

Social & Political Change in MENA
ANT 4930 (2B14) /ANG 6930 (2B15)

Instructor: Dr. Khadidja Arfi

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Spring 2017

Day/Time/Location:

M | Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM) Room: MAT 0107, W | Period 3 - 4 (9:35 AM - 11:30 AM) Room: TUR 2333

Office hours and location: Wednesday between 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. @ TUR B 137 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.

Textbooks

Albera, D., & Couroucli, M. (2012). *Sharing sacred spaces in the Mediterranean: ...* Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press.

Ghaṣṣūb, M., & Sinclair-Webb, E. (2000). *Imagined masculinities: Male identity and culture in the modern Middle East*. London: Saqi.

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

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

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*. Bloom: Indiana Univ Press.

Mir-Hosseini, Z. (1999). *Islam and gender: The religious debate in contemporary Iran*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University 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*. Bloom: Indiana University Press.

Sajoo, A. B. (2002). *Civil society in the Muslim world: Contemporary perspectives*. Tauris Publishers in association with Ismaili Studies (Ebook).

Assignments

Discussions: Discussion posts will be held via CANVAS. Each student must submit a new discussion thread (about 300 words) and respond to an existing thread (50 words or more). Discussions are assigned every week between January 09th – April 18th (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. These ideas would be further discussed during class period.

Presentations:

1. 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. Presenters must produce 3-5 discussion questions for the class. The presentation should last 30-40 minutes leaving ample time for discussion and questions.
2. Each student presents a summary of her/his selected book review in 5-10 minutes on W 14 (4/4 – 4/5).
3. Each student presents the findings of her/his research/fieldwork related to the final paper topic on W 16.

Papers:

1. Book review (4-5 pages long) due on Sunday 4/2/17 before midnight via Canvas.
2. Final paper (undergrad 7-10 pages and graduate students 15-20 pages long). Students should use at least 3-5 academic resources, including class readings, and other materials. Students may use any recognizable academic format for citation (e.g. APA). Students submit final papers via CANVAS.

Please visit the UF Reading and Writing Center if you need extra assistance in writing (see “tutoring” section below).

Evaluation & Grading

<u>Attendance and participation 16</u>	<u>A 93-100 A- 90-92.9</u>
<u>Discussions 20</u>	<u>B+ 86-89 B 83-85 B- 80-82</u>
<u>Student’s presentation 10</u>	<u>C+ 76-79 C 73-75 C- 70-72</u>
<u>Book Review 20</u>	<u>D+ 66-69 D 63-65 D- 60-62</u>
<u>Book review presentation 4</u>	<u>F 0-59</u>
<u>Oral presentation 5</u>	
<u>Final paper 25</u>	

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	W. 1/4/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction ➤ Recognizing the MENA region on the map ➤ Young Arabs by Michael Graziano and E. Joong-Eun Park (video streaming)
Week Two <u>Theme One:</u> Modernity, nation building, and the link between the ideology of power and the production of knowledge.	M. 1/09/17 W. 1/11/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hafez & Slyomovics 2013 (selections) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-22 • 23-46 • 145-164 ➤ Turning the Mirror: A View From the East with Pankaj Mishra (video streaming) <p>Discussion One Due</p>
Week Three	M 1/16/17	No Class (Martin Luther King Day)
	W 1/18/17	Documentary viewing and discussion
Week Four <u>Theme Two:</u> Time, space, territory, and people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Space, mobility, and up rootedness 	M 1/23/17 W 1/25/17	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) <p>Discussion Two Due</p> <p>Student's presentation 1</p>

Week Five ❖ Sahara, desert, and social change	M 1/30/17 W 2/01/17	➤ Kohl, I., & Fischer, A. (2010) ❖ Touareg: Moving Global (1-9) ❖ Resisting Imperialism: Touareg threaten US, Chinese and Other Foreign Interests (209-230) ➤ Blood and Oil (video streaming, 114 minutes) Discussion Three Due
		Student's presentation 2 (Cities of Salt Novel)
Week Six <u>Theme Three:</u> The power of sounds and sites ❖ Music and Power	M 2/06/17 W 2/08/17	Nooshin, L. (editor) (2009) ❖ 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 Discussion Four Due
		Student's presentation 3
Week Seven ❖ Sharing sacred spaces among Abrahamic religions	M 2/13/17 W 2/15/17	➤ Albera and Couroucli 2012 ❖ The Case of Istanbul (94-117) ❖ The case of Morocco (141-147) ❖ The case of Egypt (174-201) ❖ The case of Syria (202-218) ➤ The Last Prayer? - Christians in the Middle East (video streaming) Discussion Five Due
		Student's presentation 4
Week Eight <u>Theme Four:</u> New forms of social, religious, and political activism ❖ Berber Spring: uprising in Algeria and morocco	M 2/20/17 W 2/22/17	❖ Sajoo (2002) Ebook ✓ Locating civil society in Islamic contexts / Mohammed Arkoun ❖ Maddy-Weitzman 2011 ✓ Mohamed VI's Morocco and the Amazigh Movement (153-182) ✓ Bouteflika's Algeria and Kabyle Alienation (183-201) Discussion Six Due
		Student's presentation 5
Week Nine ❖ Arab Spring	M 02/27/17 W 03/01/17	➤ 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 (optional) Discussion Seven Due
		Student's presentation 6

Week Ten		No Class (Spring Break (4-11))
Week Eleven <u>Theme Five:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Global, local, and transnational belongings ❖ The emergence of a cosmopolitan identity 	M 3/13/17 W 3/15/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Connected in Cairo: Growing up Cosmopolitan in the Modern Middle East Peterson 2011 (into & last chap.) Final paper topic/literature due 3/20/17 by email
		Student's presentation 7
Week Twelve <u>Theme Six:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Anthropology and New Media in the Virtual Middle East and North Africa 	M 3/20/17 W 3/22/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our Master's Call (chapter) by Emilio Spadola in Hafez & Slyomovics (2013) ➤ The Construction of Virtual Identities: Online Tribalism in Saudi Arabia and Beyond, in Hafez & Slyomovics (2013) Discussion Eight Due Student's presentation 8
Week Thirteen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ New Media in MENA countries 	M 3/27/17 W 3/29/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Youth, Peace, and New Media in the Middle East, in Hafez & Slyomovics (2013)
		Students' online activities on new media
Week Fourteen <u>Theme Seven:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ MENA cultures and politics of gender identities (case study and book review presentations)	M 4/03/17 W 4/5/17	Proposed books and themes for review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Imagined masculinities: Male identity and culture in the modern Middle East ➤ Debating women : gender and the public sphere in post-revolutionary Iran / Ziba Mir-Hosseini (Ebook) ➤ Women, travel and driving in Saudi Arabia ➤ Women and education in MENA ➤ Gender relations and the state
		Individual students' presentations of book reviews
Week Fifteen <u>Theme Eight:</u> The changing culture of food and entertainments	M 4/10/17	Lecture
	W 4/12/17	Documentary and discussion
Week Sixteen	M 4/17/17 W 4/19/17	Oral Presentations and last week of class Final paper due 4/24/17 before midnight or earlier