Social & Political Change in MENA

ANT 4930 Section 186C

Instructor: Dr. Khadidja Arfi
Email: karfi@ufl.edu
Spring 2015
Day/Time: M 9, W 8-9
Classroom: CSE E221
Office hours and location: Thursdays between 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. @ B 364 Turlington Hall or by appointment

Course Description

This course provides an overview on the social and political changes in North Africa and the Middle East regions. Core anthropological concepts in combination with insightful analyses and ethnographic examples help students to comprehend a region that has been for a long time of great interest to visitors, traders, politicians, conquerors, and religious movements. Moreover, through readings and writing assignments, students will engage in discussion on the role of historical, political, and economical factors in shaping and transforming the MENA region socially and culturally. By the end of the semester, students will master the ability to thinking critically about modernity, nation building, and the link between the ideology of power and the production of knowledge. Students will gain a better understanding of space and mobility, shared spaces and memorials, and new forms of social, religious, and political activism focusing on current events in the Arab world and their usage of and effect in the globalizing and virtual worlds.

Course Objectives

Students will:
- Survey, compare, and assess contemporary research on MENA region
- Produce assessments that indicate students’ reflexivity and awareness of the world around them and their ability to understand the complexity of social and political change in MENA
- Develop a critical gaze at the different discourses around the social and political change in MENA
- Gain competence in the terminology, concepts, and methodology used in MENA research
- Articulate the knowledge they've acquired to formulate their own critical reasoning in well-crafted writings and discussion
- Incorporate the assigned readings into in class activities, discussions, and assigned writings demonstrating their understanding and analytical thinking of the intersection of key topics and themes.

Textbooks


Course Expectations

Students are required to attend class, prepare required readings prior to lecture, and participate in class activities. They must complete writing assignments and exams. The SAKAI website will be utilized to provide additional readings assignments, share additional educational links with the class, and manage discussions and papers.

- Students must complete assignments through SAKAI in order to be graded for their work.
- Cell phones must be silenced during class.
- Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the structure of the course or course materials at any time. If such changes are made, students will be notified of what those changes are both in class and via an announcement on SAKAI.

Assignments

Discussions: Class discussions will be held via SAKAI. Each student must submit a new discussion thread (about 200 words) and respond to an existing thread (50 words or more). Discussions are assigned every other week starting January 13th – April 15th (see dates in schedule). This is an opportunity for you to react to and reflect on specific themes in the readings and a chance to share ideas with your peers.

Presentations: Students will make weekly presentations as scheduled. Each presentation will be based on the readings/theme of the week. The presentation may include (but not required to) audio-visual materials, handouts, and/or educational activities. Presenting groups must produce 3-5 discussion questions for the class. The presentation should last 30-40 minutes leaving ample time for discussion and questions.

Papers: Students must submit two short papers (4-5 pages long) and a final paper (7-10 papers long) throughout the course of this semester. Citations may include readings and other accredited resources. Students should use 3-5 academic resources and other materials. Students may use any recognizable academic format for citations (e.g. APA). Papers must be submitted via Turnit-in on SAKAI. Please visit the UF Reading and Writing Center if you have any questions (see “tutoring” section below).

Required Texts:

*Additional readings and other materials will be made available through the “RESOURCES” folder in SAKAI.

Evaluation & Grading

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAKAI Discussions</td>
<td>10 Points each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student’s Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper One</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>Paper Two</td>
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<td>Oral Exam</td>
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To determine your final grade, divide total points by total possible points (450).

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One can also link to the following: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

**Course Policies and Procedures**

*Classroom Behavior Rules*: total courtesy for classmates and instructor is required.

*Communication*: Students are in a course in which we communicate with each other through academic learning, thus, students should communicate with classmates and instructor with total respect and courtesy when discussing the course subjects.

*Academic Honesty*: Students must conform to the University of Florida’s academic honesty policy regarding plagiarism and other forms of cheating. The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. Violations will lead to the Department’s and the University’s procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. All students are expected to honor their commitment to the [University’s Honor Code](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx) and the student conduct code.

