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 21st 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)


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


WEEK 2: Sensing the Modern World
January 31st


*Primary Text:*

WEEK 3: Meeting Europe
February 7th


*Primary Text:*

WEEK 4: The Nahda: Part I
February 14th

• Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, pp. 245-260.


**Primary Text:**


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**WEEK 5: Islamic Reformism/Modernism I**
February 21st

• Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, pp. 103-129.


**Primary Text:**


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**WEEK 6: Islamic Reformism/Modernism II**
February 28th

• Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, pp. 130-160.


**Primary Text:**


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.


Primary Text:
• Taha Hussein, The Days, pp. 275-344.
• Taha Hussein, The Future of Culture in Egypt, Ch. 2, 7, 10, 11, 14, 21.

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 8: Arab Nationalism
March 21st

**Primary Text:**


**Wikipedia article is due**

**WEEK 9: The Salafiyya Movement I**

March 28th

- Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, pp. 222-244.


**Primary Text:**


**WEEK 10: Islamic/Arab Liberalism**

April 4th


Primary Text:

Second version of Wikipedia article is due

WEEK 11: The Salafiyya Movement II
April 11th


Primary Text:

A. “Our Mission”, pp. 40-69

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:**


**Final version of Encyclopedia article is due**

**WEEK 13: The Iranian Disenchantment with Modernity**

April 25th


**Primary Text:**


WEEK 14: Radical Thought in the age of Globalization
May 2nd


Primary Text:
  a. The Betrayal of Palestine, pp. 3-15.
  c. The Crusaders Wars, pp. 133-139.
  d. To the Americans, pp. 160-172.