

The background features a bold, abstract design with large blocks of yellow, blue, and black. A white rectangular area is centered horizontally, containing the main text. The text is in a large, bold, black serif font, arranged in two lines. The overall aesthetic is modern and graphic.

Music, Literature, Poetry & Art in the Arabic Classroom

تحت القمر



LIVE MUSIC WITH
VALERIA STEWART

PAINTING & POETRY
WITH ZEIN EL-AMINE
& DELARAM TASSBIHI

06.04.2023

7:30PM-10:30PM

Why Nizar?

(Nizar Qabban- The impossible love English subtitles) الحب المستحيل - نزار قباني

- Poetry is chosen according to its accessibility .
- If it is put to music then the better
- Other examples are of course Fairuz singing Gibran & Marcel Khalife singing Darwish
- There are also mashups in American pop culture like the Arabic Version of of The Weekend's Blinding Lights which becomes "Life is So Beautiful" which is rendered in clear classical arabic. The Weeknd - Blinding lights (Arabic Version)النسخة العربية
(On Spotify & Apple Music)[Cover]

Fairuz & Gibran

- Khalil Gibran's poetry is popular.
- The Prophet at times sold more than the bible.
- Fairuz sang at least half a dozen songs that were based on his poems or excerpts from The Prophet.
- It is also an opportunity to learn cultural facts about the Boston Renaissance.
- There is a playlist on YouTube that includes all of Fairuz's songs based on Gibran: [Fairuz sings Khalil Gibran - YouTube](#)

Marcel Khalife & Mahmoud Darwish

The same goes for the pairing of Marcel Khalife and Mahmoud Darwish

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-Zpn9Z7KqYzOmPLOBssO3DpMhqwqzxoD>

Especially “Rita” which is an opportunity for cultural and political discussion.

[مارسيل خليفة \ محمود درويش \ ريتا](#)

Lebanese Colloquial & Shami Culture

- If we are to preserve the Lebanese colloquial in a time capsule we would only need to include Ziad Rahbani's songs.
- While Fairuz's husband and his brother known as the Rahbani Brothers wrote most of the classical arabic songs including Gibran's pieces, Ziad wrote the colloquial ones with the most resonant vocabulary.
- But his solo albums and his Ataab's contain some of the most delightful play on words and puns in shami. [Aataba, Pt. 1](#) The aataba here repeats the lines with new contexts and new meanings.

What started it all: Mashrou Leila

- Continuing around the shami dialect but with a firm classical underpinnings are the works of Mashrou Leila.
- I milk that cultural phenomena for all its worth: society, art, culture, religion and politics.
- The interest in Mashrou Leila as an educational tool (who had their start at T-Marbouta) was initiated by a student who brought Fasateen to a language partnering session:
[Mashroua Leila - Fasateen مشروع ليلى - فساتين lyrics](#)
- To demonstrate the use of the masculine in song and poetry this song turns tradition on its head in a most subversive way: [Mashrou' Leila-Shim El Yasmine. \(arabic/eng sub\)](#)

America's Got Arabic

Jennifer Grout:

الموسم الثالث - تجارب الأداء - جينفر جراوت - Arabs Got Talent

Arabs got talent Jennifer grout

Arabic in American Cinema

Frank Herbert's *Dune* is a great tool to expand Arabic vocab along learning proper pronunciation.

I went with my students to watch the premier after dedicating a whole class to the novels and the movie.

Herbert worked in Saudi Arabia and learned a lot about the language and culture of the region and Arabic is the scaffolding for the language and terminology used in the film.

[A Guide to Dune Words: How to Pronounce DUNE NAMES According to Frank Herbert](#)

[A Guide to Dune Words: How to Pronounce TERMS & PHRASES According to Frank Herbert](#)

Disney's Arabic Market

Frozen is a great example of classical arabic translation: [Frozen - Let It Go \(Arabic\) + Subs&Trans | ملكة الثلج - أطلقى سرك](#)

NOTE: “If you're not aware, Disney Arabia decided that it will no longer use the Egyptian dialect in dubs; all Disney movies will be dubbed into Classical Arabic from now on. Consequently, the company went ahead and re-dubbed old Classics, but did a horrible job. However, they did an outstanding job with frozen. I hope that this dub is a sign that Disney Arabia is back to its previous excellent work.”

Singer: Nesma Mahgoub

How to Lit the Class

Of all the arabic language and courses that I taught, the one that I saw the most progress in class was my Modern Arabic Literature Class.

Comparing the first book report and the final paper was such a contrast.

This is of course what happens when you read good lit you can help but gain that kind of fluency.

Students where required to write a book report after each finishing each book and the final paper was to pick a theme across these books to write about.

Suggested Lit

- Woman at Point Zero, Nawal Saadawy
- The Yacoubian Building, Alaa Al Aswany
- Season of Migration to the North, Tayeb Saleh
- Taxi, Khaled El-Khomeisi
- Eleven Planets, poems by Mahmoud Darwish (selected poems only)
- Selected poems from the Anthology of Arabic Poetry
- David Tresilian's A Brief Introduction to Modern Arabic Literature
- Selected short stories and poems from various literary anthologies.

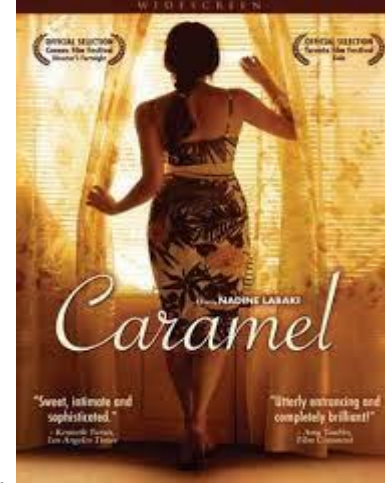


Arabic Cinema

Most of my electives included arabic films.

I also taught an Arabic film course at Georgetown.

But the most popular movies and the ones that made a difference in language and culture were: Caramel & Bittersweet



Small Bites: Arabic Commercials

Teaching negation in Egyptian colloquial <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYz3sloLEA4>

Lebanese Colloquial

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7GUGH_aZ6E

I say Arabi

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgwCO8wuvvM&list=PLo1xpuGWRt1VRY4qMu_pWdnojvptgZlmt&index=7

