

Sociol 280P 001
Sociology of the Middle East
Spring '20

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Class Hours: M 4:00-6:00 PM

Classroom: 402 Barrows

Office: 474 Barrows

Office Hours: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM on
Mondays (and by appointment at other
times via calendly.com/yenigun)

Overview

This course aims to provide a survey of the sociology of the geographic region extending to Western Asia and Northern Africa, often dubbed MENA (Middle East and North Africa). It covers how various trajectories of state-formation and building; structures and relations of power, authority and legitimacy; religion and law; contentious politics and politics of ordinary life; violence, minority politics, refugees and diasporas; racial, ethnic, and sectarian relations; gender dynamics, sex, feminisms, masculinities, and family relations; religious and secular social movements from nationalism, socialism to Islamism and post-Islamism; political economy and class relations operate in this geographic context. We also look at studies on the media, movie, literature, music, and other cultural products on the Middle East to further explore the sociology of the region. Post-Arab spring dynamics concerning politics of protest, new media, new authoritarian modalities of power, expressions of gender, religious, ethnic, and class identities will be of particular interest for our survey. We will first take up the methodological issues involved in the sociology and anthropology of the Middle East and Islam. Thereafter, we will focus each of the themes mentioned above through monographs and articles written from various approaches and methodologies focusing on either single countries or multiple contexts through comparative studies.

Course Texts*

The required texts are a combination of books, selections from monographs or edited volumes, and articles. Unless we cover a substantial part of a book, or the book is available on our library databases, I will make the readings available on Bcourses page (<https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1490649>). You can get the books from the bookstore or any other bookstore or online vendors of your choice.

**In case we find some other texts more relevant to our debates than some existing ones later on during the semester, we may decide to make revisions to the readings accordingly without changing the work load for you.*

You can buy the following books as we will read substantial portions of them:

Pappé, Ilan. 2014. *The modern Middle East: A social and cultural history*. 3rd Edition Abingdon, Oxon, England: Routledge. 978-0415829519

Mitchell, Timothy. 2011. *Carbon democracy: political power in the age of oil*. London, U.K.: Verso. 978-1781681169

Schwedler, Jillian. 2019. *Understanding the contemporary Middle East*. 5th ed. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers. 978-1626378414

Glidden, Sarah. 2016. *Rolling blackouts: dispatches from Turkey, Syria, and Iraq*. Montréal, Québec: Drawn & Quarterly. 978-1770462557

Tuğal, Cihan. 2016. *The fall of the Turkish model: how the Arab uprisings brought down Islamic Liberalism*. London: Verso. 978-1784783327

Gugler, Josef. 2011. *Film in the Middle East and North Africa: creative dissidence*. Austin: University of Texas Press. 978-0292737563

Nafisi, Azar. 2008. *Reading Lolita in Tehran: a memoir in books*. New York: Random House. 978-0812979305

Course Requirements

In addition to regular attendance to course sessions, you will be expected to write **response papers** between 600-1500 words for at least 6 classes during the quarter (48% each towards your final grade). You can write a 7th one, if you wish, to make up for your lowest graded paper.

You have the option to keep a **course journal** instead of response papers. In that case, I will ask you to turn in your journals three times during the quarter, after the 4th, 7th and 10th sessions. You can receive your journals the following Friday from my office. For the journals, you will use either a composition book (e.g. ruled, 9 3/4 in x 7 1/2 in), any other notebook of your choice, or a 3-ring binder. If you wish, you can use one notebook using one section for journal entries and another for lecture notes. Ideally after each class and at the very least after each week you will complete journal entries for each class session, including date and your preferred title. The entries will be at least 200-300 words each and each entry will also include 3-5 keywords.

Additionally, there will be a **final research paper, due on Friday, May 15, 2020**. (52% of your final grade).

Extra Credit Movies and Documentaries: I will hand out a list of movies and documentaries on the Middle East. You can get extra credit by writing journal entries/response papers on them. If you all agree, we can also have extra movie screening sessions with short discussions afterwards.

A one-paragraph description of the final project will be due on **March 9, 2020**, before our class hour. I will also ask you to turn in your paper proposal that will include a tentative bibliography on **April 6th**. I will give you feedback on your proposal and make bibliographical suggestions. Incompletes will be granted only if prior arrangements with a specific extended due date are made.

