

Culture Topic: Housing

Housing provides key cultural insights when we examine how housing structures and family practices reflect our cultural expectations. In this assignment, we'll focus on examining similarities and differences within these expectations in Arabic-speaking cultures.

Findings and Observations: Here you write down the facts and information you found as well as your opinions about what you discovered. Please write in such a way as to distinguish between facts and opinions! And please, DO NOT PLAGIARIZE, i.e. copy and paste from a website directly into the chart below – at least, not without putting the information in quotes. Try to synthesize the information for yourself as much as possible.

Please keep in mind that all sources are written from a particular perspective, even if this is not explicit!

Sources: Write your sources here. Please include no less than three separate sources for each question! You can use these same three sources throughout this assignment (i.e. you do not need to find three additional sources for question 2 - you can use the same sources you used for question 1 provided that they answer the question).

When you document your sources, make sure you do so in such a way so that someone else can find the source. “YouTube” or “The New York Times” is not acceptable documentation; in other words, be sure to include the link or the title of the article. For this assignment, all sources are fair game for analysis, such as: personal opinions (as expressed on YouTube or an op-ed), personal interviews/conversations with Arabs (friends and family can count as sources!), Wikipedia, or more general articles or videos focused on these topics.

Note: for this particular assignment (such as things you want to look for in a neighborhood), ‘sources’ may be hard to come by. Do your best!

Notes from class discussion: This you leave blank until class time, where you note interesting things that you learned (or disagreed with) from your classmates and instructor based on the class discussion.

Bring your chart and any sources you would like to share with your classmates to class.

In class, we will discuss these issues first in small groups and then as a full class. Your grade for this assignment will be based on your preparation and research as well as your participation in the class discussion.

It is absolutely critical that you complete this culture assignment *before class starts.* Attendance is also critical on this day!

Please answer all of the questions below as best as you can:

1) First, let's talk about the culture of the family unit and living arrangements. What is the importance of "the family house" in the Arabic speaking world? Who lives there? When do children move out of the family home?	
Findings and observations:	
Sources: (at least 3, make sure I can find it!)	
Notes from class discussion:	

2) How do college students live in the Arabic speaking world – do they live with their parents, or in the dorms? Are there dorms? Do students live with roommates, or by themselves? What about mixed-gender roommates?

Findings and observations:	
Sources: (at least 3, make sure I can find it!)	
Notes from class discussion:	

3) What types of rooms might you find in a house or apartment in the Arab world? How are they used?	
Findings and observations:	

Sources: (at least 3, make sure I can find it!)	
Notes from class discussion:	

4) How is socio-economic status reflected in housing and neighborhoods? What different types of housing and neighborhoods are there?	
Findings and observations:	
Sources: (at least 3, make sure I can find it!)	

Notes from class discussion:	
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5) What challenges are there when renting an apartment or finding housing in the Arabic speaking world? Do you anticipate any particular challenges you might have?	
Findings and observations:	
Sources: (at least 3, make sure I can find it!)	
Notes from class discussion:	

Is there a question you were hoping to answer or an issue that you would like to know more about that isn't in this assignment? Did you find something interesting that isn't found in the questions above? Write it here.

Findings and
observations:

Notes from class
discussion: