

SOC 600
Sociological Perspectives: Middle East
Spring 2008, University of Kansas
T R 9:30-10:45 FRA 730

Professor: Elif Andaç Office: 751 Fraser Hall E-mail: andac@ku.edu Office Hours: T 11:00-12:00 R 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

Course Objectives

This course is a seminar on the sociological analysis of contemporary issues pertaining to the Middle East and to the relations between the Middle East and the West. The focus of the course will be on the political changes and state-society relations in the region. Some of the topics we will cover include the nature of the state-society relations in the Middle East, the role of Islam in everyday life and politics, contemporary liberal and radical Islamic movements, gender relations, the impact of globalization, the process and problems of democratization and secularism, as well as inter-state conflicts of the region. No prior background of the region will be assumed or expected, however students enrolled in this class will be expected to follow the news related to the Middle East on a daily basis.

Readings

We will use the following books and several additional readings posted online on the course website during the semester. The books are required, and available for purchase at the University Bookstore. All other additional materials will be available on Blackboard.

You are expected to come to class having completed the assigned readings for that particular day.

- Brown, Carl. 2000. *Religion and State: the Muslim Approach to Politics*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Milton-Edwards, Beverley and Peter Hinchcliffe. 2001. *Conflicts in the Middle East since 1945*. NY: Routledge.
- Roy, Olivier. 2004. *Globalized Islam: The Search for a New Ummah*. NY: Columbia University Press.

Suggested Readings:

- Ernst, Carl. 2003. *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press.
- Owen, Roger. 2006 (1992). *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. New York: Routledge.

I know, and you should also realize very quickly, that this course has a lot of reading. I may not always have the time nor feel the necessity to go over every single reading you have for a particular class. Hence I will assume that unless there are questions in a given class session regarding the readings for that class, that the readings have been read and understood, and that we may safely proceed from there.

There will also be some videos shown in class. Consider these as readings, and remember you are equally responsible for the material in them.

Attendance

One of the most important requirements to be successful in this class is regular attendance. In order to keep up with the assignments and lectures and get the maximum out of this class, you will need to attend all of our meetings. I might take attendance on some days, and I will take them into consideration when I assign your participation grade.

Response Papers and Discussion Questions

There is no midterm for this course. Instead, you will be asked to choose three weeks during which you will be responsible to

1. cover the readings in detail;
2. write a 3-5 pages response essay to the readings;
3. prepare 3-5 discussion questions you think are relevant to the readings, which will be covered in class;
4. and post both the essay and the questions on Blackboard at least 24 hours before the meeting time for me and your classmates to read.

Each of these three assignments will be worth 20% of your final grade.

Final Exam

The final exam will be a take-home essay. On May 1st, two weeks before the due date, I will give you a set of essay questions you can choose from. You will choose only one topic, and write a 6-8 pages essay incorporating relevant readings and your own reflections on the issue. For the essay, you will be allowed (but not asked) to use external references if you think they will help you on your writing. The essays are due in my office **by 1:00pm on Friday, May 16th**.

Keeping up with the News

Many timely and relevant things will probably be happening in the Middle East this semester! You are expected to keep up with them. All students will be asked to read the *New York Times* and to listen to National Public Radio news on *Morning Edition/Weekend Edition* and *All Things Considered*. I obviously do not expect you to

read the whole newspaper cover to cover, neither to listen to every single broadcast. However, I do expect you to keep up with major events going on in the world (particularly in relation to the Middle East), and have a broad idea on the major debates. I will keep track of your reading by giving you very short, in class news quizzes every other week. The questions on these quizzes will be chosen from a pool of questions submitted on Blackboard by students by 9pm on Wednesday –the evening before the quiz, and you will also get credit for each question submission. The first news quiz will be on **Thursday, February 7th**.

Course Grade

Your final grade for this class will be based on the following distribution:

Three response papers & Discussion Questions (20% each)	60%
Take-Home Final Essay	20%
New York Times Quizzes	10%
Participation	10%

Other issues

- I. It is your responsibility to educate yourself regarding important deadlines, college policies, and academic requirements. Please note the following important information regarding **Withdrawing, Electing Credit/No Credit Deadlines and Repeat Policy**
 - a. Withdraw dates for the semester are:
 - 1st period ends February 7th. Classes dropped by this time will be removed from transcript. This is also the last day to drop online.
 - 2nd period: February 8th– April 17th. Students need the instructor's signature to drop a course, a grade of WP or WF is assigned (but does not affect GPA)
 - Last day to withdraw from classes is April 17th
 - Last day to add a course: February 14th
 - b. Electing Credit/No Credit
 - Last day to elect credit/no credit is February 28th.
 - Credit is received when an A, B, or C is earned. D's and F's receive no credit.
 - **Students cannot take courses in their major as credit/no credit.**
 - c. Repeat Policy

