

M.Phil Seminar -- The Middle East in the Twentieth Century

Michaelmas Term 2009

Tuesdays, 2:00 – 4:00

St Antony's College

Convenors: Dr Walter Armbrust and Dr Eugene Rogan

This essay-based teaching seminar is designed to provide a common grounding in the history, politics, and society of the Middle East. The focus is two-fold. It is to serve as an introduction to the different countries of the Middle East, with readings in the history and politics of North Africa, Iran, Israel, and Turkey in the twentieth century. You will also be exploring the methodological approaches of the different scholarly disciplines as applied to the study of the contemporary Middle East.

Meetings are led by different members of faculty, providing students the opportunity to meet the modern Middle Eastern studies community. Each student will be expected to write an essay every other week (a total of 4 over the course of the term). Students will be assigned essays to assure equal coverage of all topics. The essays and the feedback from instructors provide training in the analytical writing style particular to the Oxford system. The seminar and reading list serve as the preparation for one exam paper in the Qualifying Examination at the end of Hilary Term, 2010. As such, students are required to attend all sessions and to come prepared **with their essays written in advance** in their assigned weeks. Essays should be six-eight double-spaced typed pages in length (12 point font). Each week, two students will be called on at random to lead discussion. Essays will be collected for marking at the end of the class, providing students regular assessment of their work.

Required seminar readings are kept on reserve in the Middle East Centre Library. The MEC librarian has created a web site for the seminar with links to all Oxford University University Library System locations (see <http://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/mec/mec-readinglist.shtml>).

Multiple copies of the following books have been ordered and are on reserve at Blackwell's Bookstore on Broad Street (for full references see below):

Lockman, Zachary. Contending Visions of the Middle East.

Said, Edward. Orientalism.

Winegar, Jessica. Creative Reckonings.

Chalcraft, John. The Striking Cabbies of Cairo and Other Stories.

Shindler, Colin. A History of Modern Israel.

Katouzian, Homa. The Persians

Shlaim, Avi. War and Peace in the Middle East.

Fawcett, Louise. International Relations of the Middle East.

Esposito & Burgat. Modernizing Islam

Crystal, Jill. Oil and Politics in the Gulf.

Week 1: Area Studies and the Middle East (Eugene Rogan)

Lockman, Zachary. 2004. Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Middle East Report 205 (October-December 1997): 22-24. (special issue on Middle East Studies). Available through JSTOR (<http://www.jstor.org>) on a University ethernet-linked computer.

Mitchell, Timothy. 2002. "The Middle East in the Past and Future of Social Science." David L. Szanton, ed. The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines. University of California Press/University of California International and Area Studies Digital Collection, Edited Volume #3, 2002.

<http://repositories.cdlib.org/uciaspubs/editedvolumes/3>

Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, UK, Area Studies Benchmark Statement

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/statements/areastudies08.asp>

Said, Edward. 1995. Orientalism. Harmondsworth: Penguin.

Further Reading (not required):

Ahmad, Aijaz. 1992. "Orientalism and After: Ambivalence and Metropolitan Location in the Work of Edward Said." In Aijaz Ahmad, In Theory: Classes, Nations, Literatures. London: Verso, pp. 159-220.

Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin. 1998. "Discourse." In Ashcroft et. al. Key Concepts in Post-Colonial Studies. New York: Routledge.

Kolluoglu-Kirli, Biray. 2003. "From Orientalism to Area Studies." CR: The New Dentennial Review v. 3, no. 3: 93-111.

Said, Edward. 1986. "Foucault and the Imagination of Power." In David Couzens Hoy, ed., Foucault: A Critical Reader. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, pp. 149-155.

Szanton, David L., ed. 2002. The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines. University of California Press/University of California International and Area Studies Digital Collection, Edited Volume #3, 2002.

<http://repositories.cdlib.org/uciaspubs/editedvolumes/3>

Supplementary Readings: <http://users.ox.ac.uk/%7Esant1114/MPhilArea.pdf>

Essay: In the 1980s and 1990s one reading of Said's *Orientalism* was (and in some quarters still is) that Orientalism was incapable of producing true knowledge, and should be seen instead as a discursive means for constructing European domination of societies defined as outside itself. In this view, Area Studies was seen as a child of Orientalism, and as the inheritor of all its flaws. How persuasive are arguments for the continuing vitality of Area Studies?

Week 2: Anthropology: The Field and Fieldwork (Walter Armbrust)

Required Ethnography: Winegar, Jessica. 2006. Creative Reckonings: The Politics of Art and Culture in Contemporary Egypt. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

The Field and Fieldwork

Required: Abu-Lughod, Lila. 1988. "Fieldwork of a Dutiful Daughter." In Soraya Altorki and Camillia Fawzi El-Solh eds., Arab Women in the Field: Studying Your Own Society. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, pp. 139-162 (usefully read in conjunction with Abu-Lughod's Veiled Sentiments)

Clifford, James. 2007 [1988]. "On Ethnographic Authority." In Robben, Antonius and Jeffrey Sluka eds., Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 476-492.

Dresch, Paul and Wendy James. 2000. "Introduction: Fieldwork and the Passage of Time." In Paul Dresch, Wendy James and David Parkin eds., Anthropologists in a Wider World: Essays on Field Research. Oxford: Berghan Books, pp. 1-26.

Dresch, Paul. 2000. "Wilderness of Mirrors: Truth and Vulnerability in Middle Eastern Fieldwork." In Paul Dresch, Wendy James and David Parkin eds., Anthropologists in a Wider World: Essays on Field Research. Oxford: Berghan Books, pp. 109-127.

Gupta, Akhil and James Ferguson eds. 1997. Anthropological Locations: Boundaries and Grounds of a Field Science. Berkeley: University of California Press. (introduction)

Sluka, Jeffrey and Antonius C.G.M. Robben. 2007. "Fieldwork in Cultural Anthropology: An Introduction." In Robben, Antonius and Jeffrey Sluka eds., Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 1-26.

*Recommended but **not** required:*

DