

READING IN MODERN ARAB AND ISLAMIC TEXTS

Yoav Di-Capua

HIS 364G
ISL 373
MES 323K

Classes: Monday 3:00-6:00 [MEZ 1.202](#)

Office Hours: Garrison 0.136 (History Department). TH 11:00-1:00

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Course Description:

The aim of this class is to engage directly with the writings of leading Middle Eastern Arab and Islamic intellectuals during the past 150 years. It designed for students with some previous background in Middle East Studies. However, it is by no means mandatory. Main topics for consideration will be: Jurisprudence, Rational Science, Theory of Knowledge, Political Theory, Style of Living, Women's Civil Rights, Social Liberalism and more. Through a close textual analysis of writers such as Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, Muhammad Abduh, Taha Husayn, Sayyid Qutub (and more contemporary texts). We will examine multiple vernacular intellectual traditions such as Arab Liberalism, Islamic Modernism, Reformism, Salafism, and Radicalism.

This class fills the requirement for Substantial Writing Component

Course Requirements and Grading:

- Wikipedia article 25%
- Outline, bibliography and Final Seminar research paper of 10-15 double spaced pages: 50%
- Participation and class presentation: 25%

Library Tours: TBD

Deadlines:

- A. February 28th Proposed Seminar topics and bibliography are due.
- B. Paper outline
- C. March 21th First version of Wikipedia article.
- D. April 4th Second version of Wikipedia article.
- E. April 11th Outline for final seminar paper.
- F. May 6th Final seminar paper is due.

Attendance is mandatory (One letter off for more than three classes skipped).

Course Packet: Course packet is available at *Jenn's Copy and Binding* 2200 Guadalupe
jenns@io.com • 512-473-8669

Mandatory Books (Co-Op or bookfinder.com)

Charles Kurzman, *Modernist Islam 1840-1940: A Sourcebook* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002)

Mansoor Moaddel, Kamran Talattof (eds.), *Modernist and Fundamentalist Debates in Islam: A Reader* (NY: Palgrave, 2002)

Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 1798-1939* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989)

Accommodations: At the beginning of the semester, students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify me by presenting a letter prepared by the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD tel. 471-6259)

Academic Integrity: Students should maintain a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholarly work. All work handed in by students should be their own work, prepared without unauthorized assistance. All cases of academic dishonesty will be treated with due severity. For further information visit the Student Judicial Services website at <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs> or call 471-2841.

WEEK 1: The Traumatic Modernity of the Arab East

January 24th

- I. Read: Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab, *Contemporary Arab Thought: Cultural Critique in Comparative Perspective* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), Introduction.

WEEK 2: Sensing the Modern World

January 31st

- Cole, Juan Ricardo, *Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), pp. 1-20, 143-161.
- John W. Livingston, "Shaykhs Jabarti and `Aṭṭā r: Reaction and Response to Western Science in Egypt," *Der Islam*, vol. 74, no. i, (1997), pp. 92-106.
- Philipp Thomas, *'Abd al-Rahman al-Jabarti's History of Egypt: A Guide* (Stuttgart, 1994), pp. Introduction.

Primary Text:

- Philipp Thomas, *'Abd al-Rahman al-Jabarti's History of Egypt* ('Aja'ib al- athar fi 'l-tarajim wa-'l-akhbar) (Stuttgart, 1994), Vol. 3-4, pp. 1-9.

WEEK 3: Meeting Europe

February 7th

- Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, pp. 67-102.
- Juan Cole, "Rifa'a al-Tahtawi and the Revival of Practical Philosophy," *The Muslim World* 70 (1980), pp. 29-46.
- John W. Livingston, "Western Science and Educational Reform in the Thought of Shaykh Rifa'a al-Tahtawi," *IJMES*, Vol. 28, No. 4 (November 1996), pp. 543-564.

Primary Text:

- Rifa'a Rafi' al-Tahtawi, *An Imam in Paris: Account of A Stay in France by an Egyptian Cleric, 1826-1831* (London: Saqi, 2004). pp., Table of Contents, 189-213, 233-237, 248-251, 330-332, 341-344.

WEEK 4: The *Nabda*: Part I

February 14th

- Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, pp. 245-260.
- Sabry Hafiz, *The Genesis of Arabic Narrative Discourse: A Study In The Sociology of Modern Arabic Literature* (London: Saqi Books, 1993), pp. 37-104.

Primary Text:

- Qasim Amin, “The Emancipation of Women and the New Women,” Charles Kurzman, *Modernist Islam 1840-1940*, pp. 61-69.

