Attention!

This is a representative syllabus. The syllabus for the course you are enrolled in will likely be different. Please refer to your instructor’s syllabus for more information on specific requirements for a given semester.
NELC 3205: Women in the Muslim Middle East
Instructor:
Class:
Office Hours:

NELC 3205: Women in the Muslim Middle East

This class explores the position of women in the Middle East both past and present. We will analyze women's cultural, social, political, and economic roles in a variety of Middle Eastern countries within the context of Islam. A significant part of this process is locating the voices of Muslim women as much as possible in order to understand how they perceive themselves and their roles in Islamic society and the wider world. By looking at a wide range of topics, such as Islamic law and the family, women in the Qur'an, Islamist feminisms, and Muslim women's political participation, we will uncover the complex ways in which notions of religious identity and gender intersect in the modern Middle East. This course fulfills GE Cultures and Ideas and GE Diversity: Global Studies.

Required Texts
- All articles and book chapters will be placed on Carmen
  https://www.amazon.com/Complete-Persepolis-Marjane-Satrapi/dp/0375714839/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1483669793&sr=8-2&keywords=persepolis+by+marjane+satrapi

Assignments and Grading
- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- Reading Responses/Reviews: 15%
- Presentation: 10%
- Midterm Paper: 25%
- Final Paper: 30%

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is mandatory. Exceptions are made for excused absences: illnesses, family issues, etc. Make sure you talk to me about this. Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings for the day. Additionally, I will ask that everyone find a news item of interest pertaining to the Middle East that we can all discuss for the first 10 minutes of class. This will be an easy way to boost participation, as well as keep everyone informed. Attendance will be taken each day.

Reading Responses/Reviews: These papers will be 300-500 words. I will post the reading response questions after class on Fridays. Using the readings, lectures, and insights from class discussion, you will write a brief answer to the question posed. While your ideas and analysis are the most important things considered, spelling, grammar, organization, and thoughtfulness are also crucial! Be mindful in your writing – try to use details from the course materials to draw your own conclusions.
and arguments. Cite your sources. Reviews will be based on the film/book – give a concise and thoughtful analysis of the work at hand.

**Midterm Paper:** This is a 3-5 page research paper. You may write it on any topic you like, but it must deal with issues we discuss from weeks 2-7. This is a formal research paper – be prepared to formulate an argument, be analytical, and have sources beyond our course readings. You must use at least 4 secondary sources **outside of course assigned materials.** You are more than welcome to use our course readings, but you must also use the required outside sources. You are also required to discuss your topic and sources with me in advance.

**Presentation:** This is supposed to be fun! You will all individually have a 10 minute presentation about **anything!** The only requirement is that it must relate to women in the Muslim Middle East. You are also required to talk to me about your topic beforehand, but it’s up to you what you want to discuss. You can use a PowerPoint, videos, pictures, etc., be creative and have fun with it.

**Final Paper:** This is a 5-8 page research paper. You may write it on any topic you like, but it must deal with issues we discuss from weeks 7-14. You must use at least 4 secondary sources. Like the midterm, have an argument, be analytical, and have sources beyond our course readings. You must use at least 4 secondary sources **outside of course assigned materials.** You are more than welcome to use our course readings, but you must also use the required outside sources. You are also required to discuss your topic and sources with me in advance.

**Don’t Plagiarize.** Academic Misconduct Policy: All suspected cases will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct, in accordance with university rules. The Committee on Academic Misconduct investigates or establishes procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

**Students with disabilities,** contact me and the Office of Disability Services [Baker Hall 098, 614-292-3307].

**Course Structure and Readings:**

**Week 1: Getting to Know the Middle East**
- **January 11 [W]:** Introductions
- **January 13 [F]:** The Middle East

**Readings:**
CIA. *The World Factbook* [Middle East]:
[https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/wfbExt/region_mde.html](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/wfbExt/region_mde.html) [Focus on 2 or 3 countries/territories to read about. Make sure to read the introduction, and then go from there. Skip Armenia and Georgia because they will not be covered in this course.]

**Week 2: Women in Early Islamic History**

- **[January 18 [W]]:** Early Islamic Civilization
  - *Readings:*
    - *Introduction to Islam:*

- **[January 20 [F]]:** Representations of Women in Islamic Tradition
  - *Readings:*

**Week 3: Family and Home Life: Marriage and Divorce**

- **[February 1 [W]]:** Marriage
  - *Readings:*
    - White, Jenny B. *Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East*, “Two Weddings.”
    - “UK Muslims Revive Temporary Marriages.”

