

SOC532
Sociology of the Middle East
Fall 2008, University of Kansas
Tue Thu 11:00-12:15 BLA 209

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Course Objectives

This course is an introduction to the sociological analysis of historical and contemporary political issues pertaining to the Middle East and to the relations between the Middle East and the West. The focus of the course will be on the political changes and state-society relations in the region from the late 18th century on and considerable attention will be devoted to the problems and promises of the present day. Some of the topics we will cover include the nature of the pre-modern states of the Middle East and the impact of their legacy, the role of European powers in changing the region, the emergence and persistence of authoritarian regimes, Arab and Turkish nationalism, the role of oil in politics, Islamic movements, the impact of globalization, the process and problems of democratization and secularism, Arab-Israeli conflict, and American involvement in the Middle East. No prior background of the region will be assumed or expected, however students enrolled in this class will be expected to follow the news related to the Middle East on a daily basis.

Readings

We will use the following books and several additional readings posted online on the course website during the semester. The books are required, and available for purchase at the University Bookstore. All other additional materials will be available on Blackboard.

You are expected to come to class having completed the assigned readings for that particular day.

- Brown, L. Carl. 2001. *Religion and State: The Muslim Approach to Politics*. Ny: Columbia University Press.
- Ernst, Carl W. 2004. *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Kamrava, Mehran. 2005. *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since the First World War*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Kurzman, Charles. 2004. *The Unthinkable Revolution in Iran*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

- Roy, Olivier. 2008. *The Politics of Chaos in the Middle East*. NY: Columbia University Press.
- Smith, Dan. 2006. *The State of the Middle East: An Atlas of Conflict And Resolution*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

I know, and you should also realize very quickly, that this course has a lot of reading. I may not always have the time nor feel the necessity to go over every single reading you have for a particular class. Hence I will assume that unless there are questions in a given class session regarding the readings for that class, that the readings have been read and understood, and that we may safely proceed from there.

There will also be some videos shown in class. Consider these as readings, and remember you are equally responsible for the material in them.

Attendance

One of the most important requirements to be successful in this class is regular attendance. In order to keep up with the assignments and lectures and get the maximum out of this class, you will need to attend all of our meetings. I might take attendance on some days, and I will take them into consideration when I assign your participation grade.

Examinations

There will be two take-home exams for this course. The final exam will focus on material since the mid-term exam; however, you will still be responsible of the material that is pertinent to the current topics.

The midterm take-home questions will be handed out on **Thursday, September 25th**, and it will be due at the beginning of the class on **Tuesday, October 14th**. The final questions will be handed out in class on **Tuesday, December 2nd**, and will be due in my office on **Wednesday, December 17th by noon**. More details regarding the exams will be discussed later in class.

No make-up exams will be given (unless you have an **official** excuse with proof- i.e. a doctor's note detailing your visit, or a note from your academic advisor). **If you miss any of these two exams, you will automatically fail the class, even if you total a passing score with other assignments.**

Reaction Paper

You are responsible to choose one of the following novels, and write a short (3-5 pages) reaction paper. This paper should reflect the new knowledge you acquired in this class, as well as your own take on the issues addressed in the novel, and it is due at the beginning of the class on **Tuesday, December 2nd**.

More details on the reaction paper will be discussed later in class.

- Abderrahim Mounif: Cities of salt
- Ahdaf Soueif: The Map of Love.
- Amin Maalouf: Ports of Call.
- Driss Chraïbi: The Simple Past
- Elias Khouri: The Gates of the City, Journey of Little Ghandi

- Elif Safak: The Kingdom of Strangers,
Gate of the Sun
- Kateb Yacine. The Bastard of Istanbul.
- Louis deBerniere Nedjma
- Naguib Mahfouz. Birds Without Wings
- Orhan Pamuk. The Cairo Trilogy (Palace Walk, Palace of Desire,
Sugar Street),
Midaq Alley
- Simin Daneshvar. My Name is Red,
The White Castle,
Snow
- Tahar Wattar. A Persian Requiem
- Tayeb Salih. The Earthquake
- Yusuf Idris. Season of Migration to the North,
City of Love and Ashes
- Yusuf Al-Qa'Id. War in the Land of Egypt

Keeping up with the News

Many timely and relevant things will probably be happening in the Middle East this semester! You are expected to keep up with them. All students will be asked to read the *New York Times* and to listen to National Public Radio news on *Morning Edition/Weekend Edition* and *All Things Considered*. I obviously do not expect you to read the whole newspaper cover to cover, neither to listen to every single broadcast. However, I do expect you to keep up with major events going on in the world (particularly in relation to the Middle East), and have a broad idea on the major debates. I will keep track of your reading by giving you very short, in class news quizzes every other week. The questions on these quizzes will be chosen from a pool of questions submitted on Blackboard by students by 9pm on Wednesday –the evening before the quiz, and you will also get credit for each question submission. The first news quiz will be on **Thursday, September 4th**.

Map Quiz

There will be a map quiz for this course, on **Thursday, September 11th**. You are not allowed to fail this test-so if you don't get a 70/100 or higher grade, you will have to take them again later in the semester until you get a passing grade.

Course Grade

Your final grade for this class will be based on the following distribution:

Midterm	25%
Final	30%
Reaction Paper	20%
New York Times Quizzes	10%
Map Quiz	5%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale

I use the new KU CLAS standard grading scale (a minus/plus system shown below):

A	4.0	93-100
A-	3.7	90-92
B+	3.3	87-89
B	3.0	83-86
B-	2.7	80-82
C+	2.3	77-79
C	2.0	73-76
C-	1.7	70-72
D+	1.3	67-69
D	1.0	63-66
D-	0.7	60-62
F	0.0	59 and below

Other issues

- I. It is your responsibility to educate yourself regarding important deadlines, college policies, and academic requirements. Please note the following important deadlines regarding add/drop for courses at KU:
 - Last online add/drop date is **September 11**.
 - Last day for credit/non-credit grade option is **October 27**. Remember that you cannot elect this option if you are a sociology major.
 - Courses added or dropped after **September 11** and until **November 17** require my signature and are handled through 109 Strong Hall. Courses dropped on or after September 11 will appear on your academic record as WP or WF.
 - **November 17 is the last day to withdraw from a course.** It is your responsibility to maintain awareness of your grade and status in this course, and to collect the necessary paperwork and signatures should you need to use this policy. *I will not vary office hours to accommodate last minute requests for signature. Please plan accordingly.*

- II. If you have a condition that requires special attention or resources, please inform me as soon as possible, so that I may take appropriate measures. Please remember that I will need a documentation from “Services for Students with Disabilities” when appropriate.

- III. If any class-related activity, including exams, conflict with religious observances of a generally recognized nature that you are under obligation to participate in, you may complete the activity at an alternate time that is mutually agreed upon. In such cases you must contact me at least one week in advance to arrange for an alternate date. Students are expected to complete any work assigned for any class missed due to a religious holiday.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Note: This is a tentative schedule and the instructor reserves the right to make changes on the syllabus and/or schedule if needed)

