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Office Hours: Mondays 1 - 3 or by appointment
Class location: MFH 160
Class Meetings: M, W 15.30 – 16.45



ANTH 329.2
Winter 2014

Ethnographies of the Contemporary Middle East and Islamic Frontiers

Course Description:

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Middle East has become a primary geographical site of contestation over the new post-Cold War global order. With the advent of the 'War on Terror' and the recent 'Arab Spring,' the Middle East has also spurred debates and struggles over increasing Western militarism, unilateralism, intervention and democratization. It is not unfair to say that the recent events of the 'Arab Spring' and tensions in the aftermath of the popular protest have revealed the complexities of modern politics on a global scale.

Drawing on anthropological concepts and methodologies, this course aims to understand how the historical events of the 20th and 21st centuries have been shaped by the mutually constituting cultural and religious diversities of this region, as well as by international politics. Rejecting the 'clash of civilizations' as an explanatory model for current global relations, we will focus on the long-lasting effects of imperialism, anti-colonial and nationalist movements, processes of statebuilding, new economic relations, changing religious practices and gender discourses.

After taking this course, students should be much more familiar not only with Middle Eastern politics, but the diversity of its cultures, social forms, everyday practices, religions, languages and economies. They should be able to develop critical approaches to ideas of 'East' and 'West,' as well as to institutions of political power. And lastly, they should be able to appreciate the transnational and crosscultural connections between the Middle East and other parts of the world.

Course Format:

This course will follow an interactive lecture and discussion style format, accompanied by the occasional video clip/article in class. Readings are crucial and students are expected to come to class having both read the readings and prepared to actively listen and ask questions. You should be expecting between 80 and 120 pages of reading a week. Please look at readings in advance so that you are not stuck doing the readings the night before. All course materials and information will be posted on the U

of C Blackboard website. A lecture outline for each class will be posted online immediately following the class. Only some of the supplementary video clips viewed in class will be available online. Though important announcements will be emailed out to the entire class, please check the course website regularly for any changes. In addition, students are required to attend *at least 2 movies* from the Kula Ring film series "Beyond the Square," held on Mondays at 5.30 pm, and write 2 reviews of these films. A film schedule will be handed out in class and posted online.

Course Assignments and Assessment:

In addition to the readings, students will also be assessed on the basis of:

- 5 unannounced multiple-choice reading quizzes;
- 2 reading responses (including 1 map assignment – 1-2 pages, 12 pt. font, double spaced, and 1 article review – 1-2 pages, 12 pt. font, double spaced);
- 2 film reviews (1-2 pages long, 12 pt. font, double spaced)
- and 1 final paper (8-10 pages long, 12 pt. font, double spaced)

Students will be evaluated on the basis of a 100-point system, whereby:

Reading quizzes	20%
2 Reading Responses	20%
2 Film Reviews	20%
Final paper	40%

The final mark out of 100, will then be converted to a letter grade as follows:

A+	94.9 – 100%	A	89.9 – 94.8%	A-	84.9 – 89.8%
B+	79.9 – 84.8%	B	74.9 – 79.8%	B-	70.9 – 74.8%
C+	66.9 – 70.8%	C	62.9 – 66.8%	C-	58.9 – 62.8%
D+	54.9% - 58.8%	D	49.9 – 54.8%	F	49.8% and below

Reading Quizzes:

- Students will be administered 5 reading quizzes, without advance warning, throughout the semester.
- These reading quizzes will cover very basic details about the readings, to make sure that students have kept up with readings, and will not include complicated conceptual material or interpretations.
- The quizzes will consist of 5 multiple choice questions, handed out at the beginning of class.

- Though **5 quizzes will be administered, only the top 4 marks from the quizzes will count toward the student's grade.** The quiz with the lowest grade will be tossed out.

Reading responses:

- The reading responses must be **no longer than 2 pages**, double-spaced with 12 pt. Times New Roman font. **At least 2 readings from class** must be critically addressed in the response, in addition to the source material (map, article).
- Students must use correct bibliographical citations in their paper.
- Papers are **due in class on their due date**, or, if you are unable to attend class, they should be emailed by the beginning of class.

Film reviews:

- The film review must be **no longer than 2 pages**, double-spaced with 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and must address both **one film that was viewed in class, and at least 2 readings from class.**
- Students must use correct bibliographical citations in their review.
- Papers are **due in class on their due date**, or, if you are unable to attend class, they should be emailed by the beginning of class.

Final paper:

- The final paper must be **8-10 pages long**, double-spaced with 12 pt. Times New Roman font, not including bibliography.
- A set of questions for the final paper will be handed out approximately two weeks before the paper is due. Students will be expected to answer **one** of the questions for their final paper.
- Students must use correct bibliographical citations in their paper.
- The paper is due on the due date by 4 pm in a location that will be specified by the instructor at a later date.

Assessment for all written assignments:

- Each writing assignment will be marked out of 20 points, where:
 - o **5 points will be awarded for language** (grammar, spelling, punctuation, correct bibliographical format etc);
 - o **5 points will be awarded for structure and clarity of the argument** (is there a thesis? Are there arguments that use evidence to support their claims? Is the argument clear throughout the paper? Is there a conclusion? Is the paper the correct length?);
 - o **5 points will be awarded for textual comprehension** (does the paper discuss the class readings? Does the student show a deep and clear understanding of the readings and their arguments?)

- **5 points will be awarded for the originality of the argument** (is the paper asking new and interesting questions? Does it have an anthropological angle?)

For all written assignments, the American Anthropological Association style guide should be used as it is the dominant bibliographic format for academic journals in anthropology. If you have not already done so, please download the AAA style guide from the website below:

<http://www.aaanet.org/publications/guidelines.cfm>

If assignments are handed in **late**, there will be a **10% penalty per day** unless you provide an adequate excuse (ie a doctor's note).

Email policy:

Please email to make appointments if you cannot make it to my weekly office hours. Before sending an email asking for clarification about an assignment, any readings, or any schedule matters, please consult the course outline to make sure it is not already answered in there. Emails will be answered within 24-48 hours of your sending them – please expect the longer time frame if it is an exam time/end of the term etc.

A note on plagiarism:

Any use of another person's words, ideas either taken *directly or indirectly* and *without citation* is cause for a plagiarism investigation. This includes material from the internet. You are too smart to plagiarize. And, trust me, it's not hard to spot plagiarism. Any plagiarism will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing will also be subject to additional University sanctions. If you have any questions about citation or bibliographical style, please contact me. Please use the same bibliographical style on all written submissions. Students should familiarize themselves with the Anthropology Department's policy on intellectual honesty:

<http://anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>

Academic accommodations:

If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with me no later than 14 days after the start of the course.

USRI:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

Emergency Evacuation:

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency please note that the primary assembly point shall be the Education Block Food Court and the secondary assembly point shall be the Scurfield Hall Atrium.

Required texts:

In addition to weekly readings, consisting of academic articles and popular sources, students are expected to purchase the following for this class:

- 1.) Abu El-Haj, Nadia. *Facts on the Ground: Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002.
- 2.) Deeb, Lara. *An Enchanted Modern: Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006.
- 3.) Kanna, Ahmed. *Dubai: The City as Corporation*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011.

Reading Schedule:**Week 1:****Wednesday, January 8: Introduction**

- 1.) Huntington, Samuel P. "The Clash of Civilizations?" in *Foreign Affairs*. 72 (3), 1993. Read pp.22-49.

Week 2:**Monday, January 13: Is there a Middle East?**

1.) Davison, Roderic. H "Where is the Middle East?" in *Foreign Affairs*. 1960. Read pp.665-675.

2.) Eickelman, Dale F. *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, 4th edition, 2002. Read pp 1-21 at:
https://www.amherst.edu/media/view/88071/original/eickelman_anthropology%2C%20middle%20east%2C%20central%20asia.pdf

Wednesday, January 15: Orientalism, Imperialism and Culture

1.) Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. London: Routledge, 1978. Read Introduction, pp 9-36, at:
http://gov332.weebly.com/uploads/1/3/5/2/13525224/said-introduction_and_chapter_1_of_orientalism.pdf

2.) Mitchell, Timothy. "The World as Exhibition," in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 31 (2), 1989, pp 217-236.

3.) Abu-Lughod, Lila. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others" in *American Anthropologist*, 104 (3): 2002, pp 783-790.

Week 3:

Monday, January 20: Borders and Belonging

1.) Slyomovics, Susan. "The Memory of Place: Rebuilding the Pre-1948 Palestinian Village" in *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*, 3 (2): 1994, pp 157-168.

2.) Peleikis, Anja. "Shifting Identities: Reconstructing Boundaries. The Case of a Multi-Confessional Locality in Post-War Lebanon" in *Die Welt des Islams*, 41 (3): 2001, pp 400-429.

Wednesday, January 22: Borders and Militarism

*****FIRST RESPONSE DUE (MAP ASSIGNMENT) IN CLASS*****

1.) Please pick a video from the Israeli Defence Forces' soldiers' testimonies page at *Breaking the Silence* and watch:
<http://www.breakingthesilence.org.il/testimonies/videos>

2.) Navaro-Yashin, Yael. "Life is Dead Here: Sensing the Political in 'no man's land'" in *Anthropological Theory*, 3 (1): 2003, pp 107-128.

3.) Allen, Lori. "Getting by the Occupation: How Violence Became Normal during the Second Palestinian Intifada" in *Cultural Anthropology*, 23 (3): 2008, pp 453-487.

Week 4:

Monday, January 27: Citizenship and Categories after 1918, after 1948:

1.) Feldman, Ilana. "Difficult Distinctions: Refugee Law, Humanitarian Practice, and Political Identification in Gaza" in *Cultural Anthropology*, 22 (1): 2007, pp 129-169.

Wednesday, January 29: Inventing Traditions in Contemporary Israel

1.) Hobsbawm, Eric. "Introduction: Inventing Traditions" in *The Invention of Tradition*. Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983. Read pp 1-14 at:

http://faculty.washington.edu/ellingsn/Hobsbawm_Inventing_Traditiions.pdf

2.) Abu El-Haj, Nadia. *Facts on the Ground: Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001. Read Chapter 1: Excavating Archaeology, Chapter 2: Scientific Beginnings and Chapter 3: Instituting Archaeology (pp 1-72).

Week 5:

Monday, February 3: Producing Nationhood

1.) Abu El-Haj, Nadia. *Facts on the Ground: Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001. Read Chapter 4: Terrains of Settler Nationhood and Chapter 5: Positive Facts of Nationhood (pp 73-129).

Wednesday, February 5: A New Jerusalem

1.) Abu El-Haj, Nadia. *Facts on the Ground: Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001. Read Chapter 6: Excavating Jerusalem and Chapter 7: Extending Sovereignty (pp 130-200).

Week 6:

Monday, February 10: History and the State

1.) Abu El-Haj, Nadia. *Facts on the Ground: Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001. Read Chapter 8: Historical Legacies and Chapter 9: Archaeology and Its Aftermath (pp 201-276).

Wednesday, February 12: Cities and the State: Making Revolution

***** FIRST FILM REVIEW DUE IN CLASS *****

Ismail, Salwa. "Urban Subalterns in the Arab Revolutions: Cairo and Damascus in Comparative Perspective" in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 55 (4); 2013, pp 865-894.

Week 7:

Monday, February 17, and Wednesday, February 19: **NO CLASS – READING WEEK!**

Week 8:

Monday, February 24: Urban Contestations in the Middle East

1.) Singerman, Diane. *Cairo Contested: Governance, Urban Space, and Global Modernity*, Cairo: American University of Cairo Press, 2011. Read "Making or Shaking the State: Urban Boundaries of State Control and Popular Appropriation in Sayyida Zaynab Model Park" by Khaled Adham, pp 41-62, and "Policing *Mullds* and Their Meaning" by Samuli Schielke, pp 83-110.

2.) Elahi, Babak. "Crossing Tehran Avenue: Digital and Urban Spaces in Tehran" in *Cultural Studies*, 26 (6): 2012, pp 956-978.

Wednesday, February 26: Urban Contestations in the Middle East II

1.) Sawalha, Aseel. *Reconstructing Beirut: Memory and Space in a Postwar Arab City*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2010. Read Chapter 1: Beirut: A City in Transition, and Chapter 3: 'Ayn El-Mreisse: The Global Market and the Apartment Unit.

