

Third World Studies

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Term: Spring 2017
Professor Babak Rahimi
Email: brahimi@ucsd.edu
Office: LIT 324

Course: Third World Studies
Modern Middle East Culture and Literature

Lecture Day/Time:
Tuesday and Thursday 3:30pm-4:50pm

Lecture Location:
PCYNH 121

Professor Office Hours: Tuesday 5pm-7pm and W 4pm-5 pm

Description of the Course

As a lower-division Third World Studies course, this class will examine cultures and literature of the modern Middle East (20th and 21st centuries) in order to examine how social inequality, injustice, economic disparity, and questions of national and postcolonial identity can be understood through cultural and literary texts.

Objectives

The basic goals of the course are as follows:

1. To trace common themes in the relationship between social processes and literature.
2. To foster an alternative understanding of global history and cultures through a Third World Studies paradigm.
3. To engage in the study of non-U.S. cultures and histories.
4. To examine histories and politics of the Middle East through cinematic and literary cultures.
5. To gain familiarity with basic theoretical debates on inequality in the Third World.
6. To improve one's writing, critical thinking, and scholastic discussion skills.

Prerequisites

None

Grading

Class attendance and participation 20%

Film Reviews 20%

Midterm paper 20%

Final paper 40%

Assignments

Midterm paper: A 1000-word paper (approx. 4 pages, double-spaced, 1-inch margins all around), answering one of the four questions that will be provided to you one week in advance. **Please note: 1000 words is the maximum!** Your paper should be analytical and have a clear thesis statement and introduction, a conclusion, and a short bibliography at the end. Pages should be numbered. I will provide more instructions about the midterm paper a week before the due date. Papers should be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of lecture.

Due date: Thursday, May 11 (in class)

Final paper: A 1500 word research paper (approx. 6-8 pages, double-spaced, 1-in. margins all around) on a topic of your choice. The topic must relate to issues, themes, or debates examined in class and should focus on 20th and 21st century Middle East. Papers should be submitted in hard copy to Third World Studies Program office, Humanities & Social Science (HSS), Office 1024, 1st Floor. (858) 822-5072. All papers will be time-stamped.

Due Date: Tuesday, June 12th by 3:30 p.m.

Extra Credit: There will be a number of opportunities for students to earn extra credit towards your final participation grade in the class (which accounts for 20% of your total grade). I will inform you about extra credit opportunities throughout the quarter.

Film Reviews: You will be required to write a film review, *after* we watch a film in class. Reviews should be about 300 to 500 words in length (1-2 pages, double-spaced, 1-inch margins all around). In your reviews, you must relate the films to at least one theme or issue from that week's readings, as well as explain your own opinions on the film. Film reviews are **due on Sunday nights at 11:59 p.m. via email, religion101ucsd@gmail.com** **NO LATE REVIEWS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

*Films are available for viewing at the Film and Media desk in Geisel Library.

NOTE: Films are an invaluable educational resource, providing an effective means of supplementing information from class through a visual platform. Some of the films viewed in this course contain images and scenes of explicit sexuality, graphic violence, and offensive language. Please note that we are viewing these films as mature scholars, and for educational purposes only.

Class attendance and participation: Your attendance and participation in lecture and discussion section is required. You are expected to complete all assigned readings and attend each class prepared to express your views, engage in discussions and debates, and demonstrate what you have learned. Please note that **ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN IN BOTH LECTURE AND DISCUSSION SECTION! Only two (2) unexcused absences from discussion section and two (2) unexcused absences from lecture are allowed!** Any subsequent absences (up to 5 absences) will adversely affect your attendance and participation grade. **Please note that per university policy, five (5) or more absences will result in automatic failure of the course.**

Seminars:

906296 M 1:00pm-1:50pm MANDE B-104

906297 W 10:00am-1:50am CENTR 217 B

TA: Soraya Abuelhiga

sabuelhi@ucsd.edu

Class Policy

Late papers

Late papers will be penalized a quarter letter grade for each day that they are late (from A to A-, B- to C+, C- to D+ and so on). **Papers that are one or more week(s) late will not**

be accepted. Please submit your papers in hard copy at the beginning of lecture, *not* via email or fax.

