

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **Arabs and Westerners: Race, Gender, and Colonialism**

**Course Number and Section:**

HISTORY

2696G 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Sara Khorshid

**Instructor Email(s):** skhorshi@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

Did you ever come across videos by Arab TikTokers who target a Western audience? Perhaps Arab diaspora kids living in the West and exploring their complex identity on TikTok? Or how about Western TikTokers who post videos of themselves lip-syncing to Arabic songs or "belly dancing" like Arabs do at their weddings and social gatherings? Did you run into non-Arabs at a Canadian grocery store buying Hummus, a dip that certain areas in the Arab world are known for?

These Arab-Western encounters have historical roots, which will be addressed in this course, with a focus on the 19th and 20th centuries. Being an Arab-Western encounter in and of itself, this course approaches modern Middle Eastern history from a transnational lens that brings together Arab and Western protagonists. It focuses on imperialism, colonialism, and postcoloniality while integrating the roles of race and gender into the history of Arab-Western encounters.

We will utilize secondary and primary sources, as well as movies, poetry, songs, and other materials that allow for a close engagement with Arab societies and cultures, especially in relation to Arab images of the West and Western images of Arabs.

Yalla!

### Learning Outcomes:

Familiarity with the historical roots of Arab and Western mutual perceptions in the 19th and 20th centuries

In-depth understanding of the role of race, gender, colonialism, imperialism, and postcoloniality in shaping Arab-Western relations and mutual perceptions in the 19th and 20th centuries

Familiarity with orientalism as a tradition, the impact of Edward Said's influential 1978 book *Orientalism*, and the historiographical evolution of the discipline of modern Middle Eastern history

Ability to connect events in the Middle East today, especially events that are related to Arab-Western relations, to historical encounters

Familiarity with the scholarly field of Middle Eastern studies

Basic familiarity with Arab pop culture

**Textbooks and Course Materials:**

We will use a variety of primary and secondary sources that are either available via Western Libraries or will be made available on OWL.

These will include movies, novels, and blog entries, in addition to journal articles and scholarly books.

**Methods Of Evaluation:**

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	Ongoing	20
Lockman's Book: Summary & Reflection	June 23, 2025	20
Response 1	June 30, 2025	10
Response 2	July 7, 2025	10
Response 3	July 14, 2025	10
Response 4	July 21, 2025	10
Open-book exam	July 24, 2025	20

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Wednesday, April 23, 2025