

ANTHROPOLOGY 4020

Fall 2009

CULTURES OF ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

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University of Colorado, Boulder

Wednesday: 4-6:30pm

Office Hours: 2:30pm -4pm

HALE 240

Course Description

In the Middle East the history of the countries in the region are interwoven with one another, thus it is of utmost importance to study these cultures as individual cultures as well as each culture as part of the region. This is because the political, social and religious factors play a pivotal part in the construction of these cultures. In recent decades, there has been growing interest in the study of Middle Eastern societies and in particular in the relationship between the Muslim states and Israel.

This course introduces the students to the social structure of contemporary Middle Eastern societies and their interwoven history. More specifically, it investigates the cultural phenomena of these societies and the interaction and cultural exchange between them. In the past western societies colonized this region and attempted to impose their "superior" cultures and so to speak "to tame the wild". However, in recent decades the acknowledgement of the importance of these cultures to the world became evident. To begin with the population of the Islamic world is growing rapidly, and the west cannot ignore this fact. Secondly one must remember that Israel has been in existence for only sixty years in the heart of the Near East, a fact that a major section of the Muslim world still refuses and does not accept. Although Islam dealt with the Jewish communities from the inception of Islam, the relationship between the Muslims and Jews was of superiority-subordination, majority-minority nature where Jews were considered as dimi (inferior status) which were always given to the mercy of the Muslims in all spheres of life. And for the first time in the history of Islam it had to deal with Jews as a free nation amongst other nations, in particular within the Middle East.

This course deals with the evolution of a new era in the Middle East where the nations in the Middle Eastern region are forced to deal with one another and in the process there is an ongoing social interaction and cultural exchange. A special attention is given to the influence of the state, religion, education and the rise of political Islam on their cultures. Can we separate religion from culture?

The course is divided into several sections: The first introduces the students to the Middle Eastern societies and their history, and the social characteristics of the region. The second discusses the conflict of the Middle East and its influence on the culture and way of life of each nation under the influence of Islam and Judaism. The third discusses the relationship between modernity and tradition, and its influence on the cultural characteristics of each society, highlighting areas such as education, equal rights, women's position, values and customs etc.

The course format is lecture and class discussion. The sources for the course include textual material and visual material such as selected videotapes.

Required Readings : (available for purchase in the CU Bookstore).

These books are part of the required readings for the course. These in addition to materials from books and journals will be available to you in the library, on BLACKBOARD or distributed to you in class.

Barakat Halim, *The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State*. University of California Press, 1993

Salzman Philip Carl, *Culture and Conflict in the Middle East*. Humanity Books (imprint of Prometheus Books), 2008

Yambert Karl (ed.), *The Contemporary Middle East*. Westview Press, 2006

1. Accommodations due to disability.

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to the Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at: <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at:

<http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>

2. Religious observances.

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance.

See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students is at <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/>

3. Class room Behavior Conduct.

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_cod

4. Policy on Discrimination and Harassment

If any student believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the resources

available to assist individuals regarding harassment or discrimination can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

5. Honor Code

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

6. Requirements & Expectations

Students must be prepared for each class. Students are responsible for the preparation of all the material detailed in the syllabus below, as well as any additional texts and assignments that may be added during the semester. It is essential that all work must be completed and submitted on time. Extensions will be given only with the doctor's note.

Grades will be based on the following:

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|---|---------------------|
| 1. Class attendance and Participation | 10% |
| 2. Two reading assignments | 20% (Review papers) |
| 3. Take-home exam (due on day of final) | 70% |

- **Islam: Empire of Faith**, by Gardner Films
- **The Band Visit** (A visit of an Egyptian police band to Israel)
- **The Middle East** (Part I: Israel, Sinai, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, Part Two: The Arab Gulf States)
- **Kandahar**

Bibliography (a tentative list)

Class Schedule: *(please note that changes may be made by instructor.)*

8/26 **Organizational Session and Introduction to the course**

David E. Long, and Bernard Riech, "The middle East," and Colbert C. Held, "People and Cultures of the Middle East," in Yambert Karl (ed.) *The Contemporary Middle East*. Westview Press, 2006 Chapters 1 and 2, p. 1-26

Part I: History and Background

- 9/2 Barakat Halim, *The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State*. University of California Press, 1993, Chapter 2: "Arab Society: Basic Characteristics Features", pp. 12- 31; Chapter 3: "Arab Identity", pp. 32-47; Salzman Philip

Carl, *Culture and Conflict in the Middle East*. Humanity Books (imprint of Prometheus Books), 2008, pp. chapters 2 and 4

9/9 Salzman Philip Carl, *Culture and Conflict in the Middle East*. Humanity Books (imprint of Prometheus Books), 2008, pp. chapter 5 and 6; Barakat Halim, *The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State*. University of California Press, 1993, Chapter 4: "The Continuity of Old Cleavages", pp. 48-70.

