

ANT 222.001
Middle East Cultures
Fall 2012

Diane E. King, Ph.D.

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Class Times: 3:30 – 4:45 Tues./Thurs. Location: Lafferty 213

Office Hours: Weds. 2:00 - 2:50 and Thurs. 2:30 – 3:20 (during which no prior appointment is required), and by appointment.

You may leave a message at the office of the Department of Anthropology in Lafferty Hall.

Course Objectives

As part of the General Education curriculum, this course falls under the “Global Dynamics” category of the broad area of “Citizenship.” This course will explore some of the cultures, and aspects of culture, found in the broad region of the Middle East and North Africa. Exploration will be rooted in anthropological research and perspective, and organized around rubrics including kinship, gender, religion, and cultural performance.

By the end of this course, students can expect to have grappled with the following (and additional) questions pertaining to life in the Middle East and North Africa:

- * What are some of the key historical and political features of the region?
- * What are some of the forms of collective identity expression and organization in the region?
- * What are some of the differences between rural and urban life?
- * Can we get “beyond the veil” to better understand gender roles and sexuality?
- * What are some of the ways in which modernity is understood in the region?
- * What kinds of governments are found in the region, and how does the political affect daily life?
- * How can we better understand interventions by the West, including the US occupation of Iraq?
- * What is everyday life like in villages, cities, and diasporas?
- * How has the “Arab Spring” that began in 2011 changed the region?
- * What is “Orientalism,” and are East and West currently in a “Clash of Civilizations?”

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students can expect to have acquired skills and competencies leading to the ability to:

- * assimilate and critique social science writing about the Middle East and North Africa
- * employ new vocabularies pertaining to cultural forms found in the region
- * articulate and debate theories of East-West interaction and interconnectedness
- * carry out a small independent research project involving people from the region
- * apply some of the course content to independently-gathered data
- * write up a research project utilizing the data acquired during the semester

Required Texts

Al-Ali, Nadjé Sadig

2007 *Iraqi Women: Untold Stories from 1948 to the Present*. New York: Zed Books.

Bowen, Donna Lee and Evelyn A. Early

2002 *Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East*, 2nd ed. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Mahfouz, Naguib

1992 *Midaq Alley*. New York: Anchor Books.

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance is mandatory and is vital to your success in this course. But it is not enough to simply attend; you must be ready to participate in class discussion of the readings and lecture material and therefore you must do the readings *before* class. The class schedule below indicates the theme of each class meeting as well as any reading that is to be completed beforehand. Together, attendance and participation comprise 10 percent of your grade. We will utilize name placards in this course, and you must turn yours in at the end of each class period in order to receive credit for attendance. If you arrive after the name placards have already circulated or make an early departure, then you will not receive attendance credit for that day. At the end of the semester, your attendance record will be converted to a percentage by dividing your number of days attended by the number of class meetings. This percentage will then be converted into the number of points possible for attendance and participation (10). For example, if you attended 90% of the time, you would receive 9 points. Participation points are granted only at the very end of the semester, and only in the case of a borderline grade. For example, if your final percentage in the course is 89%, but you participated well throughout the semester, then you will receive one participation point so that your grade is elevated from a B to an A.

Assignments and Grading

You will receive details on the assignments separately. In brief, there are two main assignments in addition to the three exams. For the Reflection Paper, you will be asked to reflect on the novel *Midaq Alley* in a paper at least two pages long. For the Ethnographic Project, you will carry out ethnographic research involving interviewing and participant observation with at least one individual or family from (or connected to) the Middle East or North Africa. The resulting paper will be eight to ten pages long.

We will utilize Blackboard in this course. Instructions will be sent by email to your university address, so please make sure it is working, and check it regularly (which is already required by the university).

The grading scale is straightforward:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% or below	E



Mid-term grades will be distributed at the mid-point of the semester.

<u>Course Requirement</u>	<u>Percentage/Course Points Possible</u>
Exam 1	16
Exam 2	16
Reflection paper	18
Ethnographic project	20
Attendance and Class Participation	10
Final Exam	<u>20</u>
TOTAL	100

Academic Honesty

In this class (and all classes), academic honesty is required of you 100% of the time. Section 6.3.2 of the University Senate Rules states, “Cheating is defined by its general usage. It includes, but is not limited to, the wrongfully giving, taking, or presenting any information or material by a student with the intent of aiding himself/herself or another on any academic work which is considered in any way in the determination of the final grade. Any question of definition shall be referred to the University Appeals Board.” Plagiarism, which is also cheating, involves using someone else’s work without clearly stating that you are doing so. This includes but is not limited to appropriating the words of an article, book, internet source, or another student (past or present). For further information, see <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/Plagiarism.pdf>. At minimum, anyone caught cheating/plagiarizing will receive a failing grade for the assignment in question, and there may be other, more severe consequences. Perform the work for this class honestly and you will derive satisfaction from attaining your grade with integrity, as well as the added benefit of acquiring knowledge that will stay with you for the long term.