Academic Integrity (Plagiarism)

There is a **zero-tolerance** policy regarding plagiarism of any kind, including but not limited to cheating, reusing old papers, passing off another's work as your own, purchasing papers, etc. **Remember, ignorance of the policy is never a suitable excuse for violating the policy.**

Consequences for plagiarism, cheating, and academic misconduct can range from a failing grade on the assignment in question, failure of the entire course, or dismissal from the university.

A major part of written assignments for this course will be based on assigned readings and involve other sources. To avoid plagiarism, be sure to provide citations for direct quotations and paraphrases. If you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please see the professor. For more on UCSD's policy regarding academic integrity, refer to UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship <http://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/process/policy.html>

Disability Accommodation

If you require disability accommodations, please see the professor on the first day of class.

Readings

It is important for each student to know that this is a cultural studies course, and therefore you are expected to do some major reading of a variety of texts. You will be expected to understand the readings and, for your papers, formulate analytical arguments, which use the text as evidence to support your claims.

Required Texts

All books are available at the UCSD bookstore.

1. Amos Oz, *The Hill of Evil Counsel*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 1991.
2. Naguib Mahfouz, *The Coffeeshouse*, American University of Cairo Press.
3. Course Reader, available for purchase at:
Cal Copy
3251 Holiday Ct La Jolla CA 92037
858-452-9949

Schedule of Classes

49 Days of Instruction
Instruction Days: September April 3-June 9
Finals Week: December 10-16
Spring Quarter Ends: June 16

Holidays (No instruction):
Memorial Day Observance, Monday, May 29

Week 1

April 4, Tuesday: Introduction to the course

Reading: Non

April 6, Thursday: What is the “Third World”?

Reading:

1. Article (via email)

Week 2 Examining Concepts

April 11, Tuesday: What is the “Middle East?”

Reading:

1. Dan Smith, “Defining the Middle East,” *The State of the Middle East*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 2008.
2. “What is the Middle East?” *Teach Mideast.org*.
3. Charles Kurzman, “Teaching Middle East Crises,” *Teach Mideast.org*.
4. Charles Kurzman, “Cross-Regional Approaches to Middle East Studies: Constructing and Deconstructing a Region,” *MESA Bulletin* 41/1, 2007.

April 13, Thursday: From Islam to the Great War

Reading:

1. Mehran Kamrava, "From Islam to the Great War," *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since First World War*

Week 3

April 18, Tuesday: From territories to Independent States

Reading:

1. Mehran Kamrava, "From Territories to Independent States," *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since First World War*
2. Mehran Kamrava, "States and Their Opponents," *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since First World War*
3. Amos Oz, *The Hill of Evil Counsel*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 1991.

April 20, Thursday: The Age of Nationalism

Reading:

1. Mehran Kamrava, "The Age of Nationalism," *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since First World War*
2. Amos Oz, *The Hill of Evil Counsel*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 1991.

Week 4

April 25, Tuesday: Israel-Palestine

Reading:

1. Mehran Kamrava, "The Palestine-Israeli Conflict," *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since First World War*
2. Dan Smith, "The Formation of the State of Israel," *The State of the Middle East*,

Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 2008.

3. Amos Oz, *The Hill of Evil Counsel*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 1991.
4. "When a Country is smaller than a state" (MAP)

April 27, Thursday: Israel-Palestine

Reading:

1. Theodor Herzl, *The Jewish State*, New York: Dover Publication. [1046] 1988.
2. Mehran Kamrava, "The Palestine-Israeli Conflict," *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since First World War*

Week 5

May 2, Tuesday: Israel-Palestine

Reading:

1. Mahmoud Darwish, "ID Card"
2. Abu Salma, "My Country on Partition Day" and "We Shall Return," Reza Aslan (Ed.), *Tablet & Pen: Literary Landscapes from the Modern Middle East*, New York; London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011.

May 4, Thursday: Israel-Palestine (Documentary)

Reading:

1. Jalal Al-e Ahmad, *The Israeli Republic*. Brooklyn, NY: Ellison, Stavans and Hochstein LP, 2017.
2. Amos Oz, *How to Cure a Fanatic*. Princeton; Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2002.