Please submit your work both electronically through bCourses except the Final paper. **All electronic submissions will be due before the relevant class hour.**

Academic Integrity and Honor Code

You are responsible for understanding the University rules regarding academic integrity and the honor code. The general guidelines are laid out here:

https://teaching.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/general/hc_guide_for_syllabi.pdf I

assume you have already familiarized yourself with the code. For more detailed information on these please examine the necessary documents at

<https://teaching.berkeley.edu/berkeley-honor-code> for the Honor Code and

<https://teaching.berkeley.edu/resources/design/academic-integrity#anchor1> for

Academic Integrity. The full BERKELEY CAMPUS CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT can be

downloaded here: <https://sa.berkeley.edu/code-of-conduct>. Please do not hesitate to ask

me should you have any questions regarding plagiarism or any other academic integrity issues.

In brief, *“As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity respect for others.”* The hope and expectation is that you will adhere to this code.

Accommodations Policy

Student rights regarding accommodations for disability are addressed as follows on the university website:

Confidentiality: Information about a student’s disability is confidential, and may not be shared with other students.

Role of Instructor: Course instructors play a critical role in enabling the University to meet its obligation to appropriately accommodate students with disabilities who are registered with the Disabled Students Program (DSP) and who have been issued a Letter of Accommodation.

Reading Assignments:

In advance: Because students with print disabilities usually need assistance from the DSP Alternative Media Center, reading materials should be provided well in advance (two or more weeks) before the reading assignment due date.

Required or Recommended: Always indicate which course readings (including bCourses postings) are either “required” readings, or “recommended.”

Accessible Format: Reading materials (especially bCourses postings) should be provided in an “accessible format,” e.g., clearly legible, “clean” (without stray marks, highlighting,

or mark-ups), and whenever possible, in a Word Document or word-searchable PDF. For more information about accommodations for students with disabilities, please contact the Disabled Students' Program at 510-642-0518 or email DSP Director Karen Nielson knielson@berkeley.edu (link sends e-mail). For more information about providing reading assignments in an accessible format, please contact Martha Velasquez directly at dspamc@berkeley.edu (link sends e-mail).

The link to the university policy on Religious accommodations is available in the Religious Creed section of the Academic Calendar webpage. <http://registrar.berkeley.edu/calendar>

Course Schedule

January 27 (Class 1)

Course Introduction- no reading

February 3 (Class 2): How to study the sociology of the Middle East and sociology of Islam?

Salvatore, Armando. 2016. "Introduction." In *The sociology of Islam: knowledge, power and civility*. Chichester, West Sussex, UK: Wiley Blackwell, 1-39.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/9781118662601>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/book/10.1002/9781118662601>

Turner, Bryan S. 1974. "Marx, Weber and Islam." In *Weber and Islam: a critical study*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 171-184.

Afary, Janet, Kevin Anderson, and Michel Foucault. 2005. "The Paradoxical World of Foucault: The Modern and the Traditional Social Orders" in *Foucault and the Iranian Revolution: gender and the seductions of Islamism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 13-37. <http://public.ebookcentral.proquest.com/choice/publicfullrecord.aspx?p=557551>.

Ghamari-Tabrizi, Behrooz. 2016. *Foucault in Iran: Islamic Revolution after the Enlightenment*. Minneapolis : University of Minnesota Press. (Selections).

Chalcraft, John. 2016. "Introduction." In *Popular Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1-52.

doi:10.1017/CBO9780511843952. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/popular-politics-in-the-making-of-the-modern-middle-east/B257838D0E0216619D790D12058D70EF>

Abu-Lughod, Lila. "Zones of Theory in the Anthropology of the Arab World." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 18 (1989): 267-306. www.jstor.org/stable/2155894.

Asad, Talal. "The Idea of an Anthropology of Islam." *Qui Parle* 17, no. 2 (2009): 1-30. www.jstor.org/stable/20685738.

Deeb, Lara, and Jessica Winegar. "Anthropologies of Arab-Majority Societies." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 41 (2012): 537-58. Accessed January 21, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/23270726.

Optional:

Zubaida, Sami. "Is there a Muslim Society? Ernest Gellner's sociology of Islam." *International Journal of Human Resource Management* 24, no.2 (1995) : 151-188.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/03085149500000007>

February 10 (Class 3) State Formation and State Building

Owen, Roger. 2004. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. 3rd ed. London: Routledge (Selections).

Anderson, Lisa. 2014. *The State and Social Transformation in Tunisia and Libya, 1820-1980*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9781400859023> (Selections).

