



Syllabus

ARB 205: Survey of Arab-Islamic Civilization

Course Prefix/Number: ARB 205-03

Course Title: Survey of Arab-Islamic Civilization

Core/Elective Course

Class Meeting Times: MW 3:30-4:15pm

Instructional Modality: Hybrid

Class Location: B 209

Instructor: Ahmed Meiloud

Office Location: G 333

Office Phone:

Email: ameiloud@auk.edu.kw

Office Hours: TRU 11-12 and 1pm to 2pm

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.

Department/College 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

Catalog Course Description: ARB 205: Survey of Arab-Islamic Civilization

The course acquaints students with the past influence and present importance of Arab-Islamic civilization. It investigates how Islam has shaped many different cultures in Asia, Europe, and Africa over the last 1400 years. The religious, political and cultural values associated with Arab-Islamic culture will be discussed. Furthermore, students will be familiarized with the historical forces that shaped the past, and what these forces mean for the world today.

This course is taught in the English language. This course satisfies the General Education Requirement for Arab Culture. Prerequisite: ENGL 101.

Textbook and Readings:

No textbook is required for this course. Reading materials will be uploaded to the course Moodle page. A detailed reading list and class schedule will be posted separately on Moodle.

Expectations:

As a student in this course, you are required to complete and submit the following assignments:

1. **Attendance and participation 10%.** For full mark, students need to bring to class a one-paragraph comment about the designated reading for each class session.
2. **Five Section Tests: 50%. Dates will be specified on the Schedule.**
3. **Presentations: 15%. Dates and times will be shown on the Schedule.**
4. **Comprehensive Electronic Survey: 25%**

Learning Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Appreciate the depth, diversity and richness of the Arabic and Islamic civilization;
2. Be able map the legal, philosophical and mystical sources which inform and shape the modern Arab and Islamic intellectual landscapes.
3. Develop a critical awareness of the historical forces (old and recent) that played formative roles in shaping the modern Arab and Islamic culture.

Evaluations and Grading:

Evaluation Type	Weight
Attendance and participation	10%
Five Electronic surveys	50%
Presentation	15%
Comprehensive Electronic Survey	25%
Total	100%

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

AUK Attendance Policy:

Any student who misses more than 15% of class sessions of any course during a semester should expect to fail, unless she/he submits documented evidence to the course instructor of inpatient medical care, death of an immediate family member, academic instructional activities, or national athletic activities. If excused, students are required to satisfy all coursework due or assigned during their absence as determined by the course instructor. If a student does not submit documented evidence for her/his absence exceeding the limit, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course by the specified deadline, as indicated on the academic calendar. Students who withdraw from a course receive a grade of "W". Students who do not withdraw from a course nor submit supporting documents for excessive absences will receive a grade of "FN" (failure for non-attendance).

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. 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:

The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, an attempt of an individual to claim the work of another as the product of his or her own thoughts regardless of whether that work has been published. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting improperly or paraphrasing text or other written materials without proper citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written material submitted to an instructor as one's own work. Plagiarism also includes handing in a paper to an instructor that was purchased from a term paper service or downloaded from the Internet and presenting another person's academic work as one's own.

Cheating:

The term "cheating" includes but is not limited to, copying homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual on a take-home test or homework when not approved by the instructor, looking at and/or copying text, notes or another person's paper during an examination when not permitted to do so. Cheating also includes the giving of work information to another student to be copied and/or used as his or her own. This includes but is not limited to giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after having taken an exam; informing another student of specific questions that appear or have appeared on an exam in the same academic semester; giving or selling a term paper, report, project or other restricted written materials to another student.

Any assignment that is plagiarized in whole or in part will receive a Zero. NO EXCEPTIONS

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.

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

Disability Accommodations:

Disability services include identifying strategies to accommodate the learning requirements of students with disabilities. The Counseling Center at AUK offers services that include personal counseling and disability services. Their mission is to support students as they overcome what inhibits their success and prepare them for lifelong learning and development. For questions regarding accommodation services, please contact the Counseling Center at Counseling@auk.edu.kw.

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. 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. Emails sent on weekends will be responded to on Sunday.

Technology Issues:

All assignments must be submitted through Moodle or the designated platform. However, you may experience trouble submitting an assignment due to technology or internet issues. If such a situation does arise and you are unable to submit your assignment through Moodle, please send me an email at ameiloud@auk.edu.kw and include the **completed** assignment. Please make sure that you email me the assignment **before** the deadline as this documents that you did finish everything by the due date and time, but that you just had a technology issue. This will ensure that your assignment will be accepted, and you will not receive a late penalty. Once the technology or internet issue is resolved, please upload the assignment to Moodle. In general, always be sure to frequently save your files and keep backups of your assignments.

Syllabus Changes:

There may be changes to the schedule and syllabus during the semester. When this happens, I will inform you in class and over email.

Schedule:

<u>SCHEDULE ARB 205</u>
Feb 9: Introductions
<u>History</u>

Feb 14: Kennedy, chapter 3 (pp.43-70)
Feb 16: Kennedy, chapter 4 (pp. 71-106)
Feb 21: Kennedy, chapters 5 and 6 (pp. 107-171)
Feb: 23 General review, and test 1
<u>Qur'an</u>
March 7: Abdullah Saeed, Introduction, The context of the debate on interpretation, Revelation and interpretation
March 9: Abdullah Saeed, Interpretation based on tradition and textualism & Interpretation based on reason
March 14 : Abdullah Saeed, Flexibility in reading the text, Abrogation and reinterpretation & The meaning of the text as an approximation
March 16: Abdullah Saeed, Recognition of the complexity of meaning, Socio-historical context and interpretation & Ethico-legal texts and a hierarchy of values
March 21: General Review and Test 2
<u>Hadith</u>
March 23: Abdullah Saeed, 3 Scott Lucas, Major Topics of Hadith
March 28: Brown, Early Critics of Hadith
March 30: Motzki, Analysing Muslim Tradition, pp. 1-46.
April 4: Review
April 6: Test 3
<u>Law and Legal Theory</u>
April 11: Saeed Abdullah. 4. Legal Thought
April 13: Sherman Jackson, Literalism
April 18: Felicitas Opwis Maslaha.
April 20: Wael Hallaq, Shatibi
April 25: General Review and Test 4
<u>Mysticism</u>
April 27: Rabi'a al-'Adawiyya
May 9: The Ethical Concerns of Classical Sufism
May 11: General review
The Modern History of the Middle East

May 16: Historical Overview: Crusades, Ottomans and Beyond
May 18: Arab Nationalism, Independence, The Arab-Israeli Conflict: part 1, 1948 to 1967, Middle Easter After 1973 War
May 23: Review. Test 5—Take-home Exam
May 25: Presentations, Slot 1
May 30: Presentation, Slot 2
June 1: Presentations Slot 3
June 6: General Survey.