
MODERN TO CONTEMPORARY IN THE ARAB WORLD in Fall 2020 (CL1099FB7)

Course Code	CL1099FB7	Professor(s)	David Tresilian
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-112
Class Schedule	M: 09:00-10:35 in G-207 R: 14:30-16:05 in G-207	Office Hours	TBA
Credits	4	Email	dtresilian@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	718

Course Description

This course, part of the University's First Bridge program, examines the modern and contemporary Arab world through its literature, including fiction, biography and autobiography, travel writing, films, and some poetry. It takes a thematic approach, touching on issues such as identity, citizenship and social and political participation, relations with the outside world, including diaspora and emigration, education, lifestyles and living spaces, the family, and relations between men and women. Materials relating to contemporary political and social change are explored in the context of multiculturalism and globalization, among them political transition, minority rights, sexuality, civil society, and religion.

Sometimes misunderstood by outside observers and today affected by processes of major social change, the Arab world has been the object of growing interest in recent years. This course allows this vast, diverse, and increasingly important part of the world to be understood from within through its literature and other materials from the region. Visits are planned to institutions in the Paris area with a view to examining relations between societies on the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean. A longer field trip is planned to Marseilles.

Course Learning Outcomes

Information Literacy: Students will comprehend how information is produced and valued in order to discover, evaluate, use, and create information and knowledge effectively and ethically. In FirstBridge, students will demonstrate the conversational nature of scholarship, and recognize their potential role and responsibilities as contributors to that conversation. For each discipline

taught in FirstBridge, students will identify reference works, journals, databases and/or major works in history, in order to start effective research in the field.

Life at University: Students will acquire the study skills, time management, and interpersonal skills needed to meet the demands of university-level academic work at a Liberal Arts College individually or as a team. Students will value the multiple meanings of place through experiential learning at AUP and beyond in the Parisian or global context.

Students will read literary works from different genres and places attentively.

Students will formulate remarks on which words or phrases create the force of passages from such texts.

Students will articulate the relationship between word choice and impact on the reader.

Students will identify ways that concepts explored in films and in creative texts are communicated differently.

Students will relate choice of medium to purpose and effect of message.

Students will identify a message that they think needs to be more widely or effectively heard.

Students will explain which medium they think is best adapted to conveying the message in question.

General Education

The Global Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (GLACC) degree requirements include the following categories of courses:

- Integrative Inquiry (coded CCI)
- Experiential learning (coded CCX)
- Research, Interpretation, and Writing (coded CCE)
- Digital Literacy and Communication (coded CCD)
- Disciplinary Research Methods and Writing (coded CCR)
- Quantitative Reasoning (coded CCM)
- Experimental Reasoning Course with Lab (coded CCS)
- Expression Française (coded FR)
- AUP Capstone (coded CCC)

This course can be used to fulfill the CCI requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

CCI LO1: Local and Global Perspectives: Students will enhance their intercultural understanding of languages, cultures, and histories of local societies and the global issues to which these relate.

CCI LO2: Aesthetic Inquiry and Creative Expression: Students will engage with artistic or creative objects (e.g., visual art, theatrical works, film) in different media and from a range of cultural traditions.

CCI LO3: Exploring and Engaging Difference: Students will think critically about cultural and social difference; they will identify and understand power structures that determine hierarchies and inequalities that can relate to race, ethnicity, gender, nationhood, religion, or class.

CCI LO4: Civic and Ethical Engagement: Students will demonstrate awareness of ethical considerations relating to specific societal problems, values, or practices (historical or contemporary; global or local) and learn to articulate possible solutions to prominent challenges facing societies and institutions today so as to become engaged actors at various levels in our interconnected world.