Anderson, Lisa. "The State in the Middle East and North Africa." *Comparative Politics* 20, no. 1 (1987): 1-18. doi:10.2307/421917. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/421917> (Selections)

Ayubi, Nazih N. M. 1995. *Over-stating the Arab state: politics and society in the Middle East*. London: I.B. Tauris. (Selections)

Supplemental Readings:

Schwarz, Rolf. 2011. *War and state building in the Middle East*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida. <http://site.ebrary.com/id/10511598>.

February 17 (Class 4) Political Economy of the Middle East

Moore, Pete W. "Political Economy." In *Politics & society in the contemporary Middle East*, edited by Michele Penner Angrist, 75-98. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2019.

Cammett, Melani Claire, Ishac Diwan, Alan Richards, John Waterbury, and Alan Richards. 2015. *A political economy of the Middle East*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press. <https://search.credoreference.com/content/title/wviewpeme> (Selections).

Mitchell, Timothy. 2011. *Carbon democracy: political power in the age of oil*. London, U.K.: Verso. (Selections)

Adly, Amr. 2013. *State reform and development in the Middle East: Turkey and Egypt in the post-liberalization era*. London: Routledge. (Selections).

Beinin, Joel. 2015. *Workers and thieves: labor movements and popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&scope=site&db=nlebk&db=nlabk&AN=1074372>. (Selections).

Supplemental Readings:

Beblawi, Hazem. "The Rentier State in the Arab World." *Arab Studies Quarterly* 9, no. 4 (1987): 383-98. www.jstor.org/stable/41857943.

Issawi, Charles. 1982. *An economic history of the Middle East and North Africa*. New York: Columbia University Press. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/heb.00901> (Selections).

Owen, Roger, and Şevket Pamuk. 1998. *A history of Middle East economies in the twentieth century*. London: I.B. Tauris.

Schwedler, Jillian. 2019. *Understanding the contemporary Middle East*. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2013. (Chapters 7-8).

February 24 (Class 5) Classes and Subalternities

Hourani, Albert. "Ottoman Reform and the Politics of Notables." In Hourani, Albert S., Philip C. Khoury, and Mary Wilson, eds. *The Modern Middle East: a Reader*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2014.

Pappé, Ilan. 2014. *The modern Middle East*. Abingdon, Oxon, England: Routledge. Selected chapters "The rural history of the Middle East in the twentieth century," "Urban history"

Ali, Syed. 2010. *Dubai: gilded cage*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (Selections).

Beinin, Joel. 2015. *Workers and thieves: labor movements and popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&scope=site&db=nlebk&db=nlabk&AN=1074372>. (Selections).

Chalcraft, *Popular Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*, selections.

Bayat, Asef. 2013. *Life as politics: how ordinary people change the Middle East*. <http://public.ebib.com/choice/publicfullrecord.aspx?p=1175179> (selected chapters).

Schwedler, Jillian. 2019. *Understanding the contemporary Middle East*. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2013. (Chapter 10).

Beinin, Joel, and Frédéric Vairel. 2013. *Social Movements, Mobilization, and Contestation in the Middle East and North Africa: Second Edition*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press. <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&scope=site&db=nlebk&db=nlabk&AN=713645>. (Chapter 10).

Supplemental Readings:

Beinin, Joel, and Zachary Lockman. 1987. *Workers on the Nile: nationalism, communism, Islam, and the Egyptian working class, 1882-1954*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press (selections).

Beinin, Joel. 2001. *Workers and peasants in the modern Middle East*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press (Selections).

March 2 (Class 6): Nation-Building, Identities and Minority Politics

Robson, Laura. 2016. *Minorities and the modern Arab world: new perspectives*.
<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&scope=site&db=nlebk&db=nlabk&AN=1158934>. (Selected chapters)

Parker, K. Scott, and Tony E. Nasrallah. 2017. *Middle Eastern minorities and the Arab Spring: identity and community in the twenty-first century*. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press. (selected chapters).

Amin, Samir. 1978. *The Arab nation*. London: Zed Press. (Selections).

Bruinessen, Martin van. 1992. *Agha, shaikh, and state: the social and political structures of Kurdistan*. London: Zed Books. (Selections).

Koohi-Kamali, Fereshteh. "The development of nationalism in Iranian Kurdistan." In *The Kurds: A Contemporary Overview*, edited by Kreyenbroek, Philip G. and Stefan Sperl, , 171-192. London: Routledge, 1992.

Bozarslan, Hamit. 2004. *Violence in the Middle East: from political struggle to self-sacrifice*. Princeton, NJ: Markus Wiener (Selections).

