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:

Abingdon, Oxon, England: Routledge. 978-0415829519


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


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**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 ½ 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](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](https://teaching.berkeley.edu/berkeley-honor-code) for the Honor Code and [https://teaching.berkeley.edu/resources/design/academic-integrity#anchor1](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](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?


Optional:
February 10 (Class 3) State Formation and State Building

Supplemental Readings:

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

Supplemental Readings:


**February 24 (Class 5) Classes and Subalternities**


**Supplemental Readings:**


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


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


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

Selections from:


Supplemental Readings:


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

**Alternative day due to an out-of-state conference**


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


**Supplemental Readings:**


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


**Supplemental Readings:**

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


**Supplemental Readings:**


Tuğal, Cihan. 2013. ““Resistance everywhere”’: The Gezi revolt in global perspective." *New Perspectives on Turkey* 49: 157-172. [https://doi.org/10.1017/S0896634600002077](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0896634600002077)
**April 20 (Class 12) Popular Culture and Media**


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


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


**Final Paper Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2020**