- **[February 3 [F]]:** Divorce
  - *Readings:*
    - *In Class Film: Divorce Iranian Style*
    - **READING RESPONSE 2 DUE 2/6 [Monday by 5 PM]**

**Week 4: Gender Roles**

- **[February 8 [W]]:** Children and Growing Up
  - *Readings:*
    - Schaefer Davis, Susan. *Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East*, “Growing up in Morocco.”
- Eickelman, Christine. *Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East*, “Oil, Fertility, and Women's Status in Oman.”
- **In Class Film:** [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/14/iran-fertility-treatment_n_4789824.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/14/iran-fertility-treatment_n_4789824.html)

- **Readings:**
  - **In Class Film: *A Veiled Revolution***
  - **TALK TO ME ABOUT MIDTERM PAPER TOPICS AND SOURCES**
  - **READING RESPONSE 3 DUE 2/13 [Monday by 5 PM]**

**Week 5: Nation, Society, and Culture**

- **February 15 [W]:** Women’s Movements in the late 19th and early 20th c.
  - **Readings:**

- **February 17 [F]:** Spotlight on Modern Turkey
  - **Readings:**
    - White, Jenny B. *NWSA Journal*. “State Feminism, Modernization, and the Turkish Republican Woman.”
    - **READING RESPONSE 4 DUE 2/20 [Monday by 5 PM]**

**Week 6: Women in Turkey: A Case Study through Film**

- **February 15 [W]:** In class film: *Mustang*
- **February 17 [F]:** In class film: *Mustang*

**Discussion**

**Week 7: Sexuality and Status of Women**

- **February 22 [W]:** Women and Sexuality
Readings:

- Foster, Angela. *Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East*. “Young Women’s Sexuality in Tunisia: The Health Consequences of Misinformation among University Students.”
- Mahdavi, Pardis. *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*. “‘But What if Someone Sees Me?’ Women, Risk, and the Aftershocks of Iran’s Sexual Revolution.”

- **February 24 [F]: Women’s Status, Sexuality, and Self**

  Readings:
  - The New Yorker. “Learning to Speak Lingerie.”
    [http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/08/10/learning-to-speak-lingerie](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/08/10/learning-to-speak-lingerie)

MIDTERM PAPERS DUE 2/27 [Monday by 5 p.m.]

Week 8: Persepolis: Growing Up During the Iranian Revolution

- **March 1 [W]:**
  Readings:

- **March 3 [F]:**
  Readings:
  - TALK TO ME ABOUT YOUR PRESENTATION TOPICS!

Week 9: Persepolis: Part II

- **March 8 [W]:**
  Readings:
  - *Persepolis*, Pp. 87-134.

- **March 10 [F]:**
  Readings:
  - In Class Film: *Persepolis*
  - *PERSEPOLIS REVIEW DUE 3/12 [Sunday by 12 AM]*

Week 10: SPRING BREAK → MARCH 13-17

Week 11: Feminism and Women’s Rights

- **March 22 [W]: Feminism in the Middle East**
  Readings:
  - Badran, Margot. *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*, “Between Secular and Islamic Feminism/s: Reflections on the Middle East and Beyond.”
    [http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/03/201332715585855781.html](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/03/201332715585855781.html)

- **March 24 [F]: Women and the Fight for Rights**
Readings:
- The New Yorker. “Sisters in Law: Saudi women are beginning to know their rights.”
  http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/01/11/sisters-in-law
- The New Yorker. “War of Words: A woman's battle to end stoning and juvenile execution in Iran.”
  http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/01/04/war-of-words-annals-of-activism-laura-secor
- In Class Film: Ladies First: Saudi Arabia’s Female Candidates

Week 12: Presentations
- March 29 [W]: First Group
- March 31 [F]: Second Group

Week 13: Women and Politics
- April 5 [W]: Politics, Identity, and Nationalism
  Readings:
  - Deeb, Lara. An Enchanted Modern, “Public Piety as Women's Jihad.”
  - The Atlantic. “Kurdistan’s Female Fighters.”
    http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/01/kurdistan-female-fighters/272677/
- April 7 [F]: The Arab Spring
  Readings:
  - Newsom, Victoria. Journal of International Women’s Studies, “Arab Women, Social Media, and the Arab Spring: Applying the framework of digital reflexivity to analyze gender and online activism.”
  - The Guardian. “Women have emerged as key players in the Arab Spring.”
    https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/apr/22/women-arab-spring

READING RESPONSE 5 DUE 4/10 [Monday by 5 PM]

Week 14: IS [Islamic State] and Women
- April 12 [W]: Women's Lives under IS
  Readings:
  - Women of the Islamic State: A Manifesto
  - The Guardian. “Women Describe Life Under ISIS.”
    https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/17/isis-orders-women-iraq-syria-veils-gloves
  - BBC. “The Real Housewives of ISIS.”
    http://townhall.com/tipsheet/christinerosselle/2017/01/05/bbcs-real-housewives-of-isis-sketch-has-made-some-people Pretty-mad-n2267523
In Class Film: Secret Footage of Life under IS

TELL ME YOUR FINAL PAPER TOPICS/SOURCES
- April 14 [F]: IS Up-Close
  - In Class Film: Vice, “The Islamic State.”
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUjHb4C7b94
  - READING RESPONSE 6 DUE 4/17 [Monday by 5 PM]

Week 15: Review and Discussion
- April 19 [W]: Review, Q&A
- April 21 [F]: No class; work on final papers!

FINAL PAPERS DUE MAY 1