

Hala A. Abu Taleb

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EDUCATION:

Washington State University,

Pullman, Washington State
School of liberal Arts
American Studies Department
Doctor of Philosophy, May 2009
Dissertation Title: Gender, Media, Culture and the Middle East
Committee: Victor Villanueva (Chair), T.V Reed, John Streams, Marian Sciachitano,
and Christopher Wise.
Overall Grade Point Average 3.9/4.0

University of Jordan,

Amman, Jordan
Faculty of Higher Education
Masters Degree, June 2003
Major: American Studies
Overall Grade Point Average 3.6/4.0

University of Jordan,

Amman, Jordan
School of Arts
Bachelors Degree, June 2001
Major: English Language and Literature
Overall Grade Point Average 3.01/4.0

Al Manhal School

Amman, Jordan
Jordan Secondary High School Certificate, June 1997
Overall Grade 93/100

LANGUAGES & SKILLS:

- Arabic: A native speaker.

- English: Excellent command of spoken and written English.
- French: Attended several French courses at the French Cultural Center.
- Computer literate – familiar with Microsoft Windows, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Adobe PhotoShop, the Internet and Microsoft Project.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- A teaching assistance at Washington State University, 2007-2009
- Research Assistance at Washington State University and a team member in a digital divide program, 2006-2007
- A teaching assistance at the University of Jordan, at the English department. 2004-2005

WORKING EXPERIENCE:

- I have spent two years (2002-2004) working as a Business Analyst at The Middle East North Africa Financial Network, Inc. (MENAFN). The company is the leading provider of online and wireless financial content and technology platforms to financial institutions across the Arab world. Twelve of the largest fifteen financial institutions in the Arab world are served by MENAFN.
- During the period, my key responsibilities included, but were not limited to:
 - Coordinating with key business partners (e.g., Jordan’s leading GSM operator “Fastlink”) to introduce new wireless-based content services.
 - Managing other team members who were responsible for content copywriting.
 - Conducting research on proposed products/services.
 - Updating MENAFN’s consumer portal on an ongoing basis and contributing to the preparation of MENAFN’s electronic newsletters.

PRESENTATIONS& CONFRENCES:

- “Disrupting Reflections: Researching Muslims and Those of Middle Eastern Heritage” at 5th Annual Globalization, Diversity, and Education Conference. Spokane. February 25th-29th 2009.
- “Resolving Differences: The Seed of Unity,” Finding the Center 2008: The Fourth Annual Action-Oriented Human Rights Conference. Idaho. April 4th-5th 2008.

PUBLICATIONS:

- The Timbuktu Chronicles, 1493-1599 C.E.: Al Hajj Mahmud Kati’s Tarikh al-fattash, by Al Hajj Mahmud Kâti. Edited by Christopher Wise, Translated by Christopher Wise & Hala Abu Taleb, forthcoming.
- “Arabness between life and death” a forthcoming article.

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES:

- Drama Club: During my service as a teaching assistance at the University of Jordan, I was a co-founder of the university's Drama Club, which is a project belonging to the English department. With another professor, I helped direct, train and assist a group of students in performing Shakespeare's play "Much Ado About Nothing." In 2005, the play was also performed as part of Jeresh national festival as part of cultural activities.
- Postgraduate project: I demonstrated various skills including frequent oral reports and the writing of research papers. All work in this program is conducted in English, and the majority of professors are native American-English speakers, who are scholars of distinction in their respective fields. The performance level of courses is not very different from American university postgraduate programs in American Studies, although it is a program that is fully grounded in the concerns of the Middle East (for instance, courses include "America and the Arabs," "Race and Ethnicity," and "American Foreign Policy" that emphasize the American-Arab exchange.
- Undergraduate projects: Translation projects: Worked on several projects translating from Arabic to English and from English to Arabic. Area of concentration was technical command of both languages that included grammar, syntax, semantics, spelling, punctuation and others. It also included discourse analysis, problem solving styles and techniques.
- Participated in a program offered by the UNICEF's Save the Children program through the University of Jordan and as part of a voluntary work through the University's Community Service Office.
- Member of the Mind Club at the University of Jordan, which involved several cultural and academic activities.
- Member of the Drawing Gallery at the University of Jordan – 1997 to 2001.
- Participant at the BURAN Gallery for Fine Arts, Amman, August 1998.

REFERENCES:

- Professor Victor Villanueva, a regent professor, Department of English at Washington State University. E.mail victorv@wsu.edu.
- Professor Christopher Wise, Department of English at Western Washington University. E-mail Christopher.Wise@wwu.edu.
- Mr. Ramzi AbdelJaber, Managing Director, Business Development at Investcorp and previously the founder and chief executive officer of MENAFN. E.mail rabdeljaber@investcorp.com.