

ARAB 313 - 1  
Arab Women and Literature  
**Arabic Culture Course**  
MW 11:00 - 12:15  
**Instructional Modality: Onsite**  
**Class Location: G302**

**Instructor:** Dr. Abdulrahman Al Farhan  
**Office Location:** G 310E  
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**Office Hours:** MW 2-4 , Tuesday 12-4

## Syllabus

### **AUK Mission Statement:**

The American University of Kuwait is a liberal arts institution dedicated to teaching, learning, and scholarship. The University offers programs that provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for lifelong learning and professional success. AUK enriches society by fostering an environment that encourages critical thinking, effective communication, personal growth, service, and leadership.

### **Arabic and Foreign Languages Department Mission Statement:**

The Department of Arabic and Foreign Languages aims to develop the skills of students in Arabic, French, and Spanish. It seeks to introduce students to the extraordinarily rich Arabic literary heritage and to develop skills of close reading, critical thinking, and creative writing. It furthermore strives to encourage creativity, analytical skills, and research capacity, as well as to motivate students to become active members of their larger communities.

### **Course Description**

This course surveys selections of Arab women literature through the lens of Arabic literary criticism and feminist theory. The main aim of the selections is to reflect the intellectual, literary, and cultural developments of Arab women writers from pre-Islamic times to the present day. It also aims to acquaint students with Arab women's rich contributions to different literary genres.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students will benefit in multiple ways from the completion of this course, by acquiring skills such as:

1. Developing a better understanding of literary terms and genres.
2. Being able to analyze literature by Arab women through Arabic literary criticism and feminist theory.
3. Being able to position the Arab women writings within the history of Arabic literature.
4. Being able to identify political, cultural, and social forces that have affected Arab women literature.

5. Comparing Arab women literary works from several historical periods and analyzing them from cultural, social and political viewpoints.

### **Course Delivery/Methodology:**

For this course we will be meeting in-person two days per week (Monday & Wednesday) . The material will be presented through lectures, videos, and most importantly the assigned readings for the class. All course material will be posted on Moodle, which can be accessed at [www.lms.auk.edu.kw](http://www.lms.auk.edu.kw). All assignments must also be submitted through Moodle. You will be completing the following evaluations for this course by submitting them on Turnitin in via Moodle: Reflection papers, comprehensive exam and research paper To successfully complete this course, you must complete readings ahead of time, participate regularly in class discussions, and submit the class assignments on time.

### **Textbook**

All readings from the textbooks will be uploaded to Moodle by the instructor.

### **Methods of Assessment**

Participation	20%
Comprehensive Exam	30%
Book Review Project	25%
Presentation	25%

### **AUK Official Grading Scale:**

Letter Grade	Percentage	University Points
A	94-100	4.0
A-	90-93	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	84-86	3.0
B-	80-83	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	74-76	2.0
C-	70-73	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	64-66	1.0

D-	60-63	0.7
F	0-59	0.0

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is taken during the first 5 minutes of the virtual class. However, as I believe that *bāb al- 'lm la yughlaq*, “the door of knowledge should not be closed”, late students are welcome to attend the class but will be marked absent.

Any student leaving the virtual class during a lecture, without prior permission, will be marked absent.

From the AUK Academic Catalog, p. 61:

“Students who, during a semester, miss more than 15% or 8 hours of the class sessions of any course, irrespective of the reasons, may be advised by the instructor to withdraw from the course. Students who do not withdraw should expect to fail the course.”

The last date to withdraw with a “W” is April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Code of Academic Honesty and Integrity:**

Upon admission to the American University of Kuwait, students agree to act responsibly in all areas of academic, personal and social conduct and to take full responsibility for their individual and collective action. Such regulations are found in the American University of Kuwait Catalogue, Student Handbook, and the AUK website at [www.auk.edu.kw](http://www.auk.edu.kw). Any question of interpretation regarding the code of academic honesty and Integrity shall be reported to the appropriate academic dean. The Code shall be reviewed annually at the discretion of the academic deans. Any student or student organization found to have committed the cited violations or misconduct, either on or off campus, is subject to the disciplinary sanctions outlined in adjudication procedures.

### **Plagiarism:**

Developing a better understanding of the ethical issues in academia is part of the course. Any plagiarism detected in your paper or presentation material will result in an F for the course. Quoting short passages without citing sources will result in a 0 for the assignment.

### **Miscellaneous**

Mobile phone usage, excessive conversation and any sort of disruptive behavior will result in a deduction from the participation grade. The student may also be asked to leave the virtual class.

### **Academic Support:**

Learning Support Services focuses on empowering students to become independent and successful learners by developing their literacy skills, enhancing their understanding, and helping them improve their academic and study skills. Learning Support Services is comprised of two centers: the Tutoring Center and the Writing Center. The Tutoring Center provides free academic support in various subjects to AUK student. Email: [tutoringcenter@auk.edu.kw](mailto:tutoringcenter@auk.edu.kw).