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**Please make any requests by the second week of class.**

**UF Counseling Services**

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. [University Counseling and Wellness Center](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx), 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
2. [Sexual Assault Recovery Services](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx) (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
3. [Career Resource Center](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx), Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling
4. [Reading & Writing Center](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx), Broward Hall, 392-0791, writing assistance, study skills, test preparation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Topic</th>
<th>Date/Date</th>
<th>Reading and assignment</th>
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<td><strong>Week One</strong></td>
<td>W 1/7/15</td>
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<td>Introduction</td>
<td>M 1/12/15</td>
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<td>- 3-22</td>
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<td>Modernity,</td>
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<td>- 23-46</td>
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<td>W 1/14/15</td>
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<td>Theme Two:</td>
<td>M 1/19/15</td>
<td>No Class (Martin Luther King Day)</td>
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<td>Space,</td>
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<td><strong>Week Three</strong></td>
<td>W 1/21/15</td>
<td>McDougall &amp; Scheele 2012</td>
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<td>M 1/26/15</td>
<td>Kohl, I., &amp; Fischer, A. (2010)</td>
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<td>Space,</td>
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<td>- Touareg: Moving Global (1-9)</td>
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<td>- Resisting Imperialism: Touareg threaten US,</td>
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<td>and up</td>
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<td>- Chinese and Other Foreign Interests (209-230)</td>
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<td><strong>Week Four</strong></td>
<td>W 2/4/15</td>
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<td>Continue...</td>
<td>M 2/9/15</td>
<td>Nooshin, L. (editor) (2009)</td>
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<td><strong>Week Five</strong></td>
<td>W 2/11/15</td>
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<td>Theme Three:</td>
<td>M 2/16/15</td>
<td>Maddy-Weitzman 2011</td>
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<td>Shared spaces and sites</td>
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<td>- Mohamed VI's Morocco and the Amazigh Movement (153-182)</td>
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<td>- Sharing sacred spaces among Abrahamic religions</td>
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<td>- Bouteflika's Algeria and Kabyle Alienation (183-201)</td>
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<td>- DVD: Shoot the singer!: Music censorship today</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion Four Due 2/17/15</strong></td>
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<td>W 2/18/15</td>
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<td>Music and</td>
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<td>Albera and Couroucli 2012</td>
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<td>- The Case of Istanbul (94-117)</td>
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<td>- The case of Morocco (141-147)</td>
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<td>- The case of Egypt (174-201)</td>
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<td>- The case of Syria (202-218)</td>
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<td>New forms of social, religious, and political activism</td>
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<td>- Prelude : power and the play of music</td>
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<td>- Berber Spring: uprising in Algeria and morocco</td>
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<td>Week Eight</td>
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<td>Arab Spring</td>
<td>McMurray &amp; Ufheil-Somers 2013</td>
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<td>Laremont 2014 (Ebook)</td>
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<td>Anthropology of the future: Arab Youth and the State of the State by Joseph (105-123) in Hafez and Slyomovics 2013</td>
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<td>From collapse of communism in Eastern EU to Arab springs (article) by Erdogan 2013</td>
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<td>W 2/25/15</td>
<td>Student’s presentation 7</td>
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| Week Nine | No Class (Spring Break) |

| Week Ten | M 3/9/15 |
| Theme Five: Global, local, and transnational belongings | Connected in Cairo: Growing up Cosmopolitan in the Modern Middle East Peterson 2011 (into & last chap.) Discussion Five Due 3/10/15 |
| W 3/11/15 | Student’s presentation 8 |

| Week Eleven | M 3/16/15 |
| The emergence of a cosmopolitan identity | Berber Culture on the World Stage: From Village to Video By Jane E. Goodman 2005 |
| W 3/18/15 | Student’s presentation 9 |
| In class, papers peer review Paper Two Due (R 3/19/15 at 11:59 pm) |

| Week Twelve | M 3/23/15 |
| anthropology and New Media in the Virtual Middle East and North Africa | Our Master’s Call (chapter) by Emilio Spadola in Hafez & Slyomovics (2013) Discussion Six Due 3/24/15 |
| W 3/25/15 | Student’s presentation 10 |

| Week Thirteen | M 3/30/15 |
| New Media continue | The Construction of Virtual Identities: Online Tribalism in Saudi Arabia and Beyond, in Hafez & Slyomovics (2013) |
| W 4/1/15 | Student’s presentation 11 |

| Week Fourteen | M 4/6/15 |
| New Media continue | Youth, Peace, and New Media in the Middle East, in Hafez & Slyomovics (2013) Discussion Seven Due 4/7/15 |
| W 4/8/15 | Student’s presentation 12 |

| Week Fifteen | M 4/13/15 |
| Theme Six: Reflections on the fieldwork, temporality, and materiality | Encountering Morocco: Fieldwork and Cultural Understanding Edited by David Crawford and Rachel Newcomb Afterword by Kevin Dwyer 2013 (selections) |
| W 4/15/15 | Student’s presentation 13 |
| Final paper peer review |

| Week Sixteen | M 4/20/15 |
| Oral Presentation |
| W 4/22/15 | Oral Presentation and last day of class Final Paper Due 4/24/15 at 11:59 p.m. |