Course Syllabus

Course Information

CULTURE REGIONS: THE MIDDLE EAST
SOCIOLOGY 3336
FALL 2008

Professor Contact Information
INSTRUCTOR: MERYL G. NASON
OFFICE: GR 2.612
TELEPHONE: (972) 883-6722
OFFICE HOURS: M, W, 12:30-2PM and by appt.
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Please note that I do not use WEBCT for e-mail.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions
This course has no pre-requisites or co-requisites. There is a need, however, for good writing skills as each exam has an essay component as well as a required research project.
In addition, this course is aimed at giving students an introduction to the myriad of cultures in the Middle East. It is for students with little or no background in the region.

Course Description

This course will offer a general survey of the Middle East. It will provide both an historical and sociological perspective of Middle East culture and society. Emphasis will be placed on the physical, cultural and regional geography of the Middle East as well as its art and literature. The course will also offer an in depth look at Islam and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. The area's most prominent nations will be highlighted.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the geography of the Middle East.

2. Demonstrate an understanding of the ancient civilizations of the Middle East.

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the various ethnic and religious groups in the Middle East.

4. Demonstrate an understanding of the history of the oil industry in the Middle East.

5. Demonstrate an understanding of Islamic history, beliefs, and rituals.

6. Demonstrating an understanding of both ancient and modern Middle Eastern literature.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Held, Colbert C. Middle East Patterns: Places, Peoples and Politics, 4th Edition. Westview Press, Boulder, 2006.

Barnstone, Tony and Barnstone, Willis. Literatures of the Middle East. Prentice Hall, 2003.

Egger, Vernon O. A History of the Muslim World to 1405: The Making of a Civilization. Prentice Hall, 2004.

Spencer, William. Global Studies: The Middle East, 11th edition. McGraw-Hill, 2007.

Suggested Course Materials

Denny, Frederick Mathewson. An Introduction To Islam, 3rd Edition. Macmillan Publishing Company, New York, 2006.

Bates, Daniel G. and Rassam, Amal. Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East, 2nd Edition. Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 2001.

Michael G. Roskin and James J. Coyle. Politics of the Middle East: Cultures and Conflicts, 2nd edition. Prentice Hall 2008.

The following books have been placed on reserve: Held, Spencer, Bates, Denny and Roskin.

Assignments & Academic Calendar.

PART ONE: PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Week 1
8/25-8/27 Course Introduction
What and Where is the Middle East?
Held: Chapter 1
Spencer: Pages 4-18
Bates: Chapter 1(1-20) (REC)

Week 2 **NO CLASS: MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1st**
9/1-9/3 What and Where is the Middle East--continued

Week 3 Land and Water, Climate, Ecology and Animals
9/8-9/10 Held: Chapters 2, and 5
Film: Arab Diaries--Birth

Week 4 Historical Background—Ancient Civilizations
9/15-9/17 Held: Chapter 3
Barnstone: Section 1
Film: Arab Diaries--Youth
Bates: Chapter 1 (20-29) (REC)
Roskin: Chapter 1 (REC)
RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS DUE: SEPTEMBER 17th

Week 5 Ancient Civilizations Continued, Peoples and Cultures
9/22-9/24 Held: Chapter 4
Bates: Chapter 4 (REC)

Week 6 Peoples and Cultures Continued
9/29-10/1 **CULTURAL EVENT PAPER DUE: SEPTEMBER 29th**
Film: Hats of Jerusalem

Week 7 **EXAMINATION #1: MONDAY, OCTOBER 6th**
10/6-10/8 Film: 20 Years Old in the Middle East
CULTURAL EXPEDITION TO A MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT

Week 8 Oil, Marriage and Family, Women and the Social Order
10/13-10/15 Held: Chapter 6
Bates: Chapters 8, 9 (REC)
Spencer: Readings 9 and 12
Film: Arab Diaries--Work