- **Film: Islam: Empire of Faith**, by Gardner Films (or)
- **The Middle East** (Part I: Israel, Sinai, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, Part Two: The Arab Gulf States)

Part II: Social Structures Institutions: classes, religion and politics

9/16 Barakat Halim, *The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State*. University of California Press, 1993, Chapter 1: "Social and Political integration", pp. 3-11; and Chapter 5: "Social Classes", pp. 71-96; Barakat Halim, *The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State*. University of California Press, 1993, Chapter 8: "Arab Politics: Its Social Context", pp. 148—178; Barakat Halim, *The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State*. University of California Press, 1993, Chapter 7: "Religion in Society", pp. 119-147

Part III: Family Kinship and Gender

9/23 **First assignment is due at the beginning of this class**
Barakat Halim, *The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State*. University of California Press, 1993, "The Arab Family and the Challenge of Change", Chapter 6, pp. 97-118; Joseph Suad, "Brother/Sister Relationships: Connectivity, Love and Power in the Reproduction of Patriarchy in Lebanon," *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 21, No. 1. pp. 50-73

9/30 Azmon Yael and Dafna N. Izraeli (1993) "Introduction: Women in Israel – A sociological Overview", in Azmon Yael and Ernest Krausz (eds.) *Women in Israel: Studies of Israeli Society*, Vol. VI, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick (USA) & London (UK), pp.1-24; Shokeid Moshe, (1993) "Ethnic Identity and the Position of Women Among Arabs in an Israeli Town", in Azmon Yael and Ernest Krausz (eds.) *Women in Israel: Studies of Israeli Society*, Vol. VI, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick (USA) & London (UK), pp. 423-442; Hartman Harriet, (1993) "Economic and Familial Roles OF Women in Israel", in Azmon Yael and Ernest Krausz (eds.) *Women in Israel: Studies of Israeli Society*, Vol. VI Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick (USA) & London (UK), pp. 135-146

Part IV: The Dynamics of Arab Culture

10/7 Warnock Elizabeth & Robert Fernea, "Unity and Diversity in Islam," 65-70 in *The Arab World*, New York and London: Anchor Books: 1997; Barakat Halim, *The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State*. University of California Press, 1993, Chapters 9: "National Character and Value Orientations", pp.

181-205; Barakat Halim, *The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State*. University of California Press, 1993, Chapter 10: "Creative Expression: Society and Literary Orientations", pp. 206-238.

- 10/14 Hammond Andrew, "The Arab Language: The key to Arab identity," in *Pop Culture Arab World: Media, Arts, and lifestyle*, American University in Cairo Press, 2007, pp. 53-78; Barakat Halim, *The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State*. University of California Press, 1993, Chapter 11: "Arab thought: Problems of Renewal, Modernity, and Transformation", pp. 239-266.

Part V: Israeli Society, Rebirth, and Arab Nationalism

- 10/21 Nasser Ilham, (2006) "Palestinians in Israel: Social and Educational Conditions in the 1990's", in Zitrain Eisenberg Laura et al, (eds.) **Traditions and transitions in Israel Studies, Books on Israel, Vol. VI, SUNY series in Israeli Studies, Chapter 5**; Al-Haj, Majid (1995), *Education, Empowerment and Control: The Case of the Arabs in Israel*, SUNY Press.
Bickerton, Ian. J. & Carla L. Klausner *A Concise History of the ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT*, 5th.ed., Prentice Hall. 2002, chapter 4, pp. 100- 115;
Goldschmidt Arthur Jr. and Davidson Lawrence (2006) *A Concise History of the Middle East* (8th ed.) Westview Press. Chapter 17, 291-
- 10/28 Goldschmidt Arthur Jr. and Davidson Lawrence (2006) *A Concise History of the Middle East* (8th ed.) Westview Press. Chapter 18 pp. -366; Shuval Judith T. & Leshem, Elaza., (1998) "The Sociology of Migration in Israel: A Critical View" in Leshem, Elaza., & Judith T. Shuval (eds.) *Immigration to Israel: Sociological Perspectives*, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick (USA) & London (UK), 1998. (Volume VIII, Studies of Israeli Society, Publication Series of the Israeli Sociological Society, Series editor Ernest Krausz). Chap.1, pp. 3-50.

