**ANTH 290B: Anthropology OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

FALL 2012 | MWF 10:30-11:30AM | OLIN 135

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Office: Asbury Hall, Room 205E

Office Hours: TTh 1:00PM-3:00PM

**Overview**

This course is intended to serve as an introduction to a huge and unwieldy body of scholarship on a huge and unwieldy conceptual swath of the world. People in the West often find it convenient to use the term ‘the Middle East’ to summarize the thought, religion, and cultural practices of a massive number of people living across several continents and in very different circumstances. Such a vast collection of societies and communities cannot be addressed programmatically in a single course, but only thematically. We will therefore approach this material through four thematic units designed to explore ideas rather than geographical terrain.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

You are expected to read all assignments in timely fashion; assignments are listed on the syllabus on the day by which they should be read. We will be reading six books and a small number of articles. The books are:

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 1999. *Veiled sentiments: Honor and poetry in a Bedouin society*. Updated edition. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Deeb, Lara. 2006. *An Enchanted Modern: Gender and Public Piety in Shi‘i Lebanon*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Haeri, Niloofar. 2003. *Sacred Language, Ordinary People: Dilemmas of Culture and Politics in Egypt*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Kapchan, Deborah. 1996. *Gender on the Market: Moroccan Women and the Revoicing of Tradition*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Özyürek, Esra. 2006. *Nostalgia for the Modern: State Secularism and Everyday Politics in Turkey*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Shannon, Jonathan H. 2006. *Among the Jasmine Trees: Music and Modernity in Contemporary Syria*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press.

All books will be available for purchase at the bookstore, and will also be on 2-hour reserves at ROW. All other readings will be placed on digital reserve at ROW.

**evaluation and attendance**

There will be a quiz on the last class day of each week during the semester, which will include short essay questions, and will test knowledge gained in lectures and readings. Students may drop the lowest two quiz scores. The midterm and final exams will also be in essay format, and will require students to demonstrate their analytical comprehension of the texts and concepts discussed throughout the course.

Students are required to attend all class sessions; since the course is discussion-based, it is imperative that students do not miss class. We will present material only once, and I will not send lecture notes or other materials on an individual basis. Those students who miss a class session are still responsible for keeping up with the material presented. Each student is permitted to miss two class sessions without penalty. Every absence thereafter will count against this component of the final grade. Any student who misses more than six class sessions will automatically fail the course.

I will track attendance and participation by noting who speaks each session, and the strength of their contribution. I expect everyone to come to class prepared to discuss the readings knowledgeably, and those who demonstrate that they have come to class unprepared will lose points. I want you all to speak and engage with each other, and in productive fashion. My tracking will include these grades:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Absent | 0 |
| Present but kept silent | 1 |
| Present but unprepared | 1 |
| Present and offered an engaged question or comment | 4 |

Structure of the final grade:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attendance and participation | 20% |
| Quizzes (10 x 3%) | 30% |
| Midterm exam | 20% |
| Final exam | 30% |

**CHEATING AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

As a matter of academic integrity, no cheating will be tolerated. Cheating would include such things as copying someone else’s work on an exam, or working on a quiz past the deadline. Academic integrity also requires that students do not attempt to gain unfair advantages over their peers, such as giving a false excuse for a make-up exam. Such behavior will carry severe consequences, reflected in your grade or in recommendations to be suspended or expelled from the university.

See: <http://www.depauw.edu/handbooks/academic/policies/integrity/>

**COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONICA**

The use of personal computers is completely forbidden in class. I recommend that students who wish to take notes bring blank paper and pencils and/or pens to class.

The use of mobile phones, PDAs, mp3 players, and any similar device is frowned upon during lectures, as a matter of respect to your classmates and to me. Please silence such devices and put them away. Students often fool themselves that they can subtly text their friends whilst sitting in class without my noticing. In fact, as many people have already acknowledged, we professors understand what is going on when an ostensibly sane person looks down as his/her crotch and starts giggling. Put the toys away and deny yourself the temptation to goof off.