Supplemental Readings:

Bruinessen, Martin van "Kurdish identities and Kurdish nationalisms in the early twenty-first century"

March 9 (Class 7) Refugees and Displacement

FINAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION DUE

Chatty, Dawn. 2010. *Displacement and dispossession in the modern Middle East*. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010. (Selections).

McGee, Thomas. 2016. "Mapping Action and Identity in the Kobani Crisis Response." *Kurdish Studies* 4 (1): 51–77. doi:10.33182/ks.v4i1.406.
<https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=472855>

Irene Dulz. 2016. "The displacement of the Yezidis after the rise of ISIS in Northern Iraq." *Kurdish Studies* 2:131-147. <https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=472839>

Glidden, Sarah. 2016. *Rolling blackouts: dispatches from Turkey, Syria, and Iraq*. Montréal, Québec: Drawn & Quarterly.

Clean Clothes Campaign Turkey. November 20, 2019. "Syrian workers in Turkey's garment industry: Looking back, moving forward" Istanbul, Turkey.

<https://www.business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/documents/turkey%20report.pdf>

Leitner Center for International Law and Justice. 2018. "Gendered-Approach Inputs to UNHCR for the Global Compact on Refugees: Lessons from Abuses faced by Syrian Female Refugees in Lebanon, Turkey, and Jordan." <https://www.unhcr.org/5a3bb9b77.pdf>

March 16 (Class 8): Gender, sex, feminism, masculinities, and family in the Middle East

Zengin, Asli. "Violent Intimacies: Tactile State Power, Sex/Gender Transgression, and the Politics of Touch in Contemporary Turkey." *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 12, no. 2 (2016): 225-245. <https://www.muse.jhu.edu/article/625055>.

Selections from:

Meriwether, Margaret Lee, and Judith E. Tucker. 1999. *Social history of women and gender in the modern Middle East*. Boulder, Colo: Westview Press.

Mahmood, Saba. 2005. *Politics of piety: the Islamic revival and the feminist subject*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/heb.04721>

Charrad, M. 2001. *States and women's rights: the making of postcolonial Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2013. *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

<http://www.degruyter.com/view/product/207107?rskey=F08cus&result=107&q=>

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&site=eds-live&db=e000bna&AN=575616&ebv=EB&ppid=>

Al-Ali, Nadjie Sadig, and Nicola Christine Pratt. 2009. *Women and war in the Middle East: transnational perspectives*. London: Zed Books, 131-157.

<http://site.ebrary.com/id/10359436>.

Ghannam, Farha. 2013. *Live and die like a man: gender dynamics in urban Egypt*.

<http://site.ebrary.com/id/10739981>.

Kandiyoti, Deniz, Nadjie Sadig Al-Ali, and Kathryn Spellman-Poots. 2019. *Gender, governance and Islam*. Edinburgh : Edinburgh University Press.

Al-Rasheed, Madawi. 2013. *A most masculine state: gender, politics and religion in Saudi Arabia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=527888&site=ehost-live&scope=site>.

Supplemental Readings:

Hasso, Frances Susan. 2011. *Consuming desires: family crisis and the state in the Middle East*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. <http://site.ebrary.com/id/10459561>.

Kholoussy, Hanan. 2010. *For better, for worse: the marriage crisis that made modern Egypt*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Ouzgane, Lahoucine. 2006. *Islamic masculinities*. London, UK: Zed Books Ltd.
<http://www.dawsonera.com/depp/reader/protected/external/AbstractView/S9781848131514>.

El-Feki, Shereen. 2013. *Sex and the Citadel: intimate life in a changing Arab world*. New York: Pantheon Books.

Sadiqi, Fatima. 2016. *Women's movements in post-"Arab Spring" North Africa*. New York : Palgrave Macmillan

March 30 (Class 9): Religion and Middle Eastern Sociology

Alternative day due to an out-of-state conference

Tuğal, Cihan. 2009. *Passive revolution: absorbing the Islamic challenge to capitalism*.
<http://site.ebrary.com/id/10329922>. (selected chapters).

Sarfati, Yusuf. 2014. *Mobilizing religion in Middle East politics: a comparative study of Israel and Turkey*. Milton Park, Abingdon: Routledge. (Selected chapters).

Bayat, *Life as Politics*. (Selected chapters).

Roy, Olivier. 2004. *Globalized Islam: the search for a new Ummah*. New York: Columbia University Press (Selected Chapters).

Kurzman, Charles. 2004. *The unthinkable revolution in Iran*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press (selections).

