

# ARAB 305: The Arab World

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor: Dr. Khaled Huthaily  
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 Office: LA 431  
 Office Hours: 9:00 to 10:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays (by appointment – via email)

**Course Description:**

ARAB 305 is an online course that is designed to help students explore the Arabic-speaking countries through readings about and discussions of their history, geography, peoples, economy, political systems, educational systems, and cultural components, such as music, cuisine, tradition, customs, gender relations, etc. This course is designed for everyone interested in the topic, and no previous knowledge of the Arabic language is required.

1. Knowing the Arab World
2. Language & Beliefs and Values
3. Friends and Strangers & Emotion and Logic
4. Getting Personal
5. Men and Women
6. Social Formalities and Etiquette ... food
7. The Social Structure & The Role of the Family
8. Weddings and Music
9. Religion and Society
10. Communicating with Arabs
11. Islamic Fundamentalism (Islamism)
12. Anti-Americanism
13. Arabs and Muslims in the West

**Materials:**

- Understanding Arabs: A Contemporary Guide to Arab Society (6<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Margaret K. Nydell
- Resources shared via UM Moodle

Topics:

1	Beliefs and Values	Basic Arab Values Basic Arab Religious Attitudes Basic Arab Self-Perceptions
2	Friends and Strangers	The Concept of Friendship Reciprocal Favors Introductions Visiting Patterns Business Friendships Office Relations Criticism Intermediaries Private and Public Manners
3	Emotion and Logic	Objectivity and Subjectivity Fatalism What is Reality? The Human Dimension Persuasion
4	Getting Personal	Personal Questions Sensitive Subjects Social Distance Gestures Names
5	Men and Women	Social Interaction Displaying Intimacy The Status of Women Women's Right to Vote Women in Government Positions Women's Power in the Family

		The Headscarf and the Veil Polygamy Traditional Gender Roles Western Women
6	Social Formalities and Etiquette	Hospitality Time and Appointments Discussing Business Sharing Meals Smoking Rules of Etiquette
7	The Social Structure	Social Classes Image and Upper-Class Behavior Dealing with Service People
8	The Role of the Family	Family Loyalty and Obligations Relations among Family Members Marriage Divorce Child-Rearing Practices Talking about Your Family
9	Religion and Society	Religious Affiliation Religious Practices The Religion of Islam Sunni and Shia The Sharia, Islamic Law The Qur'an and the Bible Passages from the Qur'an
10	Communicating with Arabs	Varieties of Arabic The Superiority of Arabic The Prestige of Classical Arabic Eloquence of Speech Speech Mannerisms Pleasant and Indirect Responses The Power of Words Euphemisms The Written Word Proverbs
11	Islamic Fundamentalism (Islamism)	Definitions and Numbers Jihad Islamists and Muslim Society Mainstream Muslims
12	Anti-Americanism	Reasons For Arab Anger Arab/Muslim and Some Western Views The Greater Middle East Proposal The Arab Media Some American Views Arab/Muslim Views On American Culture Views On Western-Style Democracy Islam Anti-Islam Comments Defense-of-Islam Comments
13	Arabs and Muslims in the West	Arabs in the United States Muslims in the United States and Canada Refugees Muslims in Europe The Image of Arabs and Muslims Image in America Image in Europe The Future of Islam in the West

**Required assignments and tests:**

Criteria	Points
Discussions	30
Article/Chapter Summaries/Reflection Papers	30
Quizzes	20
Final Project (Country Report)	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**Course guidelines and policies:****Student Conduct Code**

The [Student Conduct Code](#) at the University of Montana embodies and promotes honesty, integrity, accountability, rights, and responsibilities associated with constructive citizenship in our academic community. This Code describes expected standards of behavior for all students, including academic conduct and general conduct, and it outlines students' rights, responsibilities, and the campus processes for adjudicating alleged violations.

**Attendance**

According to UM's [Attendance policy](#), if a student does not attend the first two class meetings may be required to drop the course. This rule allows for early identification of class vacancies to permit other students to add into classes. Students absent and not allowed to remain must drop the course by CyberBear or turn in a drop slip to the Registration Counter in Griz Central to avoid receiving a failing grade. Students who know they will be absent should contact me in advance.

**Course Withdrawal**

The UM's [Withdrawal Policy](#) states that if a student decides to withdraw from classes, the student should contact the University Registrar's Office in Griz Central, located in the Lommasson Center, and complete a withdrawal form to begin the official withdrawal process. Please feel free to contact me first if any arrangements need to be made before withdrawal.

**Disability Modifications**

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students \(https://www.umt.edu/dss/default.php\)](https://www.umt.edu/dss/default.php). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

**Grading policy**

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Grade	Points	GPA
A	93-100	4
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	63-66	1
D-	60-62	0.7
F	0-59	0