PART TWO: ISLAM

Week 9 10/20-10/22	Pre-Islamic History Egger: Chapter 1 Denny: Chapter 2 (REC) Bates: Chapter 2 and Roskin: Chapter 2 (REC) Film: ISLAM
Week 10 10/27-10/29	The Prophet Muhammad and His People, Islam: Basic Beliefs Denny: Chapter 3, 5 (REC) Barnstone: Section 3 Spencer: Pages 19-26 Film: ISLAM
Week 11 11/3-11/5	The Arab Conquests and Islamic Rule Egger: Chapters 2-4 Denny: Chapter 4 (REC) Bates: Chapter 3 Film: ISLAM
Week 12 11/10-11/12	Middle East Literature Barnstone: Sections 5 & 6 Film—Iran **BARNSTONE ANALYSIS DUE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10th**
Week 13 11/17-11/19	**EXAMINATION #2** **ESSAYS DUE 2:30PM: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17th** **TERMS: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17th** **CLASS TRIP TO Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharoahs exhibit: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19th**
Week 14 11/24-11/26	PRESENTATIONS
Week 15 12/1-12/3	PRESENTATIONS
Week 16 12/8	PRESENTATIONS

Grading Policy

Grades will be determined on the basis of the following point scale:

Two Exams each worth 250 points	500 points
One Cultural Event Paper	100 points
One Literature Paper	100 points
Research Project	250 points
Class Participation	50 points
TOTAL POSSIBLE	1000 points

1. Exams: There will be two examinations for the class, the first, the week of OCTOBER 6th, and the second, the week of NOVEMBER 17th. Each will count 25% toward the final grade.

2. Research Project: Each student will give an oral presentation and submit a detailed research paper on the Middle East. The topic must be cultural in nature. More information will be forthcoming on the research project. The project counts 25% toward the final grade. The paper component of the Research Project is due on the date of your oral presentation.

3. Cultural Event: Each student will attend one cultural event during the semester and write a two to three page paper analyzing the event. Each student will also write a two to three page analysis of one of the modern pieces of Middle East Literature in the Barnstone (Sections 5 & 6) anthology. This will be assigned early in the semester. The two assignments will each be worth 10% for a total of 20% of your grade. The Cultural Event Paper is due on SEPTEMBER 29th. The Literature Analysis is due on NOVEMBER 10th.

4. Participation: Class participation will be worth 5% of your grade. You should plan to attend class regularly, come prepared, and participate in class discussions.

Course & Instructor Policies

The dates of exams and other assignments are indicated on the class schedule. Only extreme and unusual physical or emotional circumstances will be considered as an excuse for not taking an exam or completing assignments by the due date, or receiving an Incomplete grade in the course. You MUST either telephone or e-mail me on the day of an exam if you will be absent in order to

discuss the possibility of a makeup. If you fail to take an exam or turn in a paper or assignment without reasonable excuse, you will receive an "0" for that item. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per day. No make-up exams will be given except in rare cases, with written documentation needed. Students who request Incomplete grades must do so in writing by the last regularly scheduled meeting of the class.
Extra credit work is at the discretion of the instructor and will be assigned when needed.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Cheating is defined as the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, using someone else's work for assignments as if it were your own, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of the course.

Plagiarism is defined as the use of an author's work or ideas as if they were one's own without giving credit to the source, including but not limited to failure to properly acknowledge a direct quote or paraphrase. Punishment for cheating and/or plagiarism is outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty section of the current Undergraduate catalogue. Students are expected to read and understand their rights and responsibilities under the Code.

Any student in this class accused of cheating or plagiarism will be given an automatic grade of "0" (zero) on the test or assignment and will be turned over to the appropriate college authorities for possible further disciplinary action (which could include suspension or expulsion from the college). Cheating and plagiarism are very serious offenses and will not be tolerated.

Field Trip Policies
Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

> *Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.*

We will be going to see the Tutankhamen and the Golden Age of the Pharoahs exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the deal will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for

students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.