New Course Proposal Cover Sheet (July 2013)

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON -- NEW COURSE PROPOSAL
Electronically submit this completed form with attachments in one file to the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee.

COLLEGE (check one):  Arts and Sciences  Business  Education
Proposal Submitted By: Maysoon Al Sayed Ahmad  Date Prepared: 
Course Title:  Topics in Arabic Culture
Department/discipline and course number*:  ARAB 310

*This course number must be approved by the Office of the Registrar before the proposal is submitted.

Number of credits proposed: 3  Prerequisites: Arabic 202 or instructor permission
Will this be a new, repeatable “special topics” course? (Do you want students to be able to take this new course more than once if the topic changes?)  NO YES X

Date of first offering of this new course: FALL SEMESTER, year  Fall 2016
Proposed frequency of offering of the course:  One semester per year
List the faculty who will likely teach the course:  Existing full-time Arabic faculty
Are ANY new resources required?  NO YES X  Document in attached impact statement

This new course will be (check all that apply):
Required in the major  General Elective  X
Elective in the major  General Education**

**AFTER the new course is approved, a separate proposal must be sent to the General Education Committee.

Catalog Description:
This is a new course for students who have completed the intermediate language level or for students who are native or heritage speakers of Arabic. Topics will vary according to student interest and faculty expertise. The course will be taught entirely in Arabic.

COURSE HISTORY
Was this course taught previously as a topics or experimental course?  YES  NO X
Course Number and Title of Previous Course  Semester Offered  Enrollment

CHECK HERE if the proposed course is to be equated with the earlier topics or experimental offerings. This means that students who took the earlier "topics" course will only be able to take the new course if they made a C- grade or lower in the earlier course.

NOTE: If the proposed course has not been previously offered as a topics or experimental course, explain in the attached rationale statement why the course should be adopted even though it has not been tried out.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:
1. Rationale Statement (Why is this course needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. Impact Statement (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, and technology impacts created by adding this new course. Include supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. as needed.)
3. Sample Syllabus

Department Chair Approval:  Date: 10/26/2015
CCC Chair Approval:  Date: 11/18/15
UCC Chair Approval:  Patricia Reynolds  Date: 12/7/2015
Some possible topics are:

1. **The Language of the Arabic Media** (course will cover the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing and a good balance between understanding the systems of Arabic Language grammar and vocabulary, style and content of the Arabic press and broadcast media).

2. **Current Issues in the Arabic World** (course will cover current problems of religion, women’s issues, political trends).

3. **Historical Perspectives of the Arabic World** (course might cover the history of scientific thought or various other topics dealing with history, tradition, and science).
Rationale Statement

ARAB 310: Topics in Arabic Culture

The Arab world today continues to be characterized by cultural and linguistic diversity, cosmopolitanism, and transnationalism. In recent decades migrant workers from Asia and Africa have brought their cultures and languages to cities throughout the region, enriching the cultures of the Arab world as a result. At the same time political and economic developments in the Middle East have made understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Arabic an increasingly valuable skill.

The course proposed, ARAB 310: Topics in Arabic Culture, will offer a general mosaic survey of the geographical, historical, social, religious, cultural, and artistic aspects of the modern Arab world. Special attention will be given to topics such as the Arabic language, the role of the family in the Arabic world, and contemporary issues in gender relations. The course will include topics such as economics, politics, trade and industry, and interviews with prominent Arabic speakers.

The course will also focus on giving the students of Arabic language the tools to access news information by introducing them to vocabulary, style and content of the Arabic press and broadcast media. The students will receive practical training to learn how to comprehend specialized vocabulary, style and subject content through text by reading, analyzing, translating, listening, debating and summarizing. Students will have the opportunity to use a wide range of resources and materials such as articles, interviews, movies, and political speeches. Students will enhance their knowledge of modern standard Arabic and learn new structures.

This proposed course will be available to students who are already at the intermediate Arabic (Arab 202) or native (and heritage) speakers of Arabic. This course will be offered as an elective for students who have completed the language requirement at the intermediate level. It will also be used to fulfill the requirements for students in the Middle Eastern Studies minor and for students who have declared a special major in Arabic, which most of the students create after they finish their study abroad in the Arab world.

