

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
- Marjane Satrapi, *The Complete Persepolis*.
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 [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*: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-islam/beginners-guide-islamic/a/introduction-to-islam>
- Keddie, Nikki. *Women in the Middle East*, Ch. 1, “The Regional Background and the Beginnings of Islam.”
- Ahmed, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam*, “Medieval Islam.”
- January 20 [F]: Representations of Women in Islamic Tradition

Readings:

- Stowasser, Barbara. *Women in the Qur’an*, “The Chapter of Zulaykha,” “The Mothers of the Believers in the Qur’an,” and “The Mothers of the Believers in the Hadith.”
- **READING RESPONSE 1 DUE 1/23 [Monday by 5 PM]**

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.”
- Friedl, Erika. *Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East*, “A Thorny Side of Marriage in Iran.”
- Chatty, Dawn. *Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East*. “Harasiis Marriage, Divorce, and Companionship.”
- “UK Muslims Revive Temporary Marriages.” <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-22354201>
- February 3 [F]: Divorce

Readings:

- Mir-Hosseini, Ziba. *Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East*, “Tamkin: Stories from a Family Court in Iran.”
- **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.”
- Bowen, Donna Lee. *Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East*, “Abortion and the Ethics of Life.”

- Eickelman, Christine. *Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East*, “Oil, Fertility, and Women’s Status in Oman.”
- IVF and Iran. <http://www.pri.org/stories/2014-01-22/how-iran-became-leader-fertility-treatment-courtesy-ayatollahs>
- **In Class Film:** http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/14/iran-fertility-treatment_n_4789824.html
- February 10 [F]: Veiling and Seclusion
Readings:
 - Moors, Annelies. *Etnoofor*, “Islam and Fashion on the Streets of San’a, Yemen.”
 - Ahmad, Imtiaz. *Economic and Political Weekly*, “Why Is the Veil Such a Contentious Issue?”
 - “Reorienting the Veil: The Qur’an.”
<http://veil.unc.edu/religions/islam/quran/>
 - **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:
 - Keddie, Nikki. *Women in the Middle East: A History*. “Change in the Long Nineteenth Century 1798-1914.”
 - Keddie, Nikki. *Women in the Middle East: A History*. “1914-45: Nationalism and Women’s Movements.”
 - Ahmed, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam*, “Discourse of the Veil.”
- February 17 [F]: Spotlight on Modern Turkey
Readings:
 - White, Jenny B. *NWSA Journal*. “State Feminism, Modernization, and the Turkish Republican Woman.”
 - Al-Monitor. “Who’s telling Turkish couples to quiet down during sex?”
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/12/turkey-akp-advice-quieter-sex-for-best-results.html>
 - BBC. “‘Turkey has changed!’ Women on the failed coup.”
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36824130>
 - Hürriyet Daily News. “Why Turkish women are no ladies.”
<http://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/why-turkish-women-are-no-ladies.aspx?PageID=238&NID=107099&NewsCatID=569>
 - **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>
- Sa'ar, Amelia. *Ethnology*, "Becoming a Woman: The Case of Unmarried Israeli-Palestinian "Girls."

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

Week 8: Persepolis: Growing Up During the Iranian Revolution

- March 1 [W]:
Readings:
 - Satrapi, Marjane. *The Complete Persepolis*, Pp. 3-47.
- March 3 [F]:
Readings:
 - *Persepolis*, Pp. 47-86.
 - **TALK TO ME ABOUT YOUR PRESENTATION TOPICS!**

Week 9: Persepolis: Part II

- March 8 [W]:
Readings:
 - *Persepolis*, Pp. 87-134.
- March 10 [F]:
Readings:
 - *Persepolis*, Pp. 135-179.
 - **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."
 - Al-Jazeera. "The Reality and Future of Islamic Feminism."
<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."
- Gluck, Sherna Berger. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, "Palestinian Women: Gender Politics and Nationalism."
- *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."
- Nogues, Johansson. *Security Dialogue*, "Gendering the Arab Spring? Rights and (in)security of Tunisian, Egyptian and Libyan Women."
- 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/christinerousselle/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
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-hidden-footage-reveals-reality-of-life-in-raqqa-a6928721.html>

- **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