New Course Request

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit ☑️ Graduate credit ☐ Professional credit ☐

1. School/Division: Arts and Sciences/ILCS

2. Academic Subject Code: NELC

3. Course Number: N204 (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services)

4. Instructor: Cynthia Brandenburg

5. Course Title: Topics in Middle Eastern Culture and Society

Recommended Abbreviation (Optional)

(Limited to 32 Characters including spaces)

6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Summer II/2010

7. Credit Hours: Fixed at _______ or Variable from _______ to _______

8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes _______ No ☑️

9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes ☑️ No _______

10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication: Analysis of selected Middle Eastern cultural or social issues. Topics will vary. May be repeated with different topics for a maximum of 9 credit hours.

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at _______ or Variable from _______ to _______

12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at _______ or Variable from _______ to _______

13. Estimated enrollment: 15 _______ of which 0% _______ percent are expected to be graduate students.

14. Frequency of scheduling: _______ Will this course be required for majors? Yes _______ No _______

15. Justification for new course: To increase enrollments in new Arabic language program

16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes _______ No _______

17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.

18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant

19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: ___________________________ Date 6/8/09

Department Chairman/Division Director

Approved by: ___________________________ Date 10/4/09

Dean

Chancellor/Vice-President

University Enrollment Services

Date

Dean of Graduate School (when required)

Date

Chancellor/Vice-President

University Enrollment Services

Date

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.
Understanding Arab Culture Syllabus

Lecturer: Cynthia Brandenburg, MA Arabic Language and Literature (The American University in Cairo, BA Honours Arabic with Social Anthropology (The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)

Email: brandenc@ipfw.edu

Office/Phone: CM 253
260-481-6634

Cell Phone: 847-306-0841

Office/Hours: TBA

Class Meetings: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Required Text:


Prerequisites:

There is no prerequisite for this course (other than an open mind, a commitment to full participation, and the desire to have fun while learning).

Course Content and Objectives:

The course objective is to “develop cultural knowledge and understanding of Arabs and Middle Easterners”. This will be accomplished through a thorough reading of Understanding Arabs, a well-known text in the field that offers an overview of important aspects of the Arab world, and through discussion with the instructor and with peers of significant aspects of Arab cultures.
The student learning objectives are to:

1. Describe unique characteristics of Arab Culture, which are inextricably linked to both geography and faith (Islam). Students will be able to describe:
   a. Arab beliefs and values;
   b. Arab concepts of friendship and acceptance of strangers;
   c. Arab concepts of emotion and logic
   d. Arab concepts of sensitive personal relationships;
   e. Arab concepts of the role of men and women;
   f. Arab social formalities and etiquette;
   g. Arab social structure;
   h. Arab concepts of the role of the family;
   i. Arab concepts of religion and society;
   j. Issues involved when communicating with Arabs;
   k. Islamic Fundamentalism;
   l. Reasons and perceptions that have led to Anti-Americanism in the Arab world;
   m. Issues for Arabs living in Western cultures; and
   n. Similarities and differences encountered when dealing with Arabs from various parts of the world.

Course Methodology:

Means: This course will be experiential wherever possible and so the student is encouraged to explore, discover, and have fun learning about Arab and Middle Eastern cultures through the use of games, role-plays, unbridled discussion, and activities set by the instructor to aid in gaining cultural literacy and expertise.

Cooperation: Each student will become a learning partner for other students (working sometimes in pairs and at other times in groups) and all will be responsible for the development and success of the learning environment.

Assignments: Homework may include take-home assignments (written and audio) and attending Arabic film screenings or other designated activities. Homework is given every day and you cannot succeed on this course unless you go through the process of completing the homework. Homework that is late will automatically receive a five-point reduction (unless there is an excused reason with receipt of instructor approval). You will not be penalized for completing the homework – you have 20% of your grade to gain! You will only be penalized for NOT going through the process.

Class Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory and full class participation is expected. The current IPFW BULLETIN explains the University's attendance policy. Each student is responsible for his/her success. Success is best achieved by attending, preparing for, and participating in all classes and scheduled activities.
If you must be absent from a class, please be sure to notify the instructor prior to absence, if possible. It is your responsibility to complete any missed assignments and you are encouraged to contact learning partners in the class to ensure that you are up-to-date on missed information. Please ask your instructor for any additional help you may need to ensure that you do not fall behind.