I have identified a possible textbook “لغة ووسائل الإعلام العربية” to be used through this course in addition to online articles, newspapers, magazines, live TV


Arabic live TV:

http://www.aljazeera.net/portal

http://wwitv.com/tv_channels/b6006.htm
Impact Statement

Some additional materials might be needed to implement ARAB 310. Below is a list of books and secondary sources. These sources are Arabic books needed to be ordered by UMW library

**MSA Books**

- *Ahlan wa Sahlan*
  *Ahlan wa Sahlan*, Computer-Assisted Learning for Arabic
  Mahdi Alosh
  Ohio State University

- *Al-Kitab Al-Assassi*, Parts I & II

- *Modern Arabic*, Parts I & II
  Samar Attar

**Miscellaneous:**

- *A Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*, Hans Wehr

- *The Connectors in Modern Standard Arabic*
  Nariman Al-Warraki & Ahmed Taher Hassanein
  American University, Cairo

- *Al-kitaaba wa Al-usluub*
  American University, Cairo
ARAB 310: Topics in Arabic Culture
Sample Syllabus

ARAB 310A: The Language of the Arabic Media
Instructor: Maysoon Al Sayed Ahamd

PREQUISITES
Arabic 202 or permission by the instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is designed for students who have reached an intermediate proficiency level in MSA. It is designed to enable students to understand live Arabic broadcast on TV, Radio and Newspapers intended for native speakers of Arabic. Linguistically, the course will focus on developing beginners to intermediate listening, speaking and writing skills through exposure to important political and social issues that are being currently discussed in Arabic media. In terms of content of this course prepares students to understand the different views or issues raised in the Arabic media as well as the ability to participate equally demanding such as listening and debating news in Arabic according to their levels in the language. This course will be meeting three times a week.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1- Listen to and understand headlines and titles of Arabic news.
2- Summarize reports and statements news in Arabic
3- Listen to understand formal interviews in Arabic
4- Identify the basic topics and main points of an Arabic television\web broadcast.
5- Write up a headlines news in Arabic
6- Understand and discuss (in English) the key points of Arabic current affairs program on the first time of listening.
7- Improve in their quality and speed of their translation of Arabic newspapers articles.
8- Introduce their understanding of some of the social and political realities in the Arab world.
9- Improve their ability to discuss and present opinions by drawing on Arabic broadcast and their use of newly acquired terminology.

COURSE REQUIREMENT
Students are required to

- Attend class regularly.
- Listen to and prepare the assigned homework.
- Participate in the class discussions
- Complete and turn in a comprehension sheets of weekly based on their listening assignment.

EXPECTATIONS
CLASS PARTICIPATION

- All students are expected to participate actively in the class discussion.
- Unexcused absence will be reflected on students’ final grade.
- Excused absence must be properly documented.
HOMEWORK AND EXAMS

- Homework must be turned in in the day its due, before the start of the class.
- Exam dates are final.
- No partial credit for incomplete work.
- Exam and quiz make ups are possible only with proper documentation.

Textbook Recommended

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https://books.google.com/books?id=3GiDKSrJrfAC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=true

weblinks:

- Canvas webpage: https://canvas.umw.edu (most articles, drill, and grammar lessons will be here).
- We will create media Arabic class Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com to share all our work and projects and post current Arabs events.
- Al Jazeera learning: http://learning.aljazeera.net/dailytraining/topnews
- Al Jazeera: http://www.aljazeera.net
- For your audio recording: http://vocaroo.com

GRADING

Participation 10 %
Students are responsible to study the vocabulary of the week (posted on canvas) at home and be ready to use them in context in class. Every week you will present to a class in details one news items or role play a part of interview or debate that is the topic of that day. Students are expected to give their own views about the material being covered in every class according to their language and vocabulary level. Your participation consist of your ability to use new words in sentences, to provide verbal summaries of news/video clips, as well as your ability to express your opinion about the material being discussed in the class.

Homework 20 %
This part of the grade will be given to summaries of media audio, video files, and filling homework sheets by the instructor and based on the assigned work for each particular class.

Quizzes 30 %
There are three quizzes every month

Final exam 20 %
Compositions (assays) 10%

Final project 10%

All projects have to be in groups. Each group prepares a 10-15 minute video emulating one of three formats (news, interview, debate) covered in this course. Both the topic and the format of the project should be approved by the instructor no later than week 12 of the course. Presentation of project will take place during the last week of class.

In addition to the content and discourse aspects of the projects, the vocabulary has to varied and specialized (similar to the one we learned in the course). Special attention should be given to the quality of the work in terms of clarity, fluency, and accuracy.