Week 9:

Monday, March 3: The Politics of an Oil City

1.) Kanna, Ahmed. *Dubai: The City as Corporation*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011. Read Introduction and Chapter 1: State, Citizen and Foreigner in Dubai (pp 1-76)

Wednesday, March 5: Emirati Cities and Villages

1.) Kanna, Ahmed. *Dubai: The City as Corporation*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011. Read Chapter 2: "Going South" with the Starchitects: Urbanist Ideology in

the Emirati City, and Chapter 3: The Vanished Village: Nostalgic and Nationalist Critiques of the New Dubai (pp 77-134)

Week 10:

Monday, March 10: The City-Corporation and the Political Economy of the Gulf

1.) Kanna, Ahmed. *Dubai: The City as Corporation*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011. Read Chapter 4: The City-Corporation and Chapter 5: Indian Ocean Dubai: The Identity Politics of South Asian Immigrants.

Wednesday, March 12: The Middle East as an Islamic Frontier?

***** SECOND RESPONSE (ARTICLE REVIEW) DUE IN CLASS *****

1.) Asad, Talal. *The Idea of an Anthropology of Islam*. Occasional Paper Series, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, 1986. Read at:
<https://gushare.georgetown.edu/ContemporaryArabStudies/CCAS%20publications/Talal%20Asad%20OP.pdf>

2.) El-Zein, Abdul Hamid. "Beyond Ideology and Theology: The Search for an Anthropology of Islam" in *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 6 (1): 1977, pp 227-254.

Week 11:

Monday, March 17: The Politics of Piety

1.) Mahmood, Saba. *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004. Read Chapter 2.

Wednesday, March 19: Public Piety

1.) Deeb, Lara. *An Enchanted Modern: Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006. Read Introduction: Pious and/as/if Modern, pp 3-41.

Week 12:

Monday, March 24:

1.) Deeb, Lara. *An Enchanted Modern: Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006. Read Chapter 1: Al-Dahiyya: Sight, Sound, Season, and Chapter 2: From Marginalization to Institutionalization, pp 42-98.

Wednesday, March 26:

1.) Deeb, Lara. *An Enchanted Modern: Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006. Read Chapter 3: The Visibility of Religion in Daily Life, pp 99-128.

Week 13:

Monday, March 31: Expanding Politics and the Public Sphere

1.) Hirschkind, Charles. "Experiments in Devotion Online: The YouTube Khutba" in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 44 (01): 2012, pp 5-21.

2.) Wedeen, Lisa. "The Politics of Deliberation: Qat Chews as Public Spheres in Yemen" in *Public Culture*, 19 (1): 2007, pp 59-84.

Wednesday, April 2: Piety in the Political Sphere

***** SECOND FILM REVIEW DUE IN CLASS *****

1.) Deeb, Lara. *An Enchanted Modern: Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006. Read Chapter 5: Community Commitment and Chapter 6: Public Piety as Women's *Jihad*, pp 165-219.

Week 14:

Monday, April 7: The Body, the State and God

1.) Hamdy, Sherine. "When the state and your kidneys fail: political etiologies in an Egyptian Dialysis Ward" in *American Ethnologist*, 35 (4): 2008, pp 553-569.

2.) Hamdy, Sherine. "Islam, Fatalism, and Medical Intervention: Lessons from Egypt on the Cultivation of Forbearance (*sabr*) and Reliance on God (*tawakkul*)" in *Anthropology Quarterly*, 82 (1): 2009, pp 173-196.

Wednesday, April 9: Beyond Religion and Secularism

Göle, Nilüfer. "Secularism and Islamism in Turkey: The Making of Elites and Counter-Elites" in *The Middle East Journal*, 51 (1): 1997, pp 46-58.

Özyürek, Esra. "Convert Alert: German Muslims and Turkish Christians as Threats to Security" in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 51 (1): 2009, pp 91-116.

Monday, April 14: Wrap-Up

Discussion of Special Issue of *American Ethnologist* on Tahrir Square protests

***** FINAL PAPER IS DUE ON MONDAY, APRIL 21ST BY 4 PM ******