- The repeat policy *has changed*. Course Repeat differs from retaking a course-- students may retake any course, and the grade will be counted just like any other course to their GPA. To *repeat* a course (meaning that the grade for the first course will be replaced by the subsequent grade earned,) the course must be **under** the 300 level, and students can only repeat a course a total of five times. This means that they can repeat the same course over and over, or repeat **This process is now automatic and requires no paperwork.**

If you have further questions about these deadlines and policies, I urge you to contact Dawn Shew, Advising Specialist, at dshew@ku.edu, or access the Registrar's website at <http://www.registrar.ku.edu/>

- II. If you have a condition that requires special attention or resources, please inform me as soon as possible, so that I may take appropriate measures. Please remember that I will need a documentation from "Services for Students with Disabilities" when appropriate.
- III. If any class-related activity, including exams, conflict with religious observances of a generally recognized nature that you are under obligation to participate in, you may complete the activity at an alternate time that is mutually agreed upon. In such cases you must contact me at least one week in advance to arrange for an alternate date. Students are expected to complete any work assigned for any class missed due to a religious holiday.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Note: This is a tentative schedule and the instructor reserves the right to make changes on the syllabus and/or schedule if needed)

Week	Topics and Readings
Week 1 <i>January 17</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the course
Week 2 <i>Jan 22-24</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining the Middle East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lewis, Bernard. 1995. <i>The Middle East: A Brief History of the Last 2000 Years</i>. New York: Touchstone. Pp. 3-18. ○ Said, Edward W. 1978. <i>Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient</i>, pp1-28. ○ Halliday, Fred. 1993. "Orientalism' and Its Critics", <i>British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies</i>, Vol. 20, No. 2., pp. 145-163. ○ Lockman, Zachary. 2004. <i>Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism</i>. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Pages: 66-98. ○ Video: Edward Said: the Last Interview ○ Suggested Video: Edward Said on Orientalism (Media Education Foundation)
Week 3 <i>Jan 29-31</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islam: Whose Islam? What Islam? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brown, Carl. 2000. <i>Religion and State: the Muslim Approach to Politics</i>, pp9-75. ○ Ernst, Carl. 2003. <i>Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World</i>. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press. Pages: 37-106 ○ <i>The Middle East</i>. 2007. Washington D.C.: CP Press. Pp 3-32 ○ Video: Muslims (Frontline, Independent Production Fund)
Week 4 <i>Feb 5-7</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islam, Middle East and the West • Feb 7: NYT Quiz #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brown, Carl. 2000. <i>Religion and State: the Muslim Approach to Politics</i>, pp77-122. ○ Ernst, Carl. 2003. <i>Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary Word</i>, pp1-36. ○ Halliday, Fred. 1996. <i>Islam and the Myth of Confrontation: Religion and Politics in the Middle East</i>. NY: I.B.Tauris. pp107-132, 160-194.

<p>Week 5 Feb 12-14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radical Islamic Movements-I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brown, Carl. 2000. <i>Religion and State: the Muslim Approach to Politics</i>, pp 123-180. ○ Beinlin and Stork . 1997. "On the Modernity, Historical Specificity and International Context of Political Islam", in <i>Political Islam</i>, Joel Beinlin and Joe Stork, eds. pp3-28. ○ Hashemi, Nader A. 2004. "Islamic Fundamentalism and the Trauma of Modernization: Reflections on Religion and Radical Politics" in <i>An Islamic Reformation?</i>, Michaëlle Browers and Charles Kurzman eds, pp 159-177. ○ Moaddel, Mansoor and Stuart A. Karabenick. Forthcoming. <i>Religious Fundamentalism and the World of Young Muslims in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Social Forces.</i>
<p>Week 6 Feb 19-21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radical Islamic Movements-II • NYT Quiz #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kurzman, Charles, "Bin Laden and Other Thoroughly Modern Muslims," <i>Contexts</i>, Vol. 1, No. 4, Fall/Winter 2002, pp. 13-20. ○ Additional readings to be announced.
<p>Week 7 Feb 26-28</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalization-I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roy, Olivier. 2004. <i>Globalized Islam: The Search for a New Ummah</i>. NY: Columbia University Press, pages 1-200.
<p>Week 8 March 4-6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalization-II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roy, Olivier. 2004. <i>Globalized Islam: The Search for a New Ummah</i>. NY: Columbia University Press, pages 201-340.
<p>Week 9 March 11-13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-I: Middle Eastern Patriarchy, Family and Women • NYT Quiz #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eickelman, Dale F. and James Piscatori. 1996. "The Firmest Tie and the Ties that Bind: The Politics of Family and Ethnicity." <i>Muslim Politics</i>, edited by Eickelman, Dale F. and James Piscatori. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, pages 80-107. ○ Hajjar, Lisa. 2004. "Domestic Violence and Shari`a: A Comparative Study of Muslim Societies in the Middle East, Africa and Asia," in Lynn Welchman, editor, <i>Women's Rights and Islamic Family Law: Perspectives on Reform</i>. London, U.K.: Zed. ○ Valentine M Moghadam. 2004. "Patriarchy in Transition: Women and the Changing Family in the Middle East". <i>Journal of Comparative Family Studies</i>, 35(2), 137-162. ○ Valentine M Moghadam. 2004. "A Tale of Two Countries: State, Society, and Gender Politics in Iran and Afghanistan". <i>The Muslim</i>

	<i>World</i> , 94(4), 449-467.
Week 10 <i>March 18-20</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRING BREAK!
Week 11 <i>March 25-27</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-II-Women, Liberal Islam and Modernity • NYT Quiz #4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gole, Nilufer. 2000. "Snapshots of Islamic modernities". <i>Daedalus</i>; Winter 2000; 129, 1; Research Library, pp91-117. ○ Arat, Yesim. 2005. <i>Rethinking Islam and Liberal Democracy: Islamist Women in Turkish Politics</i>. Albany: State University of New York Press. Pp. 15-88, 109-116. ○ Mahmood, Saba. 2005. <i>Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject</i>. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, pages 40-78.
Week 12 <i>Apr 1-3</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratization and Development in the Middle East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tehranina, Majid. 2003. "Disenchanted worlds: Secularization and Democratization in the Middle East". <i>Democratization in the Middle East: Experiences, Struggles, Challenges</i>, edited by Amin Saikla and Albrecht Schnabel. NY: united Nations University Press, pp79-102. ○ Filali-Ansary, Abdou. 2003. "Muslims and Democracy". <i>Islam and Democracy in the Middle East</i>, edited by Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner, and Daniel Brumberg. Baltimore, Maryland: The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp 193-207. ○ Schlumberger, Oliver, 2006. "Dancing with the Wolves: Dilemmas of Democracy Promotion in Authoritarian Contexts". <i>Democratization and Development: New Political Strategies for the Middle East</i>. NY: Palgrave Macmillan, pages 33-60.
Week 13 <i>Apr 8-10</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflicts in the Middle East: An Overview • NYT Quiz #5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Milton-Edwards, Beverley and Peter Hinchcliffe. 2001. <i>Conflicts in the Middle East since 1945</i>. NY: Routledge.
Week 14 <i>April 15-17</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationalism and Minorities in the Middle East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moaddel, Mansoor. 2005. <i>Islamic Modernism, Nationalism, and Fundamentalism: Episode and Discourse</i>. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, pp 121-194. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egypt: Liberalism and territorial Nationalism • Syria: Pan-Arab Nationalism • Iran: Economic Nationalism

<p>Week 15 Apr 22-24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islam, Secularism and Nationalism in Modern Turkey • NYT Quiz#6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cagaptay, Soner. 2006. <i>Islam, Secularism and Nationalism in Modern Turkey: Who is a Turk?</i> NY: Routledge.
<p>Week 16 Apr 29-May 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eickelman, Dale F. 2005. New Media in the Arab Middle East and the Emergence of Open Societies. <i>Remaking Muslim Politics: Pluralism, Contestation, Democratization</i>. Edited by Robert W. Hefner. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, pages 37-59. ○ Singerman, Diane. 2005. Rewriting Divorce in Egypt: Reclaiming Islam, Legal Activism, and Coalition Politics. <i>Remaking Muslim Politics: Pluralism, Contestation, Democratization</i>. Edited by Robert W. Hefner. New jersey: Princeton University Press, pages 161-188. ○ Additional readings to be announced.
<p>Week 17 May 6-8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patterns of Continuity and Change • NYT Quiz #7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Readings to be announced.
<p>Friday, May 16th</p>	<p>Final Take-home exam is due in my office by 1pm.</p>