

HIST 4376: Topics in History: Middle Eastern Women's History

Fall 2018
Tuesday Thursday 11:30-12:45
AD 2.232

Professor Rosemary Admiral
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Office Hours: Tue Thu 1-2 and by appointment

Course Description

This course explores the lives and histories of women in the premodern Middle East and North Africa. It introduces the major approaches, methodologies, and debates in Middle East women's history. The material draws on a broad geographical and temporal range, at times taking a high-level view of interconnected systems and processes, and at other times focusing in on specific local questions and events. Recurring themes that highlight continuities and divergences in women's experiences through space and time include family, law, the body, education, and religion.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

The primary goal of this course is to facilitate student engagement with major themes and questions in Middle East women's history. While the content is largely based in the premodern Middle East, course material and assignments will also allow students to contextualize modern debates and representations of women in the Middle East. Students will develop foundational historical skills that meet the Historical Studies Student Learning Outcomes, including refining interpretive skills, improving communicative ability, and demonstrating knowledge of key events and themes in premodern Middle East women's history.

Required Texts

Keddie, Nikki R. and Beth Baron, eds. *Women in Middle Eastern History: Shifting Boundaries in Sex and Gender*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991. [In syllabus as *Shifting Boundaries*]

- Available online through UTD Library

Ibn al-Sa'i, *Consorts of the Caliphs: Women and the Court of Baghdad*, trans. Shawkat M. Toorawa et. al., New York: New York University Press, 2017.

Additional readings will be posted on eLearning

Evaluation

Map Quiz	10%	[9/6]
Class Participation	15%	
Response Papers	25%	
Writing Assignments	25%	
Primary Source Analysis	(5%)	[Due 9/20]
Secondary Source Analysis	(5%)	[Due 10/25]
Book Review	(15%)	[Due 10/4]
Research Paper Proposal	20%	[Due 12/6]
Presentation	5%	

Map Quiz [10%]

A map quiz on Thursday, September 6, will cover key countries and cities of the Middle East. A sample map is posted on eLearning.

Class Participation [15%]

Students are expected to be active and thoughtful participants in class discussions and activities. This participation depends on careful engagement with the assigned readings, including taking notes, making sure you can identify the main arguments of each text, and coming to class prepared to discuss and raise questions about the readings. Students will also complete in-class writing assignments on a regular basis

Writing Assignments [25%]

Each writing assignment will require you to apply the analytical and interpretive skills we are developing in this class. Each assignment should contribute to your final project, the research paper proposal.

- **Primary Source Analysis (5%)**
 - o Due September 20, this is a short (1-2 page) analysis of the primary source reading assigned on that day.
- **Secondary Source Analysis (5%)**
 - o Due October 25, this is an analysis of an article of your choosing related to Middle East women's history. We will discuss resources available through the library for finding articles.
- **Book Review (15%)**
 - o Each student will select a book related to Middle East women's history from the recommended reading lists and write a critical review of the work, drawing on course material to provide historical context and analysis of the book's assumptions and conclusions. Consult with the instructor if you would like to work with a book that is not on the list. This 2-3 page review is due October 4.

Response Papers [25%]

Short weekly responses (~1 page) to the readings will help you think through and focus your ideas before in-class discussions, and will demonstrate your understanding of the reading and how it relates to the themes of the course and other assigned reading. Responses papers are due

most Tuesdays (as indicated in the weekly schedule). You are required to complete 10 out of the 12 assigned response papers.

Research Paper Proposal [20%]

Students will develop a research topic over the course of the semester. The process will include consultation with the instructor, topic approval (by October 4), in-class writing, and submitting a research proposal. Each writing assignment will build up to this final project. Students will submit a 3-4 page research proposal, in addition to a 1-2 page annotated bibliography, on the final day of class (December 6). *Please start thinking about your topic from the first week of class.*

Presentation [5%]

Each student will present their research proposal to the class during weeks 12 and 13.