Course Outline

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE:

September

Introducing the Arab World

Week I – 23rd – 25th

Thursday 24th

Topics: Reading the Arab World

Reading: Rodinson, *Who are the Arabs?*

Reynolds, *Modern Arab Culture*

Week II – 28th – 2nd

Monday 28th

Topics: Reading the Arab World

Reading: Tresilian, *Introduction to Arabic Literature*

Altoma: *Arabic Literature in Translation*

Cole, *The New Arabs*

Thursday 1st

Topics: Reading the Arab World

Film: Chahine, *Cairo Illuminated by its People*

Film: *From Arab Idol*

September 30th – last day to drop/add courses online

October

History I

Week III – 5th – 9th

Monday 5th

Topics: Modernity / Modernities

Reading: Y. Haqqi, *The Lamp of Umm Hashim*

Presentation 1

Thursday 8th

Topics: Modernity / Modernities

Reading: From N. Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley*

From N. Mahfouz, *Beginning and the End*

Film: From *Midaq Alley* / *Beginning and the End*

Week IV –12th – 16th

Monday 12th

Topics: Modernity / Modernities

Reading: From T. Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*

Presentation 2

Thursday 15th

Topics: Modernity / Modernities

Reading: Moretti, *Conjectures on World Literature*

Hourani: From, *History of the Arab Peoples*

Friday 16 – Sunday 16 / Field Trip to Marseilles

History II

Week V – 19th – 23rd

Monday 19th

Topics: New Beginnings

Reading: F. Fanon, *Algeria Unveiled / Concerning Violence*

Presentation 3

Thursday 22nd

Topics: New Beginnings

Reading: From, Gatrell, *Unsettling Europe*

Film: *Battle of Algiers*

Week VI – 26th – 30th

October 28th, Mid-semester

Monday 26th

Topics: New Beginnings

Reading: Sonallah Ibrahim, *The Smell of It*

Presentation 4

Thursday 29th

Topics: New Beginnings

Film, *Nasser 56*

November

Literature & Society

Week VII – 2nd – 6th

Monday 2nd

Topics: Literature & Society

Reading: From F. Mernissi, *Beyond the Veil*

From: N. Al-Saadawi, *Memoirs of a Woman Doctor*

Presentation 5

Thursday 5th

Topics: Literature & Society

Film: *Boys, Girls, and the Veil*

Week VIII – 9th- 13th

Monday 9th

Topics: Literature & Society

Reading: Abdellah Taia: *Salvation Army*

Thursday 12th NO CLASS

November 11th to 13th, fall break (no classes)

Futures

Week IX – 16th- 20th

Monday 16th Midterm Exam

Thursday 19th

Topics: Revolutions

Reading: From, Alaa al-Aswany, *The Yacoubian Building*

Presentation 6

Research Proposals Due

November 16th, Mid-semester grades due

Week X – 23rd – 27th

Monday 23rd

Topics: Social Change

Reading: From, Raja al-Sanea, *Girls of Riyadh*

Presentation 6

Thursday 26th

Topics: Social Change

Film: *Wajda*

November 27th last day to withdraw from a course

last day to choose credit/no credit option

Week XI - 30th – 4th

Monday 30th

Topics: Diasporas

Reading: Arab-Americans

Presentation 7

Thursday 3rd

Topics: Diasporas

Reading: Hanan al-Shaykh, *This is London*

Tahar Ben Jelloun, *French Hospitality*

First Drafts Due

December

Week XII – 7th – 11th

Monday 7th Research Presentations

Thursday 10th Research Presentations

Final Drafts Due

December 11th, last day of classes,

December 12th - 15th, reading days

December 16th – 22th, Final Exam

January 4nd, all grades due

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an

absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Presentation assignments, including video 30%

Mid-term and Final exams 20%

Research paper 30%

Participation 20%

Other

Course Requirements:

Much of this course consists of careful reading and informed discussion of the texts assigned for weekly reading. Please make sure that you are registered on the class Blackboard site and that you read each text before the relevant class session. Over the course of the semester, a series of presentations are planned on the material assigned in class. These presentations, made in groups of two, should serve as a basis for discussion and should be followed by a short response paper. Further details will be given in class.

In the second half of the course, you will prepare a research project leading to a ten-page research paper as well as a class presentation of the research. There will also be midterm and final exams.

Particularly during the reflective seminar associated with this course we will be working with students from AUP partner institution Al-Akawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, with a view to making video interview segments. Further details will be given in due course.

Research paper guidelines:

The research paper should be approximately ten typewritten pages of content, complete with a title page, an outline, a clear thesis statement, parenthetical citations and a works cited page. Your thesis must be supported by relevant source material. A list of possible topics will be handed out in class, and your proposal needs to be approved by the instructor.

Please note that the research paper is to be submitted in print and electronic format.

All written work done outside class should be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12 pt font, in accordance with MLA format.

Note: Late work will result in a lowered grade.