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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30-6

Course Description
This course investigates contemporary feminist thinking and practice in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and provides students with the ability to understand, critique, and comparatively analyze the politics of gender in the MENA region. The class covers current debates on the status of women, and closely examines the processes by which the private/public lives of women are gendered. It addresses women's visibility in society and the development or lack thereof of women's and feminist movements. The main themes covered in the course include colonization, women and the state, citizenship, nationalism, religion, sexuality, representation, development, militarization, human rights, and women’s movements. The course focuses on the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Saudi Arabia. The class is interdisciplinary and uses feminist pedagogy to challenge orientalist, monolithic, and Eurocentric notions of studying the region and particularly the status of women. It gives equal weight to theory and practice and draws on writings by local and global activists and theorists.

Class Requirements
Students in addition to reading the course material, attending screening sessions, and participating in class discussions will monitor at least one media outlet and trace the representation of women and gender in the Middle East and North Africa. The course requirements also include one group project and one class presentation, 4 short papers, and a final research paper. The final research paper constitutes 30% of the evaluation, the short papers constitute 48% of the evaluation, group project and class presentation constitute 12% of the evaluation, and class participation constitutes 10% of the evaluation. Separate guidelines for these assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Policies
- Plagiarism: Students and faculty at Denison University and the Departments of International Studies and Women’s Studies are committed to academic integrity and will not tolerate any violation of this principle. Academic honesty is the cornerstone of teaching and learning. Academic dishonesty is, in most cases, intellectual theft. It includes, but is not limited to, providing or receiving assistance in a manner not authorized by the instructor in the creation of work to be submitted for evaluation. This standard applies to all work ranging from daily homework assignments to major exams. Students must clearly cite any sources consulted, not only for quoted phrases but also for ideas and information that are not common knowledge. Neither ignorance nor carelessness is an acceptable defense in cases of plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to follow the appropriate citation format. As is indicated in Denison's Student Handbook, available through www.mydenison.edu, instructors must refer every act of academic dishonesty to the Associate Provost, and violations may result in failure in the course, suspension, or expulsion. See: http://www.denison.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/article7.html
- Disability: Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately as soon as possible to discuss his or her
specific needs. I rely on the Academic Support & Enrichment Center in 104 Doane to verify the need for reasonable accommodations based on documentation on file in that office.

- **Attendance**: You are expected to attend class regularly. More than three absences during the semester will seriously affect your final grade.
- **Evaluation**: Please note that students are required to write midterm and final evaluations of their performance in the class.
- **Printing**: All class material should be printed double-sided in order to save on paper and protect the environment.

**Course Material**

- Reading material will be available at the bookstore and on ERES. Various handouts and supplementary material will be distributed in class and posted on Blackboard.

**Required Books**


**Recommended Books**


Films
• *About Baghdad,* Sinan Antoon, Bassam Haddad, Maya Mikdashi, Suzy Salamy, Adam Shapiro, 2004, 90 minutes.
• *The Battle of Algiers,* Gillo Pontecorvo, 1988, 123 minutes.
• *The Circle,* Jafar Panahi, 2000, 87 minutes.
• *A Civilized People,* Randa Chahal Sabbag, 1999, 97 minutes.
• *Four Women of Egypt,* Tahani Rached, 1999, 90 minutes.
• *Frontline: Truth, War, and Consequences,* PBS, 2003, 90 minutes.
• *Iraqi Women: Voices from Exile,* Maysoon Pachachi, 1994, 54 minutes.
• *Measures of Distance,* Mona Hatoum, 1988, 15 minutes.
• *Soraida: Woman of Palestine,* Tahani Rached, 2004, 52 minutes.
• *Wedding in Galilee,* Michel Khleifi, 1987, 113 minutes.
• *Winter in Baghdad,* Javier Corcuera, 2006, 78 minutes.
Class Schedule

August 27th: Introduction, Housekeeping and Course Outline
- Why women and gender in the Middle East and North Africa?

August 29th: Current Debates on Women and Gender in MENA

Recommended reading:

September 3rd: Orientalism, Veiling and the Representation of the Other

Recommended reading:

September 5th: Gender and Colonization - The Case of Egypt

September 10th: Gender and Decolonization – The Case of Egypt

Recommended reading:
• Group project due

September 12th: Gender and Colonization - The Case of Algeria

Recommended reading:

September 17th: Gender and Decolonization – The Case of Algeria

Recommended reading:

September 19th: Iraqi Women – Living in the Diaspora

September 24th: Living with the Revolution
• Paper #1 due

September 26th: Living with the Ba’th

Recommended reading:
• Ismael, Jacqueline, and Shereen Ismael. 2000. “Gender and State in Iraq.” In Joseph Suad ed. Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East, 185-211.

October 1st: Living with War and Sanctions

Recommended reading:

October 3rd: Living with the Occupation

Recommended reading:
• Excerpts from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch 2003 reports on violence against women and girls in Iraq.

October 8th: Gender and Citizenship

October 10th: Gender, Nation and the State - The Case of Saudi Arabia
Recommended reading:
• Paper # 2 due

October 15th: Gender, Nation and the State – The Case of Lebanon
Recommended reading:

October 17th: Islamic Feminisms
Recommended reading:


October 22nd: Sexuality and the Writing of Women's Bodies


Recommended reading:


October 24th: The Stone of Laughter

Read pages 3-104 of Hoda Barakat’s The Stone of Laughter.

Recommended reading:


October 29th:
- Read pages 105-209 of Hoda Barakat’s The Stone of Laughter.

Recommended reading:

October 31: Women’s Human Rights - Violence against Women

Recommended reading:
- Paper #3 due

November 5th: Gender, War and Militarization – The Case of Israel

Recommended reading:

**November 7th: Feminism, Nationalism and Militarism – The Case of Palestine**


Recommended reading:


November 12th: Mothering the Nation


Recommended reading:

November 14th: Gender, the Economy and Human Development


Recommended reading

Paper #4 due

November 17th-25th: Fall Break

November 26th: Women’s Movements – Strategies and Struggles for Change


Recommended reading:

Draft #1 of final research paper due November 28th:

Recommended reading:
• Excerpts from the 2003 Al-Raida Magazine centenary issue on Arab women’s movements.

December 3rd:
• Labidi, Lilia. 2007. “The Nature of Transnational Alliances in Women’s Associations in the Maghreb: The Case of AFTURD and AFTD.” JMEWS 3(1), 6-34.

Recommended reading:

December 5th: General Overview

December 11th: Final research paper due in my office at Knapp 210C by 4 pm