*** Detailed information on each area of assessment will be provided in class and on eLearning. Formatting rules for all written assignments: 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, double spaced, numbered and stapled pages ***

Course Policies

Students with Disabilities

To ensure that disability-related concerns are properly addressed from the beginning, students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class are asked to see me as soon as possible. Documentation can be obtained through the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA).

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism means representing someone else's words or ideas as your own. It may be intentional or unintentional. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, please consult me. We will discuss how to incorporate sources in your written work throughout the semester. Please also familiarize yourself with the Student Code of Conduct and the Examples of Academic Dishonesty.

Attendance

Regular and consistent attendance is the best way to succeed in this class. In addition to lectures and class discussions, important information about assignments and other aspects of the course will be provided in class. For an excused absence to be granted, please communicate with instructor.

Common Courtesy and Respect

Please arrive on time and be prepared to participate in a way that is respectful and contributes to the learning of the group. Please turn off all phones in this class. Computers may be used for consulting the readings and taking notes. Please bring the assigned readings to each class. See <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for a list of University syllabus policies.

Course Schedule and Assigned Reading

Part I: Studying Middle East Women's History

Week 1		
	Tuesday, 8/21	No Class
	Thursday, 8/23	- Lila Abu Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" <i>American Anthropologist</i> 104, no. 3 (2002), pp. 783-790
Week 2		
	Tuesday, 8/28	- Nikki R. Keddie, "Introduction: Deciphering Middle Eastern Women's History," 1-22 (<i>Shifting Boundaries</i>) - William L. Cleveland, <i>A History of the Modern Middle East</i> , "The Rise and Expansion of Islam," 5-18; "The Development of Islamic Civilization to the Fifteenth Century," 19-35 *Response paper
	Thursday, 8/30	- Primary sources: writing premodern Middle East women's history

Part I Recommended Reading: Kahf, Mohja. *Western Representations of the Muslim Woman: From Termagant to Odalisque*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1999; Ahmed, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992; Hambly, Gavin R. G., ed. *Women in the Medieval Islamic World: Power, Patronage, and Piety*. New York: St. Martin Press, 1998. Zilfi, Madeline, ed. *Women in the Ottoman Empire: Middle Eastern Women in the Early Modern Era*. Leiden: Brill, 1997; Meriwether, Margaret L. and Judith E. Tucker, eds. *A Social History of Women & Gender in the Modern Middle East*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1999.

Part II: Women and Islam: Texts and Contexts

Week 3		
	Tuesday, 9/4	- Deniz Kandiyoti, "Islam and Patriarchy: A Comparative Perspective," 23-42 (<i>Shifting Boundaries</i>) - Denise A. Spellberg, "Political Action and Public Example: 'A'isha and the Battle of the Camel, 45-57 (<i>Shifting Boundaries</i>) - Leila Ahmed, "Early Islam and the Position of Women: The Problem of Interpretation," 58-73 (<i>Shifting Boundaries</i>) *Response paper
	Thursday, 9/6	- Primary sources: Quran, Hadith <i>Map Quiz</i>

Week 4		
	Tuesday, 9/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rkia Cornell, "Introduction," in as-Sulami, <i>Early Sufi Women</i>, pp. 15-30 and pp. 54-70 <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 9/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary sources: poetry, Sufi women's biographies
Week 5		
	Tuesday, 9/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asma Sayeed, "Muslim Women's Religious Education in Early and Classical Islam," <i>Religion Compass</i>, 5.3 (2011), 94-103 - Jonathan P. Berkey, "Women and Islamic Education in the Mamluk Period," 143-157 (<i>Shifting Boundaries</i>) <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 9/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary sources: biography - Begin: Ibn al-Sa'i, <i>Consorts of the Caliphs</i>: Forward pp. x-xiv and Introduction xvii-xxvi <p><i>Primary Source Analysis Due</i></p>

