

Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**
 Course: **CLMEW3928_001_2017_3 / ARABIC PRISON WRITING**
 Instructors: **Muhsin Jassim Al-Musawi**

Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**
 Responses: **3/11 - 27.27%**
 Number of Participants: **11**
 Enrollment of All Students: **11**

TA Concise Report for: **Karim Maged Malak**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	N/A	# of Responses	Median	Mean	St.Dev
1 What is your overall assessment of the effectiveness of the teaching assistant?	0 0%	0 0%	1 33%	0 0%	2 67%	0 0%	3	5	4.33	1.15

5 4.33
4.75 1.15

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Concise Course Questions

	This question is not	Some	Most	All or almost all	# of Responses	Median IMedian	Mean St.Dev		
1 What percentage of the work (including reading) assigned for this course did you complete on schedule?	0 0%	0 0%	2 67%	1 33%	3 3	3.25	3.33 0.58		
					3	3.25	3.33 0.58		
	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	# of Responses	Median IMedian	Mean St.Dev	
2 What is your overall assessment of the course?	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 33%	2 67%	3 5	4.75	4.67 0.58	
					5	4.75	4.67 0.58		
	Definitely not recommend	Probably not recommend	I'm not sure I'd	Yes, probably recommend	Yes, definitely recommend	# of Responses	Median IMedian	Mean St.Dev	
3 Would you recommend this course to another student?	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 33%	2 67%	3 5	4.75	4.67 0.58	
					5	4.75	4.67 0.58		
	No basis for comparison	Much lighter workload	Lighter workload	Similar workload	Heavier workload	Much heavier workload	# of Responses	Median IMedian	Mean St.Dev
4 How does the workload in this course compare to Columbia courses with a similar structure (e.g. a lecture, seminar, laboratory, or language course)?	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 67%	1 33%	3 5	5.25	5.33 0.58
					5	5.25	5.33 0.58		

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TA Comments Report for: **Karim Maged Malak**

Q1 What are the strengths and weaknesses of your teaching assistant (discussion section leader, lab section leader, grader, or other assistant) as an instructor, and how might his or her teaching be improved?

- Karim was a great TA. He held everyone in the class to a high standard and was crucial in keeping the discussions interesting and rigorous. He is very intelligent but seemed to 'man-splain' a bit. I see how this form of didacticism irritated/offended some people in the classroom. Karim was very helpful in office hours, unlike the professor. The work that Karim put into the class as a TA paid off. He enlivened all discussions in an amazing way. He was very encouraging of students, while at the same time not standing for any—there's no other word—bullshit.
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Comments Course Questions

Q1 What did you learn - in terms of knowledge, skills, or perspectives - in this course?

- I have always been able to think critically about literature but this course helped me to really solidify my critical thinking skills. The professor (and the TA!) asked a lot of us. The presentations also helped me improve my... presentation skills. I also obviously learned a lot about arabic prison writing and the arab world in general. A great and informative class.

Q2 What is your overall assessment of the course? What are its strengths? In what ways might it be improved? In answering this question, you might address the value of readings and assignments, the structure of the course (including the relationship of sections to lectures), the contribution of the course to your knowledge of the subject matter and to the development of your analytical and reasoning skills, etc. We encourage you to use specific examples where possible.

- Great course! One BIG thing first: I think the professor should remove the secondary materials from the syllabus, or at least restructure the syllabus in a way that makes it clear that the secondary materials are really truly SECONDARY. As in, you're not expected to read them all for class each week. Because you're not. For the first few weeks I did try and read them all and it was almost impossible. And we didn't actually talk about them in class. The professor has some silly reason for why he thinks people don't take the class anymore... but the real reason is that the syllabus is RIDICULOUS. You can't put that much reading on a syllabus! I think a lot of people dropped the class because they were scared of the syllabus. I know that I was THIS close to dropping. Ultimately we just had to read one novel a week. Which was hard to manage with other classes, but was actually doable. The readings that the syllabus suggest are NOT doable! If the professor wants people to stay in the class and tell their friends to sign up, then he needs to craft a simpler syllabus that lists ONLY the weekly novel. Then, if he wants, he can hand out a sheet with the secondary sources separately. Seriously, I can't stress enough how ridiculous the syllabus is. There's no need to show off.

Besides this syllabus issue which really isn't about the class itself, the course is fantastic. The readings are superb, and the weekly presentations guide the class in a really interesting way.

Q3 Please qualify your recommendations if you wish:

- The success of this course is contingent upon the TA. Honestly, it might have really been a bummer of a class with just Prof. Al-Masawi leading the discussions. He is very very smart, but he is not an engaging lecturer. He kind of drones and does not really care about the students.

Q4 How many hours a week did you devote to this course? (Note: Please include all time spent on this class including class time, discussion sections, readings, assignments, studying, etc.)

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