PICK UP MIDTERM QUESTIONS!

Week 6

May 9, Tuesday: Iran

Reading:

1. Mehran Kamrava, "The Iranian Revolution," *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since First World War*
2. Dan Smith, "Iran," *The State of the Middle East*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 2008.
3. Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh, "Persian is Sugar," Reza Aslan (Ed.), *Tablet & Pen: Literary Landscapes from the Modern Middle East*, New York; London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011.
4. Nima Yushij, "O People!" Reza Aslan (Ed.), *Tablet & Pen: Literary Landscapes from the Modern Middle East*, New York; London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011.

May 11, Thursday: Iran

Reading:

1. "Those Days: Persian Literature Between Two Revolutions," Forugh Farrokhzad selected poems, Nader Naderpour, Reza Aslan (Ed.), *Tablet & Pen: Literary Landscapes from the Modern Middle East*, New York; London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011.
2. Jalal Al-e Ahmad, "Gharbzadegi," Reza Aslan (Ed.), *Tablet & Pen: Literary Landscapes from the Modern Middle East*, New York; London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011.
3. Simin Behbahani, "Don't Read" and "My Country, I Will Build You Again" and "You Leave, I'll stay," Reza Aslan (Ed.), *Tablet & Pen: Literary Landscapes from the Modern Middle East*, New York; London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011.

MIDTERM ESSAY DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF LECTURE

Week 7:

May 16, Tuesday: Iran (Film)

Reading:

1. Shahrnush Parsipur, *Women Without Men: A Novel of Modern Iran*. New York: The Feminist Press, 2011.

May 18, Thursday: No Class

Reading:

1. Sinan Antoon, *I'Jaam: an Iraqi Rhapsody*. San Francisco: City Lights, 2017.

Week 8:

May 23, Tuesday: Iraq

Reading:

1. Dan Smith, "Iraq," *The State of the Middle East*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 2008.
2. Sinan Antoon, *I'Jaam: an Iraqi Rhapsody*. San Francisco: City Lights, 2017.
3. Mozaffar Al-Nawwab, "Bridge of Old Wonders," Reza Aslan (Ed.), *Tablet & Pen Literary Landscapes from the Modern Middle East*, New York; London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011.

May 25, Thursday: Iraq

Reading:

1. Sinan Antoon, *I'Jaam: an Iraqi Rhapsody*. San Francisco: City Lights, 2017.

Week 9:

May 29, Tuesday: Iran-Iraq War (documentary)

Reading:

1. Dan Smith, "Iran-Iraq War," *The State of the Middle East*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 2008.
3. Davud Ghaffarzadegan, *Fortune Told in Blood*. Austin: The University of Texas at Austin Press, 2008.

June 1, Thursday: Egypt

Reading:

1. Dan Smith, "Egypt," *The State of the Middle East*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 2008.
2. Naguib Mahfouz, *The Coffeehouse*, American University of Cairo Press.

Week 10

June 6, Tuesday: Egypt

Reading:

2. Mehran Kamrava, "The Nasserist Phenomenon," *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since First World War*
3. Tawfiq al-Hakim, "Diary of a Country Prosecutor," Reza Aslan (Ed.), *Tablet & Pen: Literary Landscapes from the Modern Middle East*, New York; London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011.
4. Naguib Mahfouz, *The Coffeehouse*, American University of Cairo Press.

June 8, Thursday: Egypt and the Arab Spring

Reading:

1. Mehran Kamrava, "The Question of Democracy," *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since First World War*
2. Asef Bayat, "Revolution in Bad times," *New Left Review*, 80, March-April 2013.
3. Wael Ghonim, *Revolution 2.0: The Power of the People is Greater Than the People in Power: A Memoir*, Boston; New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012.

Week 11

Monday, June 12 at 3:30 p.m.

Submit your final papers in hardcopy

**Third World Studies Program office, Humanities & Social
Science (HSS), Office 1024, 1st Floor**

(Please note the office will close between 3:30pm)