Week	Topics and Readings
Week 1 <i>Aug 21</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the course
Week 2 <i>Aug 26-28</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining the Middle East • Orientalism: The perceptions of the Middle East in the West <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith, <i>An Atlas of Conflict and Resolution</i>, pp7-13. ○ Kamrava, <i>The Modern Middle East</i>, pp1-22. ○ Said, Edward W. 1978. <i>Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient</i>, pp1-28. ○ <i>Video: Edward Said on Orientalism (Media Education Foundation)</i>
Week 3 <i>Sep 2-4</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Islam • Sep 4: NYT Quiz #1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ernst, <i>Following Muhammad</i>, pp1-105. ○ Brown, Carl. 2000. <i>Religion and State: The Muslim Approach to Politics</i>, pp1-75. ○ <i>Video: Islam: Empire of Faith (PBS Home Video)-part 1</i> ○ <i>Video: Muslims (Frontline, Independent Production Fund)</i>
Week 4 <i>Sep 9-11</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ottoman Imperial Style and its legacy on the Middle East. • Sep 11 : Middle East Map quiz
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith, <i>An Atlas of Conflict and Resolution</i>, pp 16-19. ○ Kamrava, <i>The Modern Middle East</i>, pp22-34. ○ Quataert, Donald. 2000. <i>The Ottoman Empire: 1700-1922</i>, pp 1-53. ○ <i>Video: Islam: Empire of Faith (PBS Home Video)-part 2</i>
Week 5 <i>Sep 16-18</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western involvement in the Middle East, WWI and beyond • Transformations in Society and Economy • Sep 19: NYT Quiz #2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith, <i>An Atlas of Conflict and Resolution</i>, pp 20-27. ○ Kamrava, <i>The Modern Middle East</i>, pp 35-50. ○ Fromkin, David. 1989. <i>A Peace to End All Peace</i>, pp. 15-20, 558-567. ○ Charles Issawi, "Middle East Economic Development, 1815-1914: The General and the Specific," pp. 177-193. ○ Adanir, Fikret. 2001. <i>Armenian Deportations and Massacres in 1915</i>.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Video: Lawrence of Arabia; The First World War</i> ○ <i>Video: Blood and Oil: the Middle East in World War I</i> <p><i>Optional Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roger Owen, "Egypt and Europe: From French Expedition to British Occupation," pp. 111-124. ○ P. Dumont, "Said Bey—The Everyday Life of an Istanbul Townsman at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century," pp. 271-287.
<p>Week 6 <i>Sep 23-25</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● End of WWI and the Creation of the Modern Middle East ● Nationalism ● State, Religion and Secularism ● Sep 25th: Mid-term take-home questions handed out in class
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith, <i>An Atlas of Conflict and Resolution</i>, pp 28-35. ○ Kamrava, <i>The Modern Middle East</i>, pp 50-72. ○ Brown, <i>Religion and State</i>, pp77-122. ○ Serif Mardin, "Religion and Secularism in Turkey," pp. 347-374
<p>Week 7 <i>Sep 30-Oct 2</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arab-Israeli Conflict-Part 1 ● Oct 2: NYT Quiz #3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith, <i>An Atlas of Conflict and Resolution</i>, pp 36-41, 52-55. ○ Kamrava, <i>The Modern Middle East</i>, pp 72-137. ○ <i>Video: Gaza Strip (Typecast Releasing)</i>
<p>Week 8 <i>Oct 7-9</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arab-Israeli Conflict-Part 2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith, <i>An Atlas of Conflict and Resolution</i>, pp 56-61. ○ Kamrava, <i>The Modern Middle East</i>, pp 215-256. ○ Smith, Charles. 2007. <i>Palestine and The Arab-Israeli Conflict</i>, pp. 499-536. ○ <i>Video: Promises (New Yorker Video)</i>
<p>Week 9 <i>Oct 14</i> <i>Oct 16 Fall</i> Break: No class</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Iranian Revolution-Part 1 ● Oct 14th: Midterm exam is due at the beginning of the class
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith, <i>An Atlas of Conflict and Resolution</i>, pp 80-85. ○ Kamrava, <i>The Modern Middle East</i>, pp 138-168. ○ Kurzman, Charles. 2004. <i>The Unthinkable Revolution in Iran</i>. Chapters 1-3. ○ <i>Video: History Channel on Iranian Revolution</i>
<p>Week 10 <i>Oct 21-23</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Iranian Revolution-Part 2 ● Oct 23: NYT Quiz #4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kurzman, Charles. 2004. <i>The Unthinkable Revolution in Iran</i>. Chapters 4-8.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keddie, Nikki R. "Iranian Revolutions in Comparative Perspective," pp. 601-623 ○ <i>Video: Persepolis</i>
Week 11 <i>Oct 28-30</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gender Relations in the Middle East
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eickelman, Dale F. and James Piscatori. 1996. "The Firmest Tie and the Ties that Bind: The Politics of Family and Ethnicity." <i>Muslim Politics</i>, edited by Eickelman, Dale F. and James Piscatori. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, pages 80-107. ○ Moghadam, Valentine M. 2004. "Patriarchy in Transition: Women and the Changing Family in the Middle East". <i>Journal of Comparative Family Studies</i>, 35(2), 137-162. ○ Moghadam, Valentine M. 2004. "A Tale of Two Countries: State, Society, and Gender Politics in Iran and Afghanistan". <i>The Muslim World</i>, 94(4), 449-467. ○ Najmabadi, Afsaneh. "Gender and Secularism of Modernity: How Can a Muslim Woman Be French?" <i>Feminist Studies</i>; Summer 2006; 32, 2; Research Library pg. 239-255. ○ <i>Video: My Head is Mine</i>
Week 12 <i>Nov 4-6</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic Development and States in the Middle East ● Nov 6: NYT Quiz #5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith, An Atlas of Conflict and Resolution, pp 42-45, 118-137 ○ Kamrava, The Modern Middle East, pp 257-330. ○ Owen and Pamuk, A History of Middle East Economies in the Twentieth Century, 229-243.
Week 13 <i>Nov 11-13</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Political Islam and Islamic Movements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brown, Religion and State, pp 123-180. ○ Hashemi, Nader A. 2004. "Islamic Fundamentalism and the Trauma of Modernization: Reflections on Religion and Radical Politics" in <i>An Islamic Reformation?</i>, Michaele Browers and Charles Kurzman eds, pp 159-177. ○ Kurzman, Charles, "Bin Laden and Other Thoroughly Modern Muslims," <i>Contexts</i>, Vol. 1, No. 4, Fall/Winter 2002, pp. 13-20. ○ Roy, Olivier. 2004. <i>Globalized Islam: The Search for a New Ummah</i>. 1-57. <p><i>Optional Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Esposito, John L. 1999. <i>The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?</i> pp74-128. ○ Halliday, Fred. 1996. <i>Islam and the Myth of Confrontation: Religion and Politics in the Middle East</i>, pp 107-132.

