

**ANTH 413**  
**ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST:**  
**THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF JORDAN**

University of Washington – Summer Program in Jordan 2016

Instructors:                   **Michael Vicente Pérez**  
                                      **Gozde Burcu Ege**  
Email:                            mvperez@uw.edu  
                                      burcuege@uw.edu  
Class Days and Times:       M/W 1:00 – 3:00pm  
Class Location:               Al-Ahliya College (Sijal)

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course draws on interdisciplinary analyses of the history, culture, and politics of the Middle East to provide a critical introduction to the region. It is designed to examine some of the key issues in the Middle East through the lens of Jordan. The course readings will consider questions of theory, methodology, and representation. It will also offer various grounded case studies examining particular issues relevant to Jordan. Some of the key thematic issues guiding this course include power and representation, identity/subjectivity, Islam/Muslims, the state, displacement and humanitarianism, and space/place.

**II. CLASS PARTICIPATION AND EXPECTATIONS:**

This course is designed to introduce, understand, and critically assess some of the central issues in the study of the Middle East through an immersive approach. My goal as an instructor will be to facilitate productive discussions and critical thinking about the readings. **Your participation is therefore essential for the success of this course. Students are expected to attend every class, arrive on time, and come prepared.** Participation will greatly depend on students' willingness to play an active role in class discussions.

**III. ASSIGNMENTS:**

Policies: All assignments must be turned in on time. **No late work will be accepted.** If you have an emergency situation, please notify immediately in writing or email. I expect documentation if you are unable to complete an assignment on time. I will not accept any assignments by email.

- A. Participation (15 pts.):** Students are expected to attend every class, arrive on time, and come prepared. **Your participation will be evaluated according to your role in promoting class discussions.** Silence is acceptable but only as an exception. I will occasionally call on students to answer questions concerning

course topics and readings so be prepared to contribute. **Participation will ALO extend from participation in volunteer opportunities and Arabic classes. Participation is worth 15 points so make sure you come to class and participate!**

**B. Quizzes (15 pts.):** Throughout the quarter, I will post **3 quiz questions** on canvas. The questions will be brief and relate to the texts/discussions. You will have two days to respond to each question – posted on Sunday night, due Tuesday at 5pm (1-2 pages long). Each quiz is worth 5 points.

**C. Reading Reflection Assignments (30pts.):** You will be required to prepare **three short response papers** covering course materials. Your papers should be 2-3 pages long (double spaced). The structure for each response paper will be one of the following:

- Evaluate an argument: You may take a particular argument/idea from one (or more) of the readings and develop a position on that argument/idea. In this case, your paper can (1) evaluate the argument (examine its strengths/limitations), (2) challenge the argument (examine and critique its limitations), and/or (3) endorse the argument (examine its strengths and explain its value/build on it to strengthen it). The key is to engage the argument critically. Be sure to explain the argument before taking your position. Consider, for example, what the limitations are to the distinction between resistance and subordination.
- Comparative: You may take the work of two or more authors and compare/contrast them. In this paper, you can draw out the common threads (assumptions, arguments, etc.) of particular authors and/or show how they converge/diverge. The key is to demonstrate that you understand what the authors are saying and how you see the relationship between their works. How, for example, do Said and Massad present the concept of Orientalism? What brings their work together/sets them apart? Why is this important?

\*Do not summarize. Although summarizing specific sections or points in the readings may be necessary for framing your paper, the bulk of the assignment should be based on your own thoughts or analysis.

**D. Photo Essay “Representing Jordan- Tourist Gaze” (20pts.):** Throughout the quarter you are required to take photographs of the many sites you visit in and out of Amman and Jordan. You are to select 10 of these photographs and prepare a photo essay representing Jordan as a touristic space. For this assignment, you should think critically about what you would include/exclude and why. Consider and acknowledge your audience. For whom is this essay designed (friends, other tourists, etc.) Each photo must have a 3-5 sentence caption describing the photo. **Keep in mind that you**

**should think critically about how you represent people and places. In addition, you must submit one page explanation for why you organized the photos in the order you chose: what is the rationale for this order?**

**E. Final Paper (20pts.):** You will submit a 5-page final reflection paper on your experiences in Jordan. The paper must engage course materials and your direct experiences while in Jordan. It must also demonstrate critical thinking about how you represent your experience and why. We will provide a prompt midway through the quarter detailing the specifications of this assignment.

**ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES:**

Quiz 1:	Tuesday, July 5
Quiz 2:	Tuesday, July 19
Quiz 3:	Tuesday, August 2
Reading Reflection Assignment 1:	Thursday, July 7
Reading Reflection Assignment 2:	Thursday June 28
Reading Reflection Assignment 3:	Thursday, August 4
Photo Essay: Representing Jordan:	Thursday, August 11
Final Paper:	Thursday, August 19

**IV. COURSE EVALUATION:**

100-99	4.0	A	76-75	2.4	C+
98	3.9		74-73	2.3	
97	3.8	A-	72-71	2.2	
96	3.7		70	2.1	C
95-94	3.6		69	2.0	
93-92	3.5		68	1.9	
91-90	3.4	B+	67	1.8	C-
89	3.3		66	1.7	
88-87	3.2		65	1.6	
86-85	3.1	B	64	1.5	
84	3.0		63	1.4	D+
83-82	2.9		62	1.3	
81	2.8	B-	61	1.2	
80	2.7		60	1.1	D
79	2.6		59	1.0	
78-77	2.5		58	0.9	

**V. COURSE SCHEDULE:**

*IMPORTANT: Readings are assigned according to the day listed. All “Monday” readings are to be read for “Wednesday.” All “Wednesday” readings are to be read for “Monday.” And so on.*

