How do Palestinians and Israelis conceptualize the ideal polity? How do Muslims understand the roles of women and men? How are historical experiences related to the collective memory of a community, and how does memory shape contemporary social life in the Middle East? How are local histories, societies, and cultures related to global processes of politics, economics, and culture? How do modern Middle Eastern peoples see their own identities and how and why do these conceptions differ from Western discourses about the region? In this seminar, we engage these questions by reading some important recent ethnographies (anthropological monographs) emerging from the Middle East region in the past few years.

Students are encouraged to think critically about and beyond both popular Western images of the Middle East and supposed boundaries between nations and civilizations. Particularly emphasized are the interconnections — political, cultural, etc. — between East and West, South and North.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

After taking this course, students will be able to:

- Appreciate the diversity of the cultures, social forms, languages, religions, states, and economies that fall within the modern Middle East

- Grasp the role of macro-politics, especially those relating to empire and West–East power differentials, in shaping the daily lives, outlooks, and intellectual and cultural dynamics of the modern Middle East.
• Critically evaluate stereotypes both of the “Orient” and of the “Occident,” and how these stereotypes relate to the political agendas of states and other institutions of power.

• Appreciate the transnational, trans-regional, and global intersections of culture, intellect, and politics connecting the modern Middle East with other regions.

• Write in appropriate analytical and scholarly prose.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Required Texts**


Other readings will be posted on the course Sakai site. Students should use their Pacific ID and password to log in at https://pacific.rsmart.com/xsl-portal. The course site is found under the heading “ANTH 193A 01 STK.” The readings are found at the “Resources” link.

**Recommended Text**

Map Exercise: 25 points
Students are to complete a map exercise. Instructions will accompany the exercise.

Weekly Reflection Papers: 15 points each X 14 weeks = 210 points
Due each Monday in-class. 300 - 500 words each. These are an opportunity to discuss the most interesting, challenging, inspiring, etc., aspects of the readings or discussions of the week. No question is a bad question. Think of these as similar to a journal, an opportunity to articulate your own thoughts about a theme or a reading and ask further questions.

Research Paper: 250 points
The course will culminate in a final or term paper.
- the final paper should be approx. 15 pp. double-spaced.
- unlike the reflection papers, the final paper should be based on the student’s own research of a theme or problem formulated by the student in consultation with the instructor. A sign-up sheet for appointments will be handed out in class. Rubrics will be handed out during semester.

Attendance and Participation: 100 points
Attendance is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences will result in a reduction of the final course grade (the penalty to be determined by the instructor). Class participation will be graded on the basis on your attendance, your verbal participation in small and large group discussions, and your evident preparedness for class. Just showing up for class every day will earn you a grade of a “C” for participation. Earning a higher grade requires active engagement with the material of the class.

GRADE SCALE (%)
95 - 100 = A  
90 - 94 = A-  
87 - 89 = B+  
84 - 86 = B  
79 - 83 = B  
75 - 78 = C+  
70 - 74 = C  
60 - 69 = D  
< 60 = F
**INTERESTING AND USEFUL WEBSITES**

I've found these to be excellent. Some are guides to current events and daily life in the Middle East and neighboring regions. Others, e.g., Democracy Now, Foreign Policy Magazine, Glenn Greenwald, Juan Cole’s Informed Comment, and Tom Dispatch, are particularly good at highlighting the contours and realities of U.S. Middle East policies.


* Foreign Policy Magazine: [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/)


* The Iranian: [http://iranian.com/](http://iranian.com/)


* The National (United Arab Emirates): [http://www.thenational.ae](http://www.thenational.ae)


Week 1, Jan 10 – 14:

Course Introduction


For Fri: read Khalidi, Resurrecting Empire, pp. 118 – 151 (Sakai).

Friday: Map exercise assigned. Due in-class Wed, Jan 19.

Week 2, Jan. 19 – 21:

Monday Jan 17, 2011 = Martin Luther King Holiday, no class

Due Wed. Jan. 19: Map Exercise


Week 3, Jan. 24 – 28:

Mon: Read Abu-Lughod, Dramas of Nationhood, pp. 3 – 56

Wed: Abu-Lughod, Dramas, pp. 57 – 80

Fri: Abu-Lughod, Dramas, pp. 81 – 110
### Week 4, Jan. 31 – Feb. 4:

**Mon:** Abu-Lughod, *Dramas*, pp. 111 – 134

**Wed:** Abu-Lughod, *Dramas*, pp. 135 – 162

**Fri:** Abu-Lughod, *Dramas*, pp. 164 – 192

### Week 5, Feb. 7 – Feb. 11:

**Mon:** Abu-Lughod, *Dramas*, pp. 193 – 246

**Wed:** Volk, *Memorials and Martyrs*, pp. 1 – 38

**Fri:** Volk, *Memorials and Martyrs*, 39 – 77

### Week 6, Feb. 14 – Feb. 18:

**Mon:** Sign-up for discussion of research paper; rubrics handed out.

**Mon:** Volk, *Memorials and Martyrs*, pp. 78 – 114

**Wed:** Volk, *Memorials and Martyrs*, pp. 115 – 154

**Fri:** Volk, *Memorials and Martyrs*, pp. 155 – 188

### Week 7, Feb. 21 – Feb. 25:

**Mon. Feb 21 = President’s Day Holiday, No Class.**


**Fri:** Nadje Ali, *Iraqi Women*, 14 – 55

### Week 8, Feb. 28 – March 4:

**Mon:** Ali, *Iraqi Women*, pp. 56 – 108


*MARCH 7 – 11 = SPRING BREAK*
Week 9, March 14 – March 18:


Week 10, March 21 – March 25:


Fri: Rabinowitz and Abu-Bakr, *Coffins on our Shoulders* pp. 1 – 18

Week 11, March 28 – April 1:

Mon: Rabinowitz and Abu-Bakr, *Coffins on our Shoulders*, pp. 19 – 40

Wed: Rabinowitz and Abu-Bakr, *Coffins on our Shoulders*, pp. 41 – 62

Fri: Rabinowitz and Abu-Bakr, *Coffins on our Shoulders*, pp. 63 – 98

Week 12, April 4 – April 8:

*Prof Kanna is in Italy for a conference, April 3 – 9, please continue reading.*

Assignment for the Week: Rabinowitz and Abu-Bakr, *Coffins on our Shoulders*, pp. 99 – 184

Wed, April 6: film screening, Eran Riklis (2004), Syrian Bride

Fri, April 8: Finish Syrian Bride.

Week 13, April 11 – April 13:

http://www.merip.org/mer/mer205/hirschk.htm

Wed: Norton, Hezbollah, pp. 1 – 46

**APRIL 15 = PACIFIC DAY, NO CLASS.**

Week 14, April 18 – April 22:

Mon: Norton, Hezbollah, pp. 47 – 68

Wed: Norton, Hezbollah, pp. 69 – 112

Fri: Norton, Hezbollah, pp. 113 – 144

Week 15, April 25 – 27:

Mon: Norton, Hezbollah, pp. 145 – 172

Wed: Film Screening: James Longley (2006), Iraq in Fragments

Fri: Finish Iraq in Fragments, Class Review