Class participation and attendance constitute 20% of your grade! If you have more than two unexcused absences (absences without official written documentation), you will not be able to get this 20% toward your final grade. Arriving late/leaving early will also adversely impact your grade. GET EASY POINTS -- BE THERE (in mind and body!) ON TIME!

**Learning Disabilities:**
If you have any documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc) and need to arrange reasonable accommodations, you should contact the instructor. You are also encouraged to contact Services for Students with Disabilities in Walb 118 (260-481-6657, Voice/TDD) for information on assistance available on campus. You may also look at www.ipfw.edu/ssl/

**Diversity and Nondiscrimination:** IPFW is committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the university seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The university believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. IPFW prohibits discrimination against any member of the university community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran.

**How to Excel in This Class:**

1. **Actively participate!** You can prepare in advance by thinking about the questions that may be asked and the activities that may be performed so that you can practice before class.

2. **Depend on Learning Partners!** Study together whenever possible. Learning about culture involves building a social group of interested individuals. Talk to each other and depend on each other.

**Form Study Groups:** Review new material together. Others will remember things that you may have forgotten and vice versa. Help each other make the course material meaningful by working together. Use this as an opportunity to converse, ask questions, and reify the material.
3. **Own The Material!** Make new concepts meaningful to you. Think about how you will apply what you learn to the new relationships you build with Arabs and Middle Easterners.

4. **Make mistakes!** It’s absolutely OK to make mistakes in learning a new subject. Learn from your own and others’ mistakes. Remember the only true mistake is to be afraid to make one!

5. **Get exposure!** Attend activities such as The Arabic Club, join online networking groups, listen to Arabic radio stations that offer English programs, watch Arabic films in translation, and welcome any opportunity to speak with fellow students and Arabs in the local community.

6. **Take good notes and organize/keep a journal!** Writing good notes helps in reinforcing learning and capturing information for study/recall. Create a journal that records experiences you have, thoughts on the subject, and even imagine encounters with Arabs and how you would deal with each specific encounter.

7. **Invest in Yourself!** Learning about a new culture develops creativity and facilitates learning in other areas of your life. **Invest two to three hours of self-study for every hour of class.** Master each new building block of knowledge so that new material will make sense.

**Quizzes and Exams:**

There will be a **quiz every week** (except when otherwise indicated in the syllabus). This ensures that student learning stays on track and any problem areas are quickly identified and rectified. This is a distinct advantage to students and should be viewed as an opportunity to maintain stellar performance.

Students will have a final exam or a team project.

**Policy for Make-up Quizzes/Exams:**

No make-up quizzes or exams will be given unless you notify your instructor or the International Language and Culture Studies Department office (481-6836) before the exam or quiz is to be given and **only if the absence is due to serious illness or a real emergency.** You must also provide official documentation to this effect. The make-up exam must be taken at the earliest possible time mutually agreeable to the student and the instructor.

**Course Grade:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation and attendance</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Presentations: 20%
Final Exam: 25%

Grading Scale:

A+ 98-100
A  93-97
A- 90-92
B+ 88-89
B  83-87
B- 80-82
C+ 78-79
C  73-77
C- 70-72
D+ 68-69
D  63-67
D- 60-62
F  59 and below
Useful Online Resources:

BBC Radio
http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/

Al Jazeera News (in Eng and Arabic)
This is the English site.
http://english.aljazeera.net/

Arabic films
This site is not that great but offers some films that you can see online for free.
http://www.2hgs.com/arabic_films.php

Banipal: Modern Arabic Literature
magazine (articles available in English)
www.banipal.co.uk/current_issues/
Class Schedule (TBA)

Week 1: Welcome/Introduction/Patterns of Change

Week 2: Beliefs and Values

Week 3: Friends and Strangers

Week 4: Emotion and Logic

Week 5: Getting Personal

Week 6: Men and Women

Week 7: Social Formalities and Etiquette

Week 8: The Social Structure

Week 9: The Role of the Family

Week 10: Religion and Society

Week 11: Communicating with Arabs

Week 12: Islamic Fundamentalism

Week 13: Anti-Americanism

Week 14: Arabs and Muslims in the West

Week 15: The Arab Countries: Similarities and Differences