

Culture Topic: Holidays and Special Occasions

Holidays and celebrations are one of the first topics we typically think of when we think of cultural practices. In this assignment, we'll focus on the variety of holidays and celebrations celebrated by Arabic speakers, including the traditions and history behind them.

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.

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) What holidays and special occasions are celebrated in the Arab world? Are there regional or social variations?	
Findings and Observations:	
Sources: (at least 3, make sure I can find it!)	
Notes from class discussion	

2) Choose two holidays or special occasions in the Arab world and list some traditions/customs associated with them. Are there regional or social variations?

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

3) Are there ways in which holidays and special occasions are celebrated changing with the times? If so, how and why? If not, why not?	
Findings and Observations:	

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

4) Are there tensions between religious beliefs and the celebration of certain holidays or special occasions? Why or why not?	
Findings and Observations:	
Sources: (at least 3, make sure I can find it!)	

Notes from class discussion	
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5) What other interesting information did you find?	
Findings:	
Sources: (at least 3, make sure I can find it!)	
Notes from class discussion	