Late Assignments and Exam Make-ups

Under normal circumstances, late assignments will lose 10 percentage points per class period, and exam make-ups will not be permitted. The categories of absence that will be excused include, “serious illness; illness or death of family member; University-related trips; major religious holidays; [and] other circumstances [found] to be ‘reasonable cause for nonattendance’” (S.R. 5.2.4.2). You must contact Dr. King at least one week ahead of time in the case of a foreseen absence such as a trip or religious holiday, and as soon as possible in the case of an unforeseen event. Appropriate documentation will be required for all absences except those due to religious observance. You will be given a make-up opportunity for a missed exam, and allowed extra time in the case of an assignment.

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify Dr. King during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. All accommodations must be approved through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in room 2 Alumni Gym, Room 206. Phone: 257-2754.

Course Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Themes and Assignments</u>
	<u>August</u>	
1	23	<u>Introduction</u>
2	28	<u>Generations and Life Passages; Traditional songs</u> Bowen & Early Introduction; ch. 1
	30	<u>Growing up; Explosion</u> Bowen & Early ch. 2, 3
	<u>September</u>	
3	4	<u>Arranged marriage; Weddings</u> Bowen & Early ch. 4, 5
	6	<u>A newspaper; Son’s Return; Funeral</u> Bowen & Early ch. 6, 7, 8
4	11	<u>Sexuality; Marriage</u> Bowen & Early ch. 9, 10
	13	<u>Marriage, divorce, companionship; Oil, fertility</u> Bowen & Early Introduction, ch. 11, 12 ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECT PROPOSAL due Thursday, 13 September
5	18	<u>Law; Veiled revolution; Review and exam discussion</u> Bowen & Early ch. 13, 14
	20	EXAM 1, Thursday, 20 September
6	25	<u>Home, Community, and Work; Abortion, ethics</u> Bowen & Early Introduction, ch. 15, 16
	27	<u>Beauty; Teachers’ lives; Networking</u> Bowen & Early ch. 17, 18, 19

	<u>October</u>	
7	2	<u>Politics, Islamist activism</u> Bowen & Early ch. 20, 21
	4	<u>Popular religion; Zakat</u> Bowen & Early Introduction, ch. 22, 23, 24
8	9	<u>Haj; Sheep; Shrines</u> Bowen & Early ch. 25, 26, 27
	11	<u>Islamic knowledge and interpretation</u> Bowen & Early ch. 28, 29
9	16	<u>Performance and Entertainment; Television; Ramadan; Film-making</u> Bowen & Early Introduction, ch. 30, 31, 32
	18	<u>Prison literature; War poetry</u> Bowen & Early ch. 33, 34
10	23	<u>Desert songs; Review and exam discussion</u> Bowen & Early ch. 35
	25	EXAM 2, Thursday, 25 October
11		<u>Naguib Mahfouz's Cairo</u> Mahfouz Introduction, ch. 1-12
	30	<u>Naguib Mahfouz's Cairo</u> Mahfouz ch. 13-27

	<u>November</u>	
12	1	<u>Naguib Mahfouz's Cairo</u> Mahfouz ch. 28-35

ACADEMIC HOLIDAY – PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DAY

	8	<u>Naguib Mahfouz's Cairo</u> IN-CLASS REFLECTION PAPER Thursday, 8 November
13	13	<u>Iraqi Women: Introduction; Living in the Diaspora</u> Al-Ali Preface, Introduction, ch. 1
	15	<u>Iraqi Women: Living with the Revolution; Living with the Ba'th</u> Al-Ali ch. 2, 3
14	20	<u>Iraqi Women: Living with Wars on Many Fronts</u> Al-Ali ch. 4

ACADEMIC HOLIDAYS – THANKSGIVING

	27	<u>Iraqi Women: Living with War and Sanctions; Living with the Occupation</u> Al-Ali ch. 5, 6
15	29	<u>The Middle East in Lexington</u> Voluntary (Ungraded) Ethnographic Project Presentations ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECT due Tuesday, 29 November

	<u>December</u>	
	4	<u>Orientalism</u> Read this web page: http://www.english.emory.edu/Bahri/Orientalism.html
	6	<u>Wrap-up and final exam review</u>

FINAL EXAM Tuesday, 11 December, 3:30 PM



Kurdish proverb:

“av de-Ru-aw, xIz le cE-y xo-y de-mEn-E”

Translation: The water runs away, but the sand remains in its place.

Meaning: Foreigners will go, but the local people will stay and must live together.

(Source: <www.cogsci.ed.ac.uk/~siamakr/Kurdish/LIT>. Translation: DEK)