**EXAMINATION POLICY**

The use of mobile phones, PDAs, mp3 players, and any similar device is forbidden during all quizzes and exams. Any student found using any form of electronic device during an exam, cheating in any way, or talking with another student during the examination will have their paper confiscated, and they will be asked to leave without the possibility of taking a make-up exam. Any exams so confiscated will be assigned a grade of zero.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES**

If you are unable to attend a quiz for good reason, you must provide me with appropriate documentation. Do not simply give me an excuse with no way to prove it. If you had a doctor’s appointment, make sure to ask the doctor for a note – signed, dated, and on professional letterhead – confirming this fact. If you had to attend a family funeral, then bring the funeral program with you. Upon receiving this documentation, I will decide whether or not the excuse is valid. Documentation *does not* guarantee that I will grant a make-up. I will not accept excuses other than life-threatening illness for missing either exam.

An excused absence from a quiz will require a make-up to be administered. You and I must agree on a time for this as soon as possible following the missed session; the quiz must be made up within two school days of the absence. The exceptions to this are the midterm, which must be made up by Tuesday, October 16, and the final exam, which must be held at a university-mandated date and time.

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

If you have a disability that will require special arrangements to be made for exams, technology, etc., please let the university know as soon as possible so that there is sufficient time to coordinate all reasonable accommodation. In keeping with university policy, students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Student Disability Services before contacting individual professors, so that all such situations are properly documented and accounted for.

See: <http://www.depauw.edu/handbooks/student-html/resources/disabilities/>

**COURSE CALENDAR**

Wednesday, August 22 – First day of class

Friday, August 24 – Geography, languages, and religions of the Middle East and North Africa

\*No reading due for this day

***Unit 1: Gendered identities***

WEEK 1: *Gender on the market*, first half

August 27-31 – Kapchan pp. xiii-149

WEEK 2: *Gender on the market*, second half

September 3-7 – Kapchan pp. 153-279

WEEK 3: *Veiled sentiments*, first half

September 10-14 – Abu-Lughod pp. xi-167

WEEK 4: *Veiled sentiments*, second half

\*Monday, September 17 – No class

September 19-21 – Abu-Lughod pp. 171-259

***Unit 2: Religion, secularism, and politics***

WEEK 5: Pious politics

Monday, September 24 – Mahmood, Saba. 2001. “Feminist Theory, Embodiment and the Docile Agent: Some Reflections on the Egyptian Islamic Revival.” *Cultural Anthropology* 16 (2): 202–236. (Reserves)

\*Wednesday, September 26 – No class

Friday, September 28 – Hirschkind, Charles. 2004. “Hearing Modernity: Egypt, Islam, and the Pious Ear.” In *Hearing Cultures: Essays on Sound, Listening, and Modernity*, ed. Veit Erlmann, 131–151. New York: Berg. (Reserves)

WEEK 6: *An enchanted modern*, first half

October 1-5 – Deeb pp. 1-95

WEEK 7: *An enchanted modern*, second half

October 8-12 – Deeb pp. 97-232

\*Friday, October 12 – Midterm exam

October 13-21 – Fall Break; no classes

WEEK 8: *Nostalgia for the modern*, first half

October 22-26 – Özyürek pp. 1-92

WEEK 9: *Nostalgia for the modern*, second half

October 29-November 2 – Özyürek pp. 93-182

***Unit 3: Language and expressive culture***

WEEK 10: Diglossia in the Arab world

Monday, November 5 – Ferguson, Charles A. 1971. Diglossia. In *Language structure and language use; essays*. A.S. Dil, ed. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. (Reserves)

Wednesday, November 7 - Walters, S. Keith. 1996. “Gender, Identity, and the Political Economy of Language: Anglophone Wives in Tunisia.” *Language in Society* 25: 515–555. (Reserves)

Friday, November 9 – Suleiman, Yasir. 2003. *The Arabic language and national identity: A study in ideology*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press. Pp. 162-223. (Reserves)

WEEK 11: *Sacred language, ordinary people*

November 12-14 – Haeri (entire text)

\*Friday, November 16 – No class

WEEK 12: You call this a week?

Monday, November 19 – Racy, Ali Jihad. 2003. *Making music in the Arab world: The culture and artistry of ṭarab*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 31-42, 86-103, 147-19. (Reserves)

November 21-23 – Thanksgiving Break; no class

WEEK 13: *Among the jasmine trees*, first half

November 26-30 – Shannon pp. xv-105

WEEK 14: *Among the jasmine trees*, second half

December 3-7 – Shannon pp. 106-201

\*Friday, December 14, 8:30AM-11:30AM – Final exam