GRADING SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93- (unusual excellence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>73-76</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66 (work below average quality)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 (failure)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR SPECIAL NEEDS

The Office of Disability Resources has been designated by the University as the primary office to guide, counsel and assist students with disabilities. If you receive services through that office and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodation needs. Please bring your accommodation letter to the appointment. I will hold any information shared with me in the strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise.

Note that all cell phones should be turned off while class is taking place. If you bring a laptop into class, you may use it only for taking notes.
Schedule of Topics and Assignments (tentative)

Week 1 Diplomacy

- Reading the passage and answer the questions
- Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
- Review vocabulary and reading comprehension exercises
- Online listening exercise and in-class presentation
- Write a paragraph – summery about the passage
- Grammar: Possession and Idafa structure

Week 2 The US and the Arab world

- Read the passage
- Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
- Review vocabulary and reading comprehension exercises
- Online listening exercise (from the BBC) and in-class presentation about the relation between the US and the Arab world; also write a an assay on the same subject
- Grammar: The non-human agreement

Week 3 Election in Tunisia
• Read the passage and answer the questions
• Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
• Review vocabulary and reading comprehension exercises
• Online listening exercise and in–class presentation about (Election in Tunisia)
• Essay topic about the new Tunisian constitution
• Skit: you are running for the Tunisian presidency. What is your campaign platform? To be presented in the class
• Grammar: Conditional and non-conditional sentences

Week 4  Election in US

• Read the passage and answer the questions
• Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
• Review vocabulary and reading comprehension exercises
• Online listening exercise and in–class presentation
• Essay topic about the election in the US
• Grammar: Verbal nouns

Week 5  Meet the Arab Press (this week we begin using authentic materials from online media)

• Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
• Review vocabulary and reading comprehension exercises
• Essay: Choose 2 short articles from any Arabic newspapers on the same subject and write an assay to compare how do they differ in tone, language, political orientation, and presumable target audience? give 3 minute presentation summarizing your findings.
• Grammar: The Imperative; connectors

Week 6 Stereotypes of and in the Arab world

• Read the comic Qahera: A superhero (http://qahera.tumblr.com), articles(s) about the stereotyping.
• Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
• Review vocabulary and reading comprehension exercises
• In class: Discussion of the influence of orientalism on perceptions and realities of Arab culture.
• Advertisement: Record a video advertisement in order to embellish the US’ image in the Arab world
• Grammar: The Nominative vs. the verbal sentence
• Essay: write 5 stereotypies in US and 5 stereotypies in the Arab world and give 2 minute presentation
Week 7  Migration

- Al Jazeera magazine article migration within the Arab world
- Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
- Review vocabulary and reading comprehension exercises
- Online listening exercise and in–class presentation
- Essay topic about Migration from Central/ Latin America and give 3 minute presentation
- Grammar : The passive form

Week 8 Sports in Defining Culture, Society and Politics

- Discussion: Soccer’s impact on the middle Eastern politics article
- Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
- Online listening exercise and in–class presentation
- Essay : Summarize the article
- Grammar : Verb and doer agreement

Week 9  Women, Lifestyle and family

- Read about woman, lifestyle and family
- Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
- Essay topic women stereotypes in the Arab world
- Grammar : the use of the regular and irregular plural sound and the grammatical cases

Week 10  Sexual Harassment

- Read article on major incidents of harassment in the Arab world since 2011
- Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
- Online listening exercise and in–class presentation
- Skit : you are asked to run an anti-sexual harassment campaign in Saudi Arabia
- Grammar : The use of Kana and her sisters

Week 11  Religion and Minorities

- Read the passage
- Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
- Review vocabulary and reading comprehension exercises
- Online listening exercise and in–class presentation
• Essay topic Select an Arab country and research a religion or ethnic minority and give presentation
• Grammar: ordinal number and writing the date (day/month/year) in formal Arabic

Week 12  The “Arab Spring”
• Watch the Square documentary movie is an Egyptian-American documentary film by Jehane Noujaim
• Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
• Advertisement: Think of the comical way of educating a poor, illiterate population on forming developing political opinions while respecting those of others, as well as freedom of speech.
• Grammar: Relative pronouns

Week 13  Social Media
• Read article about Twitter and Facebook’s role in the Arab Spring
• Study the 30 vocabulary words in the preparation for dictation quiz at the end of the week
• Online listening exercise and in-class presentation
• Grammar: The doer and al hal
• Essay: the role of media in determining the outcomes of social-political changes in the Arab world

Week 14  Students final projects: presentation and concluding discussion