from the.....
Cheating	Prohibited; and in case of cheating the student will be subject to punishment according to the
Attendance	According to the policy:
Participation	
Laboratory	Some classes may be in
Withdraw	

Assignments:

Pop quizzes

Term papers and presentations

The purpose of the assignments is not to inundate you with work, but rather to give you the opportunity to both improve your critical inquiry and ethical reasoning and in turn to demonstrate these skills verbally (class discussion) and in writing (memos). The semester-long projects are intended to encourage you to work in groups, divvy work, and give you the opportunity to express your interests in topics beyond class materials in a creative manner. The project will be used in assessment of your innovative thinking. I will be there to guide you in the process, but the opportunity is there for you to raise

Grade distribution:

Midterm 40%

Participation, quizzes and report 20%

Final exam 40%

Absences:

ABSENCES Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so we can discuss and mitigate the impact on the attainment of course learning goals.

