

**HIST 4382: Topics in Middle Eastern History:
Women in Middle East History**

Fall 2019
Tuesday Thursday 11:30-12:45
SLC 2.203

Professor Rosemary Admiral
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Office Hours: Tue Thu 1:15-2:15 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

- Ibn al-Sa'ī. *Consorts of the Caliphs: Women and the Court of Baghdad*, trans. Shawkat M. Toorawa et. al. New York: New York University Press, 2017.
- Shaarawi, Huda. *Harem Years: The Memoirs of an Egyptian Feminist*, trans. Margot Badran. New York: The Feminist Press at CUNY, 1987.
- Available online through UTD Library (select chapters): Keddie, Nikki R. and Beth Baron, eds. *Women in Middle Eastern History: Shifting Boundaries in Sex and Gender*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991.
- *Additional readings will be posted on eLearning or available online through UTD Library*

Evaluation

Map Quiz	5%
Class Participation	20%
Response Papers	20%
Writing Assignments	20%
Research Paper Proposal	25%
Presentation	10%

Map Quiz [5%]

A map quiz on Thursday, August 29, will cover key countries and cities of the Middle East.

Class Participation [20%]

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.

Response Papers [20%]

Short weekly responses to the readings will help you think through and focus your ideas before in-class discussions, and will demonstrate your understanding of the assigned texts.

Writing Assignments [20%]

Each writing assignment will allow you to apply the analytical and interpretive skills you are developing in this class.

- **Primary Source Analysis (5%)**
 - o Due September 12, this is a brief analysis of a primary source.
- **Secondary Source Analysis (5%)**
 - o Due September 26, this is an analysis of an article related to Middle East women's history.
- **Project Abstract (5%)**
 - o Due October 17, this is a 250 word abstract of your research project.
- **Project Bibliography (5%)**
 - o Due October 24, this is a partial annotated bibliography for your research project.

Research Paper Proposal [25%]

Students will develop a research topic over the course of the semester. The process will include consultation with the instructor, topic approval (by October 3), in-class writing, and submitting a research proposal. Students will submit a 5-6 page research proposal, in addition to a 1-2 page annotated bibliography, on the day scheduled for the final exam (TBA). *Please start thinking about your topic from the first week of class.*

Presentation [10%]

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

*** Detailed information about each assignment will be provided in class and on eLearning. ***

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 (<https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5003>) and the Examples of Academic Dishonesty (<https://www.utdallas.edu/conduct/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.

Additional Resources

Student Success Center

A range of resources to help you succeed at UTD: <https://www.utdallas.edu/studentsuccess/>

Writing Center

Attend workshops or get personalized feedback on writing assignments:
<https://www.utdallas.edu/studentsuccess/writing-and-speaking/writing-center/>

Course Schedule and Assigned Reading

Part I: Studying Middle East Women's History

Week 1		
	Tuesday, 8/20	- Lila Abu Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" <i>American Anthropologist</i> 104, no. 3 (2002), 783-790
	Thursday, 8/22	- Edward W. Said, "Introduction," <i>Orientalism</i> (1978), 1-28
Week 2		
	Tuesday, 8/27	- Meriwether and Tucker, "Introduction," <i>A Social History of Women & Gender in the Modern Middle East</i> (1999), 1-24 - Esposito, "Religious Life: Belief and Practice," <i>Islam: The Straight Path</i> (2011), 85-121 *Response paper
	Thursday, 8/29	- Primary sources: writing premodern Middle East women's history <i>Map Quiz</i>

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, 9/3	- Leila Ahmed, "Early Islam and the Position of Women: The Problem of Interpretation," <i>Women in Middle Eastern History</i> (1991), 58-73 - "Preface" and "Introduction," in Amina Wadud, <i>Qur'an and Woman</i> (1999) *Response paper
	Thursday, 9/5	- Primary sources: Quran, Hadith

Week 4		
	Tuesday, 9/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ruth Roded, “Mystic Women,” <i>Women in Islamic Biographical Collections</i> (1994) <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary sources: poetry, Sufi women’s biographies <p><i>Primary Source Analysis Due</i></p>
Week 5		
	Tuesday, 9/17	<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,” <i>Women in Middle Eastern History</i> (1991), 143-157 <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 9/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary sources: biographies of learned women - Begin: Ibn al-Sa’i, <i>Consorts of the Caliphs</i>: Forward x-xiv and Introduction xvii-xxvi