<p>Week 14 Nov 18-20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US and the Middle East-Part 1 • Nov 20: NYT Quiz #6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith, An Atlas of Conflict and Resolution, pp 46-49. ○ Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 72:3, (Summer 1993), 22-49. (Blackboard) ○ Edward Said, "The Clash of Ignorance," <i>The Nation</i>, October 22, 2001. http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20011022&s=said ○ Fukuyama, Francis. 2006. "After Neo-Conservatism", <i>New York Times Magazine</i>; Feb 19, 2006; Research Library, pg. 62-67. <p><i>Optional Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ US Presidential Politics, 1947-2002, in the Middle East and Islamic World Reader, Marvin E. Gettleman and Stuart Schaar eds. pp244-252 ○ Halliday, Fred. 2002. Two hours that shook the world: September 11, 2001 : causes and consequences. (Excerpts). ○ <i>9/11 Commission Report</i>, available online at http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/index.htm, chapters 2, 4 and 5.
<p>Week 15 Nov 25-27: Thanksgiving Week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nov 25: Professor Andac is out of town for a Conference ○ No Class
<p>Week 16 Dec 2-4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US and the Middle East-Part 2 • Gulf Wars and Iraq • Dec 2nd: Book Reaction papers are due at the beginning of the class • Dec 2nd: Final take-home questions handed out in class
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith, An Atlas of Conflict and Resolution, pp 94-101. ○ Kamrava, The Modern Middle East, pp 169-214 ○ Roy, Olivier. 2008. The Politics of Chaos in the Middle East. NY: Columbia University Press. ○ Shadid, Anthony. 2005. <i>Night Draws Near: Iraq's people in the Shadow of America's War</i>. Selected Chapters. ○ <i>Video: Iraq in Fragments</i> ○ <i>Video: Living in Baghdad (60 minutes, 4/22/07)</i>
<p>Week 17 Dec 9-11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Question of Democracy • Patterns of Continuity and Change • Dec 11: NYT Quiz #7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kamrava, The Modern Middle East, pp 359-376. ○ Filali-Ansary, Abdou. 2003. "Muslims and Democracy". <i>Islam and Democracy in the Middle East</i>, edited by Larry

	<p>Diamond, Marc F. Plattner, and Daniel Brumberg. Baltimore, Maryland: The Johns Hopkins University Press , pp 193-207.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schlumberger, Oliver, 2006. “Dancing with the Wolves: Dilemmas of Democracy Promotion in Authoritarian Contexts”. <i>Democratization and Development: New Political Strategies for the Middle East</i>. NY: Palgrave Macmillan, pages 33-60. ○ Gole, Nilufer. 2000. “Snapshots of Islamic Modernities”. <i>Daedalus</i>; Winter 2000; 129, 1; Research Library, pp91-117.
<p>Wednesday, Dec 17th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final Take-home exam is due in my office by noon.