

Social & Political Change in MENA

ANT 4930 Section 186C

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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

Albera, D., & Couroucli, M. (2012). *Sharing sacred spaces in the Mediterranean: Christians, Muslims, and Jews at shrines and sanctuaries*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press.

Goodman, J. E. (2005). *Berber culture on the world stage: From village to video*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Hafez, S., & Slyomovics, S. (2013). *Anthropology of the Middle East and North Africa: Into the newmillennium*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Kohl, I., & Fischer, A. (2010). *Tuareg society within a globalized world: Saharan life in transition*. London: Tauris Academic Studies/I.B. Tauris.

Korpe, M. (2004). *Shoot the singer!: Music censorship today*. London: Zed Books.

Laremont, R. (2013). *Revolution: The Arab Spring and Beyond*. Taylor & Francis.

McDougall, J., & Scheele, J. (2012). *Saharan frontiers: Space and mobility in Northwest Africa*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

McMurray, D. A., & Ufheil-Somers, A. (2013). *The Arab revolts: Dispatches on militant democracy in the Middle East*. Bloomington: Indiana Univ Press.

Nooshin, L. (2009). *Music and the play of power in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia*. Farnham, Surrey, England: Ashgate.

Peterson, M. A. (2011). *Connected in Cairo: Growing up cosmopolitan in the modern Middle East*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

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

Attendance		40
SAKAI Discussions	10 Points each	70
Student’s Presentation		50
Paper One		70
Paper Two		70
Oral Presentation		50
Final Exam		100

To determine your final grade, divide total points by total possible points (450).

A	93-100%	A-	90-92%
B+	86-89%	B	83-85%
B-	80-82%	C+	76-79%
C	73-75%	C-	70-72%
D+	66-69%	D	63-65%
D-	60-62%	F	0-59%

One can also link to the following: <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](#) 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](#), 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
2. [Sexual Assault Recovery Services](#) (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
3. [Career Resource Center](#), Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling
4. [Reading & Writing Center](#), Broward Hall, 392-0791, writing assistance, study skills, test preparation

SCHEDULE

Weekly Topic	Date/Date	Reading and assignment	
Week One Introduction	W 1/7/15	2 hours	
Week Two Theme One: Modernity, nation building, and the link between the ideology of power and the production of knowledge.	M 1/12/15	Hafez & Slyomovics 2013 (selections) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-22 • 23-46 • 145-164 Discussion One Due 1/13/15	
	W 1/14/15	Student's presentation 1	
Week Three Theme Two: Space, mobility, and up rootedness	M 1/19/15	No Class (Martin Luther King Day)	
	W 1/21/15	McDougall & Scheele 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time and Space in the Sahara (1-21) • Environment, Territory, and Community ❖ The Rites of Baba Marzuq (93-107) ❖ Celebrating Mawlid in Timimoun (109-130) Discussion Two Due 1/22/15 Student's presentation 2	
Week Four Continue...	M 1/26/15	Kohl, I., & Fischer, A. (2010) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Touareg: Moving Global (1-9) ❖ Resisting Imperialism: Touareg threaten US, Chinese and Other Foreign Interests (209-230) 	
	W 1/28/15	Student's presentation 3 (Cities of Salt) In class, papers peer review Paper One Due (F 1/30/15 at 11:59 pm)	
Week Five Theme Three: Shared spaces and sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sharing sacred spaces among Abrahamic religions 	M 2/2/15	Albera and Couroucli 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Case of Istanbul (94-117) ❖ The case of Morocco (141-147) ❖ The case of Egypt (174-201) ❖ The case of Syria (202-218) Discussion Tree Due 2/3/15	
	W 2/4/15	Student's presentation 4	
Week Six <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Music and Power 	M 2/9/15	Nooshin, L. (editor) (2009) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Prelude : power and the play of music ❖ Singing against silence : celebrating women and music at the Fourth Jasmine Festival ❖ 'Tomorrow is ours' : re-imagining nation, performing youth in the new Iranian pop music ❖ The power of silent voices : women in the Syrian Jewish musical tradition 	
	W 2/11/15	Student's presentation 5	
Week Seven Theme Four: New forms of social, religious, and political activism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Berber Spring: uprising in Algeria and morocco 	M 2/16/15	Maddy-Weitzman 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mohamed VI's Morocco and the Amazigh Movement (153-182) ❖ Bouteflika's Algeria and Kabyle Alienation (183-201) ❖ DVD: <i>Shoot the singer!: Music censorship today</i> Discussion Four Due 2/17/15	
	W 2/18/15	Student's presentation 6	

Week Eight ❖ Arab Spring	M 2/23/15	❖ McMurray & Ufheil-Somers 2013 Laremont 2014 (Ebook) ❖ Anthropology of the future: Arab Youth and the State of the State by Joseph (105-123) in Hafez and Slyomovics 2013 ❖ From collapse of communism in Eastern EU to Arab springs (article) by Erdogan 2013	
	W 2/25/15	Student's presentation 7	
Week Nine		No Class (Spring Break)	
Week Ten Theme Five: Global, local, and transnational belongings ❖ The emergence of a cosmopolitan identity	M 3/9/15	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 ❖ The emergence of a new ethnic identity	M 3/16/15	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 ❖ anthropology and New Media in the Virtual Middle East and North Africa	M 3/23/15	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 ❖ New Media continue	M 3/30/15	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 ❖ New Media continue	M 4/6/15	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 Theme Six: Reflections on the fieldwork, temporality, and materiality	M 4/13/15	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.	