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, 9/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ibn al-Sa'i, <i>Consorts of the Caliphs</i>, 1-54 <p>*Response paper</p>
Thursday, 9/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ibn al-Sa'i, <i>Consorts of the Caliphs</i>, 55-85 <p><i>Secondary Source Analysis Due</i></p>
Week 7	
Tuesday, 10/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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), 40-55 - D. Fairchild Ruggles, "The Geographic and Social Mobility of Slaves: The Rise of Shajar al-Durr, a Slave-Concubine in 13th-cen. Egypt," <i>The Medieval Globe</i> vol. 2.1 (2016), 41-55 - Kecia Ali, "Concubinage and Consent," <i>International Journal of Middle East Studies</i> 49 (2017): 148-152 <p>*Response paper</p>
Thursday, 10/3	<p>Film: <i>The Magnificent Century, Episode 1</i></p> <p>* Final project topic must be approved by today*</p>

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 Law

Week 8	
Tuesday, 10/8	<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), 11-21 - Indira Falk Gesink, "Intersex Bodies in Premodern Islamic Discourse: Complicating the Binary," <i>Journal of Middle East Women's Studies</i> 14, no. 2 (July 2018): 152-173 <p>*Response paper</p>
Thursday, 10/10	<p><i>Library Workshop: Research Resources</i></p>

Week 9	
Tuesday, 10/15	<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,” <i>Women in Middle Eastern History</i> (1991), 99-121 - Rosemary Admiral, “Transgressing the Boundaries: <i>Zina</i> and Legal Accommodation in the Premodern Maghrib” (forthcoming 2020) <p>*Response paper</p>
Thursday, 10/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary sources: gender, sexuality, law <p><i>Project Abstract Due</i></p>

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; 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; Chaudhry, Ayesha S. *Domestic Violence and the Islamic Tradition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013; Shaikh, Sa’diyya. *Sufi Narratives of Intimacy: Ibn ‘Arabi, Gender, and Sexuality*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012; Ze’evi, Dror. *Producing Desire: Changing Sexual Discourse in the Ottoman Middle East, 1500-1900*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006; Massad, Joseph. *Desiring Arabs*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007; Musallam, Basim. *Sex and Society in Islam: Birth Control before the Nineteenth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983; Habib, Samar. *Female Homosexuality in the Middle East: Histories and Representations*. New York: Routledge, 2007; De Sonny, Amanullah. *The Crisis of Islamic Masculinities*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014; Babayan, Kathryn and Afsaneh Najmabadi, eds. *Islamicate Sexualities: Translations across Temporal Geographies of Desire*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008; Kugle, Scott Siraj al-Haqq. *Homosexuality in Islam: Critical Reflection on Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Muslims*. London: Oneworld, 2010

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

Week 10		
	Tuesday, 10/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leila Ahmed, “The First Feminists,” <i>Women and Gender in Islam</i> (1992), 169-188 - Qasim Amin, “The Education of Women,” in <i>The Liberation of Women</i> (1899), 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), 70-76 <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 10/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shaarawi, <i>Harem Years</i>, 1-32 <p><i>Project Bibliography Due</i></p>
Week 11		
	Tuesday, 10/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mohja Kahf, “Packaging ‘Huda’: Sha’rawi’s Memoirs in the United States Reception Environment,” in <i>Going Global: The Transnational Reception of Third World Women Writers</i> (2000), 148-172 - Shaarawi, <i>Harem Years</i>, 33-82 <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 10/31	<i>Writing Workshop</i>
Week 12		
	Tuesday, 11/5	<i>Student Presentations</i>
	Thursday, 11/7	<i>Student Presentations</i>
Week 13		
	Tuesday, 11/12	<i>Student Presentations</i>
	Thursday, 11/14	Film: <i>The Judge</i> (2017)
Week 14		
	Tuesday, 11/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shaarawi, <i>Harem Years</i>, 83-137 <p>*Response paper</p>
	Thursday, 11/21	<i>Conclusions (no assigned reading)</i>

	Week 15	Fall Break
	Week 16	
	Tuesday, 12/3	<i>Research Workshop</i>
	Thursday, 12/5	<i>Research Workshop</i> <i>Research Paper Proposal Due on day of scheduled Final Exam (TBA)</i>

Part V 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.