Arab Students at NAU: understanding & aiding

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Greetings

- What you say
  "AHLAN WAS AHLAN"
  "SALAM A LAY KUM"

- How you behave
  Women vs. Men

Note: Separation of genders, moving with arms interlocked, eyes downcast, reverence for elders
Nau Arab, Muslim Students

- 857 international students fall 2010
- 250 + Arab students // # as Chinese
- 80% + sponsored by their government
- Saudi Arabia 88%
- Kuwait 10%
- Yemen, United Arab Emirates, etc. 2%
- 93% Engineering; 7% Business majors
THREE CRITICAL CONTEXTS

FAMILY
multi – generational all the time
eating, sleeping, living together
responsibility to / for others
marrying cousins & escorts for women
no place for the individual

Example: Lubna & her aunt
COMMUNITY

“Ahlan was ahlân”

The case of soccer champions and the “private invitation dinner.”

Shame (disappointing the group) vs. guilt (self recrimination)
FAITH

Friday prayer
Ritual cleansing
Halal food
Zakat / Charity giving
Ramadan
Marriage
Children
Classroom/Studies

1. Male and Female student dynamics
2. Calling on students in class – asking for the expression of an opinion, i.e. individual thought
3. Group projects
4. “Working it.”
   - The power of repeated requests to different people
   - The power of story (late arrivals, etc.)
   - The power of family / advocacy
   - Plagarism
   - Give them a way to “save face”
Suggestions

- Ask about family, family, and more family
- Remember the individual does NOT exist, even though he / she is responsible as an individual for grades, success, etc. here.
- Remember they are FAR away from home, living in a different language and culture – but part of their community HERE.
- “Change of the status quo” brings apprehension, particularly given autocracy, monarchy, tyranny.
- Assignments that engage and teach are +++.
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LAST WEEK, the French prime minister's office announced that a ban on the public wearing of garments that cover the face, like the burqa or niqab, would go into effect on April 11. (The French Parliament passed the law last fall.) Across Europe, the Islamic veil has become a dramatic symbol in the struggle over immigration and integration. It has also stirred up controversy in Muslim countries like Turkey and Syria, where secular elites worry about the growing influence of religious extremism.

Islam's basic tenets require that men and women dress and behave modestly. Islamic scholars around the world have interpreted the call for a veil in many different ways, however. Here are some of the most common styles.

**ABAYA**
Abaya is an Arabic word for the loose full-length outer garment worn by women to cover the body, arms and legs. It is donned over house clothes, and some styles cover the head as well.

**NIQAB**
The Arabic word for a veil covering a woman's face, the niqab leaves only her eyes visible. It is generally worn with the abaya.

**BURQA**
The Afghan-style burqa is a loose garment covering the body and face, with a grill across the eyes that permits a woman to see while keeping her face totally concealed. Burqa can also refer to the complete covering of face, head and body.

**CHADOR**
Chador is a Persian word for the full-length, open cloak worn by Iranian women and others in the Middle East. It is placed over the head and wrapped around the body, women hold the material closed with their hands or with clenched teeth.

**HIJAB**
The Arabic word refers to any modest covering worn by Muslim women but is most commonly associated with the headscarf. It can come in a variety of styles, ranging from a square scarf worn around the head and neck to a larger, shawl-like piece that covers the head, shoulders and chest area.

**TUDONG**
Tudong is a Malay word for the headscarf, and it covers the head and hair, leaving the face exposed.

**DUPATTA**
This long, multipurpose scarf — often paired with matching shalwar kameez or sari — is loosely draped across the head and shoulders and typically worn by Muslim women in South Asia.