Kurt, Mehmet. 2017. *Kurdish Hizbullah in Turkey: Islamism, violence and the state*. London : Pluto Press. (selections)

Arjomand, Said Amir. 2016. *Sociology of Shi'ite Islam: collected essays*. Leiden: Brill (selections).

Supplemental Readings:

Al-Azmeh, Aziz. 2009. *Islams and modernities*. London: Verso.

April 6 (Class 10) Education and Sociology & Governmentality of Everyday Life PAPER PROPOSALS DUE

Starrett, Gregory. 1998. *Putting Islam to work: education, politics, and religious transformation in Egypt*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1525/california/9780520209268.001.0001>. (Selected chapters).

Ismail, Salwa. 2006. *Political life in Cairo's new quarters: encountering the everyday state*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. (Selections).

Bayat, *Life as Politics*. (selected chapters).

Rock-Singer, Aaron. 2019. *Practicing Islam in Egypt: print media and Islamic revival*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2019.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108590877>

Kandiyoti, D., and Z. Emanet. 2017. "Education as Battleground: The Capture of Minds in Turkey." *Globalizations* 14 (6): 869–76. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2017.1325170>

Supplemental Readings:

Kandiyoti, D. 2012. "The Travails of the Secular: Puzzle and Paradox in Turkey." *Economy and Society* 41 (4): 513–31. doi:10.1080/03085147.2012.718631.

April 13 (Class 11) Civil Society, Contentious Politics, and the Arab Spring

Vickie Langohr. 2004. "Too Much Civil Society, Too Little Politics: Egypt and Liberalizing Arab Regimes." *Comparative Politics* 36 (2): 181. doi:10.2307/4150142.

Beinin and Vairel, 2013, *Social Movements, Mobilization, and Contestation in the Middle East and North Africa*. (Selected chapters).

Chalcraft, *Popular Politics*. (Selections).

Bayat, Asef. 2017. *Revolution without revolutionaries: making sense of the Arab Spring*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&scope=site&db=nlebk&db=nlabk&AN=1528160>.

Tuğal, Cihan. 2016. *The fall of the Turkish model: how the Arab uprisings brought down Islamic Liberalism*. London: Verso. (Selections).

Supplemental Readings:

Carapico, Sheila. "Civil Society." In Angrist, *Politics & society in the contemporary Middle East*, 99-120.

Cole, Juan Ricardo. 2014. *The new Arabs: how the millennial generation is changing the Middle East*. New York : Simon & Schuster.

Schwedler, Jillian. 1995. *Toward civil society in the Middle East?: a primer*. Boulder, CO: L. Rienner.

Hawthorne, Amy. 2004 *Middle Eastern democracy: is civil society the answer?*. Vol. 1. Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2004.
<https://carnegieendowment.org/2004/03/01/middle-eastern-democracy-is-civil-society-answer-pub-1463>.

Tuğal, Cihan. 2013. "'Resistance everywhere': The Gezi revolt in global perspective." *New Perspectives on Turkey* 49: 157-172. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0896634600002077>

April 20 (Class 12) Popular Culture and Media

Pappé, Ilan. 2014. *The modern Middle East*. Abingdon: Routledge. Selected chapters
“Popular Culture: music, dance and poetry” “Performing arts: on stage and on screen”
“The media revolution.”

Gana, Nouri. 2012. “Rap and Revolt in the Arab World.” *Social Text*, no. 113 (December):
25–53. <https://doi.org/10.1215/01642472-1725784>

Fedele, Valentina. 2014. “Singing the revolution: North African rap and the story of the
Arab uprisings.” *European Journal of Research on Social Studies*, no. 1 (August): 24-28.
https://www.academia.edu/31542088/Singing_the_revolution._North_African_rap_and_the_story_of_the_Arab_uprisings_1

Gugler, Josef. 2011. *Film in the Middle East and North Africa: creative dissidence*. Austin:
University of Texas Press. (Selected chapters).

Salama, Mohammad. 2018. *Islam and the culture of modern Egypt: from the monarchy to
the republic*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press. (Selected chapters).

April 27 (Class 13) Middle Eastern Literature and its Representations

Cooke, Miriam. “Middle Eastern Literature.” In Schwedler. *Understanding the
contemporary Middle East*, 403-438.

Nafisi, Azar. 2008. *Reading Lolita in Tehran: a memoir in books*. New York: Random
House.

Keshavarz, Fatemeh. 2007. *Jasmine and stars: reading more than Lolita in Tehran*. Chapel
Hill: University of North Carolina Press. <http://site.ebrary.com/id/10273411>.

Final Paper Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2020