Part II Recommended Reading: Wadud-Muhsin, Amina. *Qur'an and Woman*. Kuala Lumpur: Penerbit Fajar Bakti Sdn. Bhd., 1992; Sayeed, Asma. *Women and the Transmission of Religious Knowledge in Islam*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013; Spellberg, D.A. *Politics, Gender, and the Islamic Past: The Legacy of 'A'isha bint Abi Bakr*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994; Nadwi, Muhammad Akram. *Al-Muhaddithat: The Women Scholars in Islam*. Oxford: Interface Publications Ltd, 2007; Roded, Ruth. *Women in Islamic Biographical Collections: From Ibn Sa'd to Who's Who*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1994; Mernissi, Fatima. *The Veil and the Male Elite: A Feminist Interpretation of Women's Rights in Islam*. Translate by Mary Jo Lakeland. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, Inc., 1991; Barlas, Asma. "Believing Women" in Islam: Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Quran. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2002. Stowasser, Barbara Freyer. *Women in the Qur'an, Traditions, and Interpretation*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994; Hidayatullah, Aisha H. *Feminist Edges of the Qur'an*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Part III: Power, Space, Mobility

Week 6	
Tuesday, 9/25	- Ibn al-Sa‘i, <i>Consorts of the Caliphs</i> , 1-54 *Response paper
Thursday, 9/27	- Ibn al-Sa‘i, <i>Consorts of the Caliphs</i> , 55-85
Week 7	
Tuesday, 10/2	- Leslie Peirce, “Beyond Harem Walls: Ottoman Royal Women and the Exercise of Power,” in <i>Gendered Domains: Rethinking Public and Private in Women’s History</i> (1992), pp. 40-55 - D. Fairchild Ruggles, “The Geographic and Social Mobility of Slaves: The Rise of Shajar al-Durr, a Slave-Concubine in 13th-century Egypt,” <i>The Medieval Globe</i> vol. 2.1 (2016), pp. 41-55 *Response paper
Thursday, 10/4	Film: <i>The Magnificent Century</i>, Episode 1 <i>Book Review Due</i> * Final project topic must be approved by today*

Part III Recommended Reading: Peirce, Leslie P. *The Imperial Harem: Women and Sovereignty in the Ottoman Empire*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993; Ruggles, D. Fairchild, ed. *Women, Patronage, and Self-Representation in Islamic Societies*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2000; Lal, Ruby. *Domesticity and Power in the Early Mughal World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Part IV: Gender, Sexuality, and the Body

Week 8		
	Tuesday, 10/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Afsaneh Najmabadi, "Beyond the Americas: Are Gender and Sexuality Useful Categories of Analysis?," <i>Journal of Women's History</i> 18, no. 1 (2006), pp. 11-21 - Kecia Ali, "Concubinage and Consent," <i>International Journal of Middle East Studies</i> 49 (2017): 148-152 - Judith E. Tucker, "Ties That Bound: Women and Family in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Nablus," 233-253 (<i>Shifting Boundaries</i>) <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 10/11	<i>Library Visit: Research Resources</i>
Week 9		
	Tuesday, 10/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paula Sanders, "Gendering the Ungendered Body: Hermaphrodites in Medieval Islamic Law," 74-95 (<i>Shifting Boundaries</i>) - Maya Shatzmiller, "The Body as Property," in <i>Her Day in Court</i>, 93-117 <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 10/18	- Primary sources: gender

Part IV Recommended Reading: Semerdjian, Elyse. *"Off the Straight Path": Illicit Sex, Law, and Community in Ottoman Aleppo.* Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2008; Peirce, Leslie. *Morality Tales: Law and Gender in the Ottoman Court of Aintab.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003; El-Rouayheb, Khaled. *Before Homosexuality in the Arabic-Islamic World, 1500-1800.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005; Najmabadi, Afsaneh. *Women with Mustaches and Men without Beards.* University of California Press: Berkeley, 2005; Joan W. Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *The American Historical Review* 91, no. 5 (1986): 1053-1075.

