Global Humanities Learning Community Cinder Cooper Barnes and Hind Essayegh English 102 and Arabic 101/102

Deconstructing Islamophobia: Critical Reading and Writing the Hype and the Stereotypes



This GHI learning community will explore the power of human expression to deconstruct stereotypes. Students will learn about Islam and the Arab world, through a study of language and culture and through critical reading, writing, and research that incorporates works by and about Arabs and Arab culture.

The aim of this learning community is to enable the student to dismantle stereotypes in popular

culture and the media as they relate to Arabs and Muslims.

Students will read literature, listen to music, and watch films about Arab culture that are global in nature and will research issues that will enable them to perspective take and broaden their awareness of international issues.

Global Student Learning Outcomes. Students will be able to:

➤ Identify commonly misconstrued Arabic terms/expressions

- Use the Arabic language appropriately to demonstrate an understanding of Arab culture
- ➤ Identify the basis of stereotypes and common misunderstandings about the Arab/Muslim world
- Analyze in writing media stereotyping of Muslims/Arabs
- Challenge perspectives and perceptions
- Eliminate stereotypes from their communication about Arabs and Muslims.



Sample Assignment Definition Essay: "Who Do You Think They Are?"

Students will write a 3-5 page Definition essay by choosing one of the following prompts:

- 1. Identify and define Arabs/Muslims(who they are, where they live, what they believe, and how those groups are misrepresented).
- 2. Identify and define a commonly misconstrued/misused contested Arabic term.
- 3. Identify and define a debatable term used to describe (Arabs/Muslims) i.e terrorist/freedom fighter; oppressed/liberated; devout/fanatic

This essay will not only attempt to define the term, but will also include caveats so that students do not stereotype/over-generalize. Students are expected to use a minimum of three (3) sources and cite those sources parenthetically and in a works cited list.

In Arabic 101/102, students will take 20 sentences from the essay and translate into conversational Arabic. Students will present what they learn about the term they defined.