The Writing Center provides multilingual support (English, Arabic, French, and Spanish) through individual or small-group consultations. Email: [writingcenter@auk.edu.kw](mailto:writingcenter@auk.edu.kw)

### **Disability Accommodations:**

AUK provides equal and inclusive educational environment in order to enable all students to meet and perform requisite academic standards and to participate in the opportunities and activities of its community. If you believe you can benefit from accommodations for a learning, physical, or mental health disability, [click here to book a session through the Counseling Center/Disability Services Booking Page](#), to ask about disability services at AUK, initiate an accommodation plan, or receive disability services. You can also email [counseling@auk.edu.kw](mailto:counseling@auk.edu.kw) if you need assistance in booking a session.

### **Late and Missing Work Policy:**

Late work will not be accepted unless the student submits a valid or medical excuse.

### **Make-Up Work Policy:**

Make-up exams date/time will be based on mutual agreement between faculty and student through email communication

### **Communication Policy:**

Please be sure to use your official AUK email account, write your full name, and indicate which class and section you are taking (Class ###, DAY/TIME section) when you send me an email. If you have a question, please check the syllabus first and if your question is not answered there, then please feel free to send an email and I will be happy to clarify. I respond to questions via email or posted on the discussion forum within 24 hours of receiving them; if I do not respond within 24 hours, please re-send the email. Please note I normally respond during these working hours: Every day between 2-3:30. **Emails sent on weekends will be responded to on Sunday.**

### **Authors/Texts Covered (approximately 4 weeks per thematic unit)**

#### **1- Comprehensive Introduction:**

- - The status of Arab women in the pre-Islamic period.
- - The status of Arab women in the early Islamic periods.
- - The status of Arab women in the era of decadence.
- - Historical survey of the feminist movement.

- - The liberation of Arab women.
- - The status of women in the modern age.
- - Introduction to Arabic literary criticism and feminist theories.

Readings list:

- Amīn, Qāsim. 2016. *Tahrīr al-Mar'a*. Cairo: Mu'assasat Hīndāwī.
- al-Furīḥ, Sīhām. 2010. *Al-Mar'a al-'Arabiyya wa al-Ibdā' al-Shi'rī*. Amman: Dār Jarīr.
- al-Ḥashir, Aisha. 2006. *Khalf Aswār al-Ḥarmlak*. Bayrūt: al-Dār al-'Arabiyya lil-'Ulūm Nashirūn.
- al-'Aqqād, 'Abbās. 2012. *Hādhih al-Shajra*. Cairo: Mu'assasat Hīndāwī.
- Wendy K. & Frances B. 2010. *Al-Nazriyya al-Niswayya*. Translated from English by 'Imād Ibrāhīm. Jordan: Al-Ahlia.

Assignment:

Reflection paper 1

## 2- The poetry of Arab women and their influence on Arabic literature:

### A- During the Pre-Islamic and Islamic periods:

#### Notable figures:

Readings List:

- Al-Marzbānī. 2012. *'Ash'ār al-Nisā'*. Cairo: Mu'assasat Hīndāwī.
- al-Udhari, Abdullah. 1999. *Classical Poem by Arab Women*. London: Saqi books.
- Farrin, Raymond. 2011. *Tharwa min al-bādiya: al-shi'r al-'arabi al-qadīm*. Kuwait: Dār al-Farāsha.

### B- Poetry during the modern period

Discussing Arab women poets and their valuable contributions to the free verse movement in Arabic poetry.

Readings list

- Nāzik, al-Malā'ika. 1971. *Shazāyā wa Ramād*. Bayrūt: Dār al-'Awdah.
- Nāzik, al-Malā'ika. 1967. *Qadāyā al-Shi'r al-Mu'āshir*. Bayrūt: Maktabt al-Nahḍa.

Selections of contemporary Arab women Poetry:

- Al-Samān, Ghāda. 1999. *al-'Abdiyya Laḥaḍt Ḥub*. Bayrūt: Manshūrāt Ghāda Al-Samān.
- Al-Samān, Ghāda. 1980. *al-Ḥub min al-Warīḍ ila al-Warīḍ*. Bayrūt: Manshūrāt Ghāda Al-Samān.
- 'Imāra, Lamī'a. 1980. *Law 'Anba 'nī al-'Arrāf*. Bagdad: al-Maktaba al-'Ālmiyya

- Ṭūqān, Fadwa. 1993. *al-‘Amāl al-Shi‘riyyah al-Kāmila*. Bayrūt: al-Mu‘assasah al-‘Arabiyyah lil-Dirāsāt wa al-Nashr.

### **3- Arab women Literary practices (novels, essays and autobiographies)**

Examining and analyzing Arab women’s literary practices through different interdisciplinary methodological approaches.

Readings List:

- al-Zayyat, Laṭīfa. 1989. *Al-Bāb al-Maftūḥ*. Cairo: al-Hay’a al-Misriyya lil-Kitāb.
- al-Sa‘dāwī, Nawāl. 2000. *Mudhakkārātī fī Sijn al-Nisā’*. Cairo: Dār al-Ādāb.

Assignments:

Comprehensive Exam

Final Research Paper/ Presentation