

University of Jordan
Department of English
Faculty of Foreign Languages

Special Subject in Literature

Course Code:2201481

Prerequisite: 2201111

Course Description:

This course explores Arab-American literature from its beginnings in the early 20th century to the current time. It traces Arabian immigration to the United States and the development of Arab-American culture and the experiences of Arab-Americans in the Contemporary United States.

Course Goals:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Knowledge and Understanding:(Students should)

- A. identify the major waves of Arab immigrants to the United States
- B. recognize the main genres that Arab Americans have written in.
- C. recall different traditions, schools, and approaches to ethnic literature

2. Analytical Skills (Students should)

- A. analyze short stories and poems by Arab Americans.
- B. explain how the traditions and cultural background of Arab Americans impact their writing.
- C. Compare and contrast Arabic ethnic writing with other groups.

3. Transferable Skills (students should)

- A. use their knowledge of Arab Americans in their study of mainstream American writers and issues.
- B. become better readers of texts.

Textbook:

Abu Jaber, Diana. *Crescent*. New York: Norton, 2004.

Gibran, Gibran Khalil. *The Prophet*. <http://leb.net/gibran/works/prophet/prophet1.html>.

Kadi, Joanna. *Food for our Grandmothers: Writings by Arab-American and Arab-Canadian Feminists*. Boston: South End Press, 1994.

Kaldas, Pauline and Khaled Mattawa, eds. *Dinarzad's Children: An Anthology of*

Contemporary Arab American Fiction. Fayetteville: U of Arkansas P, 2004.

Said, Edward. *Out of Place: A Memoir*. New York: Granta Books, 2000.

Solors, Werner. *Beyond Ethnicity: Consent and Descent in American Culture*. New York: Oxford UP, 1986.

Suleiman, Michael, ed. *Arabs in America: Building a New Future*. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1999.

References:

Arab American Institute. <http://www.aaiusa.org/>

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 5th ed. New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 1999.

Naff, Alixa. *Becoming American: The Early Arab Immigrant Experience*. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois UP, 1985.

Course Policies:

1. You are allowed up to **5** absences. If you exceed this number, you will fail the class.
2. Tardiness will not be tolerated. If you come to class after I take attendance, you need to enter without making any noise. Each two tardies will count as one absence.
3. No Make-up exams, no exceptions.
4. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense that will result in your failing the class. Learning Spark notes by heart and repeating the information word by word in the exam is a type of plagiarism.
5. Participation is an essential part of course work. It does not merely mean coming to class; it involves preparing before hand and playing an active role in class discussion.

Evaluation:

Mid-term: 30%, Final: 40%; Term paper: 15%, and participation 5% of course grade.

Teaching Methods: formal lectures, group discussions, student presentations, etc.

Course Method: in this course we will be focusing on a number of key issues that have affected the literature of Arab Americans. Each student will choose a key issue to trace in the readings and be responsible for reporting on that issue whenever it is tackled in any reading. These include:

1. **Identity:** what it means to be Arab American as opposed to being Arab of American? How does one define one's relationship to the old and new country?
2. **Family:** How does the hyphenated status affect family ties in the Arab American community including parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, husbands and wives; etc.
3. **Racism:** what has been Arab Americans' experience of racism like?
4. Stereotypes and first encounters/ impressions.
5. Religion
6. Women
7. Freedom
8. sexuality and love
9. home sickness
10. immigration
11. language

**Special Subject in Literature
Second Semester 2007/2008
Arab American Literature**

	Read	Notes
	Introduction	
	Introduction	
	Michael Suleiman "Introduction: The Arab Immigrant Experience" 1-16	
	Helen Hatab: Race Classification and the Arab-American Experience" 209-224	
	Pen League and Arabic poetry in America	
	Gibran Khalil Gibran	
	Arab-American Literature and culture after World War II and changes in the 1960s	Steps of writing research papers
	<i>Food For Our Grandmothers</i> 2-33	
	<i>Food For Our</i>	

	<i>Grandmothers 133-150; 230-240</i>	
	<i>Dinarzad's Children, Introduction, Mohja Kahf, "Manar of Hama" 129-135</i>	
	Evelyn Shakir, "Oh, Lebanon" 57-71	Paper proposal due
	Laila Halaby, "Fire and Sand" 73-85	
	Joseph Geha, "News From Phoenix" 87-101; "And What Else" 103-114	
	Samia Serageldin, "It's Not About That" 161-169; Mohja Kahf, "The Spiced Chicken Queen" 137-155	
	David Williams, "Arabic Lessons" 207-224; May Mansoor Munn, "Edge of Rock" 185- 195	
	revision	
	Mid-Term Exam	
	Edward Said, <i>Out of Place</i> , 222- 249	
	Edward Said, <i>Out of Place</i> , 250-295	First Draft of term paper due
	Diana Abu-Jaber, <i>Crescent</i>	
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	Diana Abu-Jaber, <i>Crescent</i>	
	Diana Abu-Jaber, <i>Crescent</i>	
	Diana Abu-Jaber, <i>Crescent</i>	Final draft of term paper due
	Diana Abu-Jaber, <i>Crescent</i>	
	Diana Abu-Jaber, <i>Crescent</i>	
	Wrap-up	Classes end
	Final Exams	