Part V: Family, Agency, Law

Week 10		
	Tuesday, 10/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David S. Powers, "Four cases relating to women and divorce in al-Andalus and the Maghrib, 1100-1500," in <i>Dispensing Justice in Islam: Qadis and their Judgements</i> (2006), pp. 383-409 - Rosemary Admiral, "Living Islamic Law: Women and Legal Culture in Marinid Morocco," <i>Islamic Law and Society</i> 25, no. 3 (2018): 212-234 <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 10/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary sources: legal texts <p><i>Secondary Source Analysis Due</i></p>
Week 11		
	Tuesday, 10/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Huda Lutfi, "Manners and Customs of Fourteenth-Century Cairene Women: Female Anarchy versus Male Shari'a Order in Muslim Prescriptive Treatises," 99-121 (<i>Shifting Boundaries</i>) - Carl F. Petry, "Class Solidarity versus Gender Gain: Women as Custodians of Property in Later Medieval Egypt," 122-142 (<i>Shifting Boundaries</i>) <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 11/1	<i>Writing Workshop</i>
Week 12		
	Tuesday, 11/6	<i>Student Presentations</i>
	Thursday, 11/8	<i>Student Presentations</i>
Week 13		
	Tuesday, 11/13	<i>Student Presentations</i>
	Thursday, 11/15	<p>Film: <i>Divorce Iranian Style</i> (1998)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email reaction paragraph by end of the day
Week 14		Fall Break

Part V Recommended Reading: Rapoport, Yossef. *Marriage, Money and Divorce in Medieval Islamic Society*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005; Sonbol, Amira al-Azhary, ed. *Women, the Family, and Divorce Laws in Islamic History*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1996; Shatzmiller, Maya. *Her Day in Court: Women's Property Rights in Fifteenth-Century Granada*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007; Tucker, Judith E. *In the House of the Law: Gender and Islamic Law in Ottoman Syria and Palestine*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

Part VI: Approaching the Modern: European Encroachment, Legal Reforms, and The “Woman Question”

Week 15		
	Tuesday, 11/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leila Ahmed, <i>Women and Gender in Islam</i>, “The First Feminists,” pp. 169-188 - Nermin Abadan-Unat, “The Impact of Legal and Educational Reforms on Turkish Women,” 177-194 (<i>Shifting Boundaries</i>) <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 11/29	<p>Primary Sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Qasim Amin, “The Education of Women,” in <i>The Liberation of Women</i>, pp. 11-34 - Bahithat al-Badiya (Malak Hifni Nasif), “A Lecture in the Club of the Umma Party,” in <i>Modernist Islam, 1840-1940</i> (2002), pp. 70-76
Week 16		
	Tuesday, 12/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beth Baron, “The Making and Breaking of Marital Bonds in Modern Egypt,” 275-291 (<i>Shifting Boundaries</i>) - Kenneth Cuno, “Disobedient Wives and Neglectful Husbands,” in <i>Family, Gender, and Law in a Globalizing Middle East and South Asia</i>, 3-18 <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 12/6	<i>Research Paper Proposal Due</i>

Part VI Recommended Reading: Cuno, Kenneth M. *Modernizing Marriage: Family, Ideology, and Law in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Egypt*. New York: Syracuse University Press, 2015; Agmon, Iris. *Family & Court: Legal Culture and Modernity in Late Ottoman Palestine*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2006; Badran, Margot. *Feminists, Islam, and Nation: Gender and the Making of Modern Egypt*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995; Baron, Beth. *Egypt as a Woman: Nationalism, Gender, and Politics*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005; Baron, Beth. *The Women’s Awakening in Egypt: Culture, Society, and the Press*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994; Booth, Marilyn. *May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and Gender Politics in Egypt*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001; Cuno, Kenneth M. and Manisha Desai, eds. *Family, Gender, and Law in a Globalizing Middle East and South Asia*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2009; Doumani, Beshara, ed. *Family History in the Middle East: Household, Property, and Gender*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2003; Fleischmann, Ellen L. *The Nation and Its “New” Women: The Palestinian Women’s Movement, 1920-1948*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003; Pollard, Lisa. *Nurturing the Nation: The Family Politics of Modernizing, Colonizing, and Liberating Egypt, 1805-1923*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005; Tucker, Judith E. *Women in Nineteenth-Century Egypt*. Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 1986.