WEEK 5: Islamic Reformism/Modernism I

February 21st

- Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, pp. 103-129.
- “Introduction” in Charles Kurzman, *Modernist Islam 1840-1940: A Sourcebook* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 3-27.
- Nikki Keddie, “Sayyid Jamal al-Din al-Afghani,” *Pioneers of Islamic revival*. Ed. Ali Rahnama. London: Zed, 1994, pp. 11-29.

Primary Text:

- Al-Afghani, “Answer to Renan,” in Charles Kurzman, *Modernist Islam 1840-1940*, pp. 103-110.
- Al-Afghani, “An Islamic Response to Imperialism,” in Esposito and Donhohue, *Islam in Transition*, pp. 13-15.
- Al-Afghani, “Islamic Solidarity,” in Esposito and Donhohue (eds.), *Islam in Transition*, pp. 16-20.

WEEK 6: Islamic Reformism/Modernism II

February 28th

- Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, pp. 130-160.
- John W. Livingstone, “Muhammad Abduh on Science,” *Muslim World*, vol. 85, no. III, 1995, pp. 215-234.

Primary Text:

- Muhammad Abduh, “Laws Should Change” and “The Theology of Unity,” in Charles Kurzman, *Modernist Islam 1840-1940*, pp. 50-60.

- Muhammad Abduh, “Religious Reform” Mansoor Moaddel, Kamran Talattof (eds.), *Modernist and Fundamentalist Debates in Islam*, pp. 41-53.
- Muhammad Abduh, “Islam, Reason and Civilization,” in Esposito and Donohue (eds.), *Islam in Transition*, pp. 20-24.
- “Kawakibi on Stagnation” in Charles Kurzman, *Modernist Islam 1840-1940*, pp. 152-157.

**First Library Tour: Introduction to
Research tools**

WEEK 7: The *Nabda*: Part II

March 7th

- Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, pp. 324-341.
- Israel Gershoni, “The Evolution of National Culture in Modern Egypt: Intellectual Formation and Social Diffusion, 1892-1945,” *Poetics Today*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (Summer 1992), pp. 325-350.
- Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab, *Contemporary Arab Thought: Cultural Critique in Comparative Perspective* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), Introduction 18-47.

Primary Text:

- Taha Hussein, *The Days*, pp. 275-344.
- Taha Hussein, *The Future of Culture in Egypt*, Ch. 2, 7, 10, 11, 14, 21.
- Taha Hussein, *The Sufferers: Stories and Polemics*, pp. 1-9.

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 8: Arab Nationalism

March 21^h

- Adeed Dawisha, *Arab Nationalism in the Twentieth Century: From Triumph to Despair* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003), pp. 14-48.

Primary Text:

- George Antonius, *The Arab Awakening: the Story of the Arab National Movement* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott company, 1939). Table of Contents.
- Michel Aflaq, "The Arab Personality Between Past and Present," in Esposito and Donohue (eds.), *Islam in Transition*, pp. 87-92.
- The Arab Ba`th, "Constitution," in Sylvia Haim, *Arab Nationalism an Anthology*, pp. 233-241.

Wikipedia article is due

WEEK 9: The Salafiyya Movement I

March 285th

- Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, pp. 222-244.
- David Commins, "Religious Reformers and Arabists in Damascus, 1885-1914," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 18, No. 4. (Nov., 1986), pp. 405-425.
- Rashid Rida, *Christian Criticisms, Islamic Proofs: Rashid Rida's Modernist Defense of Islam* (Oxford: Oneworld, Translation and analysis by Simon A. Wood 2008), pp. 17-29, 48-64.

Primary Text:

- Muhammad Rashid Rida, "Renewal, Renewing, and Renewers," in Charles Kurzman, *Modernist Islam 1840-1940*, pp. 77-85.

WEEK 10: Islamic/Arab Liberalism

April 4th

- Charles Kurzman, *Liberal Islam: A Sourcebook* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), Introduction.
- Anke von Kügelgen, “A Call for Rationalism: “Arab Averroists” in the Twentieth Century,” *Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics*, (1996), pp. 97-132.
- Binder, Leonard, *Islamic Liberalism: A Critique of Development Ideologies* (Chicago: 1988), pp. 128-169.

