SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Voyage: Summer 2013
Discipline: Anthropology
ANTH 2500: Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East
Division: Lower
Faculty: Daniel Lefkowitz

Pre-requisites: None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the diverse societies of the contemporary Middle East and North Africa, focusing on those countries (Morocco and Turkey) the ship visits. Topics include: religion and personal life in Islamic and Christian countries, new media and democratic transformation; gender roles in the modern world; national and supra-national identities under globalization; and migrations and diasporas across the Mediterranean.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will become familiar with the geography and recent history of the Middle East and North Africa, while gaining an appreciation for anthropological perspectives on knowledge and research. The course will use the phenomenon of tourism to generate self-reflexive understandings of contact between societies, the forms of representation, and the functioning of discourse.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Ghosh, Amitav
TITLE: In an Antique Land
PUBLISHER: Vintage
ISBN #: 0-679-72783-3
DATE/EDITION: 1992

AUTHOR: Fernea, Elizabeth Warnock and Robert A. Fernea
TITLE: The Arab World: Forty Years of Changes
PUBLISHER: Anchor Doubleday
ISBN #: 0-385-48520-4
DATE/EDITION: 1992

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

C1- June 19: Introduction to Morocco


C2- June 20: Representing the ‘Other’
• Assignment: Journal Entry: Memories of films you’ve seen with Arab or Middle Eastern characters, themes, settings.

C3- June 21: Encountering the ‘Self’
• Assignment: View film: *Casablanca* (1942)

C4- June 22: The Cultural Structuring of Physical Space

June 23-June 26: Casablanca

C5- June 27: Morocco in the Middle East
• Assignment: Prepare for Map Quiz

C6- June 28: Middle Eastern Histories

C7- June 29: New Middle Eastern Histories
• Assignment: Pick ‘Arab Spring’ country; Read what Lynch (reserve book) has to say about the Arab Spring events in that country; come to class prepared to discuss (in small group)

June 30 – No Classes

C8- July 1: Revolutions Old and New
• Read: Fernea, “Israel and the West Bank,” pp. 387-444
• Assignment: View film “Battle of Algiers”

C9- July 2: Religion and Society in the Middle East

July 3-5: Antalya

C10- July 6: Minorities in the Middle East
- Read: Ferneas, “Lebanon,” pp. 3-70

C11- July 7: Development & Labor Flows
- Assignment: View Film: *Coffee Futures* ()

July 8-11: Istanbul

C12- July 12: Mediterranean Culture

C13- July 13: Minorities from the Middle East
- Assignment: View film: *Edge of Heaven* (***)

July 14-17: Piraeus

C14- July 18: Middle Eastern Diasporas
- Read: Ghosh, “Nashawy” (parts 1-8), pp. 107-174

C15- July 19: Gender & Diaspora
- Read: Ghosh, “Nashawy” (remainder), pp. 174-237

C16- July 20: Literature and Culture in the Middle East
- Read: Ghosh, “Mangalore” (parts 1-8), pp. 239-288

July 21-23: Livorno
July 24-26: Civitavecchia

C17- July 27: Return Migration

C18- July 28: Language & Nation
July 29-31: Malta

C19- August 1: Popular Culture & Diasporan Identity

C20- August 2: Sociolinguistics & Diasporan Identity

August 3-5: Marseille
August 6-8: Barcelona

C21- August 9: Tourism and Representation I

C22- August 10: Tourism and Representation II

August 11-13: Cadiz
August 14-16: Lisbon

C23- August 17: Course Review
• Read: None.
• Assignment: Review course materials & bring discussion questions to class.

August 18: Study Day

C24- August 19: Final Exams

August 20: Reflection/Reentry
August 21: Convocation/Packing
August 22: Southampton

FIELD WORK
• Social Structures and Built Environment in Casablanca
  o Field Lab involves a class research project to examine the social organization of urban space and to investigate the notion of “public sphere” in Casablanca, Morocco
  o Will begin with meeting / discussion with a geography professor at the University who is an expert on built environment in Casablanca
  o Bulk of the field lab experience will involve travel to select locations in Casablanca for small-group student observations of spaces of social interaction
  o Students will collect the data on language use (each group will be assigned a specific language-use domain (markets, cafes, radio stations, etc.)

• Alternative Field Lab:
  o Music, Popular Culture, and Franco-Maghrebi Community in Marseilles

FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

• The theme for the field assignments will be “observing representations of the ‘Other’ in the touristic encounter”
• Each port will involve a field assignment
• For each port I will assign students to observe and reflexively report on their encounter with the local self-representation to international tourists.
• Students will be asked to record their observations of language use in journals that will be turned in and evaluated after each port.
• Students will also share their findings as part of class discussion after each port.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

• Daily Quiz on Reading Assignment (20%) – doubles as record of attendance!
• Class Participation (10%) – measured as ability to respond productively to questions posed during class
• Report on an Arab Spring revolution (10%)
• Field Assignments Journal (20%)
• Field Lab Report (20%)
• Final Exam (20%)

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR: Lynch, Marc
TITLE: The Arab Uprising
PUBLISHER: PublicAffairs
ISBN #: 978-1610392358
DATE/EDITION: 2012

AUTHOR: Curtiz, Michael (dir.)
TITLE: Casablanca (film)
DATE/EDITION: 1942
AUTHOR: Pontecorvo, Gillo (dir.)
TITLE: Battle of Algiers (film)
DATE/EDITION: 1966
Reference: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0058946/

AUTHOR: Guersel, Zeynep Devrim (dir.)
TITLE: Coffee Futures (film)
DATE/EDITION: 2009

AUTHOR: Akin, Fatih (dir.)
TITLE: Edge of Heaven (film)
DATE/EDITION: 2007
Reference: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0880502/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS (Please note that I have e-copies of all of these already and can supply. DL)


**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

No.

**HONOR CODE**

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University’s honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager’s Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: “On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.” The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed “[signed].”