Introduction – 1500 signes au maximum :

The aim of the course is to integrate a gender perspective in the studies of societies and politics in the Middle East. It will provide a gendered understanding of key issues such as citizenship, identity building, family/kinship, social movements and conflicts. This approach is based on historical and sociological perspectives that place gender at the core of Middle East studies. The course is based on two methods: (1) a theoretical framework setting the basis of gender studies in the Middle East, (2) an analysis of case studies and topical issues in order to understand the place of women and gender in the current transformations of societies and political regimes in the Middle East.

Programme des séances (contenu et objectifs pédagogiques) :

Pour chacune des 12 séances : présentation du thème général, de la(les) thématique(s), textes de référence, lectures préparatoires, exercices) :
Séance 1 : Introduction
- Definitions of "gender"
- Representing gender relationships in the Middle East studies : from Orientalism to post-colonial studies

Séance 2 : Gender, family and kinship
- Theories on family, kinship, patriarchy/patrilinearity/patrilocality
- Gender and matrimonial strategies


Séance 3 : Gender, religion, nation
- Gender in Islam, Judaism, Christianism : theories and social practices
- Religion, tradition/modernity and historical constructions of social practices
- Gender and family code/personal status issues


Séance 4 : Female/Male and sexual identities
- Construction of female and male identities
- Public policies and gender identities


Séance 5 : Gender and public/private spheres
- Construction and mobility of social boundaries
- Public/private in nomadic societies
- Public/private in colonial system

Séance 6 : Gender, state and citizenship

- Gender and citizenship
- Reforms and gender policies


Séance 7 : Gender and politics in the Middle East

- Gender and nation: feminism, nationalism, gender in national and religious movements
- Gender, Politics, Power and Domination
- Women, secularity and religion


Séance 8 : Feminisms

- Feminist thinkers and discourses in the Middle East
- Feminism and post-colonialism
- Political/Religious feminisms: Islamic feminism in Iran and Orthodox feminism in Israel


Séance 9 : Gender, organizations and international aid

- Women’s organizations: from charity to empowerment
- Professionalization and critics on depoliticization of women’s movements
- Gender, democratization and development programs in the Middle East


Séance 10: Economic activities and women's work

- Gender issues in the labor market
- Gender, migrations and domestic work
- Gender in informal economies


Séance 11: Gender, violences and conflicts

- Gender issues in conflict zones
- Gender, masculinities and violence
- Women in peace building and coexistence programmes


Séance 12: Conference

Présentation des modalités d’évaluation:

The course will consist of lectures, class discussions and student presentations.

Each weekly session will be divided in three parts: (1) a general introduction of the course, (2) an oral presentation by a student on one text (lecture notes), (3) a lecture by a student on theoretical issues or current topics.
Références bibliographiques :


• Dunne, B. (1998) “Power and Sexuality in the Middle East”, MERIP.