Primary Text:

- Ali Abd al-Raziq, “Message not Government Religion Not State,” in Kurzman, *Liberal Islam*, pp. 2-29.
- `Ali `Abd al-Raziq, “The Problem of the Caliphate,” Mansoor Moaddel, Kamran Talattof (eds.), *Modernist and Fundamentalist Debates in Islam*, pp. 95-100.
- Muhammad Khalaf-Allah, “Legislative Authority,” in Kurzman, *Liberal Islam*, pp. 37-45.

**Second version of Wikipedia article
is due**

WEEK 11: The Salafiyya Movement II

April 11th

- Lia, Brynjar, *The Society of The Muslim Brothers In Egypt: The Rise Of An Islamic Mass Movement, 1928-1942* (Reading, England: Ithaca, 1998), pp. 1-49.

Primary Text:

- Banna Hasan, *Five Tracts of Hasan Al-Banna'* (1906-1949 : a Selection from the Majmu'at rasa'il al-Imam al-shahid Hasan al-Banna' (Berkeley, 1978).
 - A. “Our Mission”, pp. 40-69
 - B. “On Jihad,” pp. 133-156.

**Second Library Tour
How to research and form a bibliography?**

WEEK 12: Sayyid Qutb and the Rejection of the Modern

April 18th

- Musallam, Adnan, *From Secularism to Jihad: Sayyid Qutb and the Foundations of Radical Islamism* (Westport, Conn. 2005), pp. 27-52, 53-111.¹

Primary Text:

- Qutb, Sayyid, *A Child from the Village 1903-1966* (Syracuse, NY: 2004), translator's introduction and pp. 97-112.
- Sayyid Abul A`la Maududi, "Fallacy of Rationalism," in *Modernist and Fundamentalist Debates in Islam*, pp. 207-221.
- Sayyid Qutb, "Islam and the Foundation of knowledge," Mansoor Moaddel, Kamran Talattof (eds.), *Modernist and. Fundamentalist Debates in Islam*, pp. 197-206.
- Sayyid Qutb, "War, Peace and Islamic Jihad," Mansoor Moaddel, Kamran Talattof (eds.), *Modernist and. Fundamentalist Debates in Islam*, pp. 223-246.
- Sayyid Qutb, *Milestones*, in the *Sayyid Qutb Reader*, pp. 35-43.

Final version of Encyclopedia article is due

WEEK 13: The Iranian Disenchantment with Modernity

April 25th

- Abrahamian, Ervand, *Iran Between Two Revolutions* (Princeton, N.J.: 1982), pp. 496-529.
- Nabavi, Negin, *Intellectuals and the State in Iran: Politics, Discourse and the Dilemma of Authenticity* (Gainesville, Florida: 2003), pp. 67-106.
- Ali Rahnema, "Ali Shariati: Teacher, Preacher, Rebel," in *Pioneers of Islamic Revival*. Ed. Ali Rahnema. London: Zed, 1994, pp. 208-250.

Primary Text:

- Ali Shariati, "Critical Attitude..." in Mansoor Moaddel, Kamran Talattof (eds.), *Modernist and. Fundamentalist Debates in Islam*, pp. 315-324.

¹ Optional reading: Sayed Khatab, *The Power of Sovereignty: the Political and Ideological Philosophy of Sayyid Qutb* (London; New York: Routledge, 2006). **JC 49 K474 2006**
Carre, Olivier, *Mysticism and politics: a critical reading of Fi Zilal al-Qur'an by Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966)* (Leiden, 2003) **BP 80 Q86 C3613 2003.**

- Jalal Al-I Ahnad, “Westoxication,” in Mansoor Moaddel, Kamran Talattof (eds.), *Modernist and Fundamentalist Debates in Islam*, pp. 343-358.
- Ruhullah Khomeini, “The Pillars of the Islamic State,” and “The necessity of Islamic Government,” in Mansoor Moaddel, Kamran Talattof (eds.), *Modernist and Fundamentalist Debates in Islam*, pp. 247-262.

WEEK 14: Radical Thought in the age of Globalization

May 2nd

- Kepel, Gilles, *Jihad: the Trail of Political Islam* (Cambridge, Mass. 2002), pp. 299-323
- Ian Buruma, Avishai Margalit, *Occidentalism: the West in the Eyes of its Enemies* (New York: Penguin Press, 2004), pp. 13-47, 101-136.

Primary Text:

- Osama Bin Laden, *Messages to the World: the Statements of Osama Bin Laden*.
 - a. The Betrayal of Palestine, pp. 3-15.
 - b. Declaration of Jihad, pp. 23-31.
 - c. The Crusaders Wars, pp. 133-139.
 - d. To the Americans, pp. 160-172.