**WEEK 1: Cultural Anthropology**

**June 19-23**

**Wednesday:**

Clifford Geertz: Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture (pgs. 3-30)

Renato Rosaldo: Grief and a Headhunter’s Rage (pgs. 167-176)

Lila Abu-Lughod: Writing Against Culture (pgs. 137-162)

Michael Jackson: The Scope of Existential Anthropology (pgs. 3-28)

**WEEK 2: Anthropological Methods: Ethics and Approaches**

**June 26-30**

**Monday:**

Renato Rosaldo: Subjectivity in Social Analysis (pgs. 168-195) & From the Door of His Tent: The Fieldworker and the Inquisitor (pgs. 77-97)

**Wednesday:**

Nancy Scheper-Hughes: The Primacy of the Ethical: propositions for a Militant Anthropology (pgs. 409-421—Do not read responses unless you want to)

Didier Fassin: Why Ethnography Matters: On Anthropology and its Publics (pgs. 621-646)

Ghassan Hage: Hating Israel in the Field: On Ethnography and Political Emotions (pgs. 59-78)

**WEEK 3: The Anthropology of Islam**

**July 3-7**

**Monday:**

Talal Asad: The Idea of An Anthropology of Islam. (pgs. 1-17)

**Quiz 1 Due Tuesday, July 5 at 5pm.**

**Wednesday:**

Mahmood Mamdani: Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: A Political Perspective on

Culture and Terrorism (pgs. 766-775)

Lila Abu-Lughod: Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others (pgs. 783-790)

Saba Mahmood: Secularism, Hermeneutics, and Empire: The Politics of Islamic Reformation (pgs. 323-347)

Reading Reflection 1 Due Thursday, July 7 at 5pm.

#### **WEEK 4: Palestine and Israel**

**July 10-14**

##### **Monday:**

Edward Said: Zionism from the Standpoint of its Victims (pgs. 7-58)

##### **Wednesday:**

Gabriel Piterberg: Erasures (pgs. 31-46)

Gershon Shafir: Zionism and Colonialism: A Comparative Approach (pgs. 81-96)

Avi Shlaim: The Debate about 1948 (pgs. 171-190)

Benny Morris: Revisiting The Palestinian Exodus of 1948 (pgs. 37-56)

#### **WEEK 5: Jordan, Jordanians and the Palestinians**

**July 17-21**

##### **Monday:**

Joseph Massad: Codifying the Nation: Law and the Articulation of National Identity in Jordan (pgs. 18-49)

Quiz 2 Due Tuesday, July 19 at 5pm.

##### **Wednesday:**

Joseph Massad: The Nation as an Elastic Entity: The Expansion and Contraction of Jordan (pgs. 222-275)

Anderson, Betty: Hashemites and Jordanians & Hashemites and the Palestinians (pgs. 61-116)

#### **WEEK 6: The Anthropology of Jordan**

**July 24-28**

##### **Monday:**

Linda Layne: The Dialogics of Tribal Self-Representation in Jordan (pgs.24-39)

Andrew Shryock: Tribes and the Print Trade (pgs. 26-40)

**Wednesday:**

Andrew Shryock: The New Jordanian Hospitality: House, Host, and Guest in the Culture of Public Display (pgs. 35-62)

Fida Adely: God Made Beautiful Things: Proper Faith and Religious Authority in a Jordanian High School (pgs. 297-312)

Richard Antoun: Civil Society, Tribal Process and Change in Jordan: An Anthropological View (pgs. 441-463)

Irene Maffi: The Emergence of Cultural Heritage in Jordan: The Itinerary of a Colonial Invention (pgs. 5-34)

Reading Reflection 2 Due Thursday, July 28 at 5pm.

**WEEK 7: The Anthropology of Refugees**

**July 31- August 4**

**Monday:**

Liisa Malkki: Speechless Emissaries: Refugees, Humanitarianism, and Dehistoricization & Refugees and Exiles: From Refugee Studies to the “National Order of Things” (pgs. 377-404 & 495-523)

Quiz 3 Due Tuesday, August 2 at 5pm.

**Wednesday:**

Elizabeth Colson: Forced Migration and the Anthropological Response (pgs. 1-15)

Michael Jackson: In Extremis: Refugee Stories/Refugee Lives & Displacement, Suffering and the Critique of Cultural Fundamentalism (pgs. 87-126)

Michel Agier: Between War and City: Toward an Urban Anthropology of Refugee Camps (pgs. 317-341)

Catherine Bestemen: Refuge Fragments, Fragmentary Refuge (pgs. 1-20)

Reading Reflection 3 Due Thursday, August 4 at 5pm.

**WEEK 8: Refuges and Humanitarianism**

**August 7-11**

**Monday:**

Didier Fassin: Humanitarianism as Politics of Life (pgs. 499-520)

Jennifer Hyndman: Scripting Humanitarianism: A Geography of “Refugee” and the Respatialization of Response (pgs. 1-28)

**Wednesday:**

Farah, Randa. UNRWA: Through the Eyes of its Refugee Employees in Jordan (pgs. 389-411)

Ilana Feldman: The Quaker Way: Ethical Labor and Humanitarian Relief (pgs. 689-705)

When “Humanitarianism” becomes “Development:” The Politics of International Aid in Syria’s Palestinian Refugee Camps (pgs. 95-107)

Ruba Salih: From Bare Life to Political Agents: Palestinian Refugees as Avant-Garde (pgs. 66-91)

**Photo Essay Due Thursday, August 11 at 5pm.**

**WEEK 9: Palestinian Refugees**

**August 14-19**

**Monday:**

Dallal Stevens: Legal Status, Labeling, and Protection: The Case of Iraqi Refugees in Jordan (pgs. 1-38)

**Wednesday:**

**Classes End**

**Final Paper Due Thursday, August 19 at 5pm.**