

Arabic House

Modern language Program, Gregory College House

Fall 2016

Program Director/Instructor:

Nour Halabi

PhD Student, Annenberg School for Communication

Email: nour.halabi@asc.upenn.edu

Arabic House - ARAB 180 - Arabic in Residence

The Arabic House (ARAB180 - Arabic in Residence) is a series of scheduled meetings for students interested in developing and maintaining their Arabic language skills through conversation and cultural activities. The program welcomes both advanced speakers and beginners. Conversations will be held mainly in Modern Standard Arabic (dialect speakers are welcome of course!). Arabic House is open to all Penn students.

Class Structure

Arabic Language The first session of every week is devoted to discussing a thematic topic in an informal conversation.

Arabic Culture The second session of every week is devoted to learning more about the culture surrounding Arabic language. As part of this endeavor, we will be hosting movie nights several times in the semester. We will also be going on group trips to musical performances and shows.

Out-and-about in *Bel 'Arabi*: Finally, the fun stuff. As part of this course, and as a reward for your enthusiastic participation, we will be going on dinner outings in various Middle Eastern restaurants in Philadelphia, courtesy of Arabic House. The dates of these activities will be announced throughout the semester, usually around once a month.

Location and time

Classes take place from 6-7 on Tuesday and Thursday in the Greenhouse of the Class of 1925 building. Movie nights and other cultural events will be announced throughout the semester. They may take place in the film lounge or off-campus depending on the type of the planned activity.

Credit Option

The Arabic House offers students the option of earning a half credit unit for the semester. Students will be evaluated on the basis of their attendance and participation in Arabic conversations and activities.

Expectations and Grading

- A Missing no more than 2 sessions and enthusiastic participation in conversation and events
- A- Missing 3 sessions and enthusiastic participation in conversation and events
- B+ Missing 4 sessions
- B Missing more than 4 sessions and moderate participation in conversation

Week One: Information Session

8/30 **Arabic Language** Introducing yourself and Information Session
No Readings

Week Two: Al Andalus

9/6 **Arabic Language** Al Andalus History

9/ 8 **Arabic Culture** Al Andalus and Poetry Reading and Comprehension

Assigned Reading (in class)

Qabbani, N. *Ahzan fi al Andalus*. Available at digital archive:
<http://nizarq.com/ar/poem1.html#.V8xawI-cGDs>

Week Three: Celebrations & Mourning

9/13 **Arabic Language** Eid and September 11

This year, Eid, the holiest day in the Islamic calendar falls on September 11, 2016. In this lesson we will be holding a discussion about Eid traditions, Islamic culture, and the legacy of 9/11 in the United States.

9/15 **Arabic Culture**

Week Four: Movie Night with *Omareh Yacoubian*

9/20 **Arabic Language** *Al Idafa w-al Sifa fi 'il Jami'aa & Al Jami'aa*

Assigned Reading: Navigating the University of Sharjah Website at:
<http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/ar/Pages/default.aspx>

9/22 **Arabic Culture** Film Screening & discussion *Omareh Yacoubian* (6-8)

Week Five: Art and Calligraphy

9/27 **Arabic Language** Arabic Art and Calligraphy

9/29 **Arabic Culture** Cooking

Week Six: Music

10/4 **Arabic Language** *Asmahan & Um Kulthoom*

Assigned Reading Sahhab,E. (2015) *Um Kulthoom*. Available online at:
<https://assafir.com/Article/399058>

Assigned Listening: *Inta Omri*. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wBvuZVE7FI>

10/6 **Arabic Culture** Arabic Pop Music night

Week Seven: Film

10/11 **Arabic Language** *Musalsalat Ramadan*

10/13 **Arabic Culture** *Musalsalat Ramadan*

Week Eight: Television

10/18 **Arabic Language** Ramadan Television serials

10/20 **Arabic Culture** A screening of a short serial & discussion
 Final Project Assigned

Week Nine: No Class

10/25 **Arabic Language**

10/27 **Arabic Culture**

(This is a good week to work on the final project)

Week Ten: Movie night with *Caramel*

11/3 **Arabic Culture** Film Screening & discussion (6-8)

Week Eleven: Gender and Sexuality in Arab Media

11/8 **Arabic Language**

11/10 **Arabic Culture** Dinner @ Manakeesh

Week Twelve: The Political Economy of the Middle East

11/15 **Arabic Language** U.S. winter traditions

11/17 **Arabic Culture** Middle Eastern winter traditions

Week Thirteen: Movie Night with *Theeb*

11/22 **Arabic Culture** Film Screening & discussion (6-8)

11/24 No Class (Thanksgiving)

Week Fourteen: Children's Literature (assigned)

11/29 **Arabic Language** Reading out loud and discussion

12/1 **Arabic Culture** reading comprehension

Final Project Due

Week Fifteen Farewell Dinner

12/6 **Arabic Language** Coffee & biscuit informal feedback session

2/8 **Arabic Culture Dinner** @ Aya Café