Film *The Forgotten Refugees*, followed by discussion.

- 11/4 Cleavland, William L., "Israeli-Palestinian Relations since the Gulf War", in Yambert Karl (ed.), *The Contemporary Middle East*. Westview Press, 2006, pp. 75-92; Goldscheider Calvin, "Ethnicity and Nation-building in the State of Israel", in Yambert Karl (ed.), pp. 93-106.
- 11/11 Ram Uri, (2006) "The State of the Nation: Contemporary Challenges to Zionism in Israel", in Kemp Adriana et al. (eds.) *Israelis in Conflict: Hegemonies, Identities and Challenges*, Sussex Academic Press, Chapter 15, pp. 305-320

Part VI: Israel and Palestine

Lesch David, W., "The Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty", in Yambert Karl (ed.), *The Contemporary Middle East*. Westview Press, 2006, pp. 41-46; "Lesch Ann Mosely, "The Palestinians", pp. 47-60; Farsoun Samih K., "Whither Palestine and the Palestinians?", pp. 107-118

Second assignment is due at the beginning of this class

- **The Band Visit** (A visit of a an Egyptian police band to Israel)

Part VII: Iraq and Iran

- 11/18 Marr Phebe, "The Land and the People of Modern Iraq", in Yambert Karl (ed.), *The Contemporary Middle East*. Westview Press, 2006, pp. 119-130; Phillips David L., "The US Occupation of Iraq",.in Yambert Karl (ed.), *The Contemporary Middle East*. Westview Press, 2006, pp. 159-170
Lesch David, W., "The Iranian Revolution", in Yambert Karl (ed.), *The Contemporary Middle East*. Westview Press, 2006, pp. 131-142; Shadid Anthony, "The Iranian Revolution and the Rebirth of Political Islam", in Yambert Karl (ed.), pp.143-156

11/23-11/25 FALL BREAK – NO CLASS ON 25TH

Part VIII: Egypt, the influence of Religion on Culture

- 12/2 Goldschmidt Arthur, Jr. "Egypt under Mubarak", In Yambert Karl (ed.), pp. 211-220; Huband Mark, "Egypt: The Community of Muslims", In Yambert Karl (ed.), pp. 221-230
- **Film: The Thief and the Dogs** (According to Naguib Mahfouz, the Egyptian Nobel Price winner in Literature)

Part IX: Civil Society, Religion and Democracy

Gavison Ruth, (2003) "Democracy and Judaism – Between Conceptual Analysis and Public Discourse" in David, Joseph E. (ed.) *The State of Israel: Between Judaism and Democracy*, The Israel Democracy Institute. Pp. 360-370; Smootha Sami, (2003) "The Nation Before the State", in David, Joseph E. (ed.) Barakat Halim, *The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State*. University of California Press, 1993, Chapter 12: "Conclusion", pp. 267-284;

Conclusion

- 12/9 Salzman Philip Carl, *Culture and Conflict in the Middle East*. Humanity Books, 2008, Chanter 7: "Root Causes: The Middle East Today and Tomorrow"; Telhami Shibley, "The Contemporary Middle East: Some Questions, Some Answers", In Yambert Karl (ed.), pp. 257-270
- **Film: Kandahar**

Guidelines for reading and writing Summaries

In order to help you read, understand and write the major arguments, and/or analysis, and/or the framework of the author or the article you should pay attention to the following:

What is the main argument?

How the author(s) substantiate her/his argument(s)/analysis etc?

What did you learn from the article?

How did the article contribute to your understanding of the subject?

Summaries should be approximately 1200 words, 1.5 spaced, Times New Roman.

You can prepare these summaries in pairs, if you do please hand in one copy with both names on it. You may bring it to class on the day of submission.

The papers for the two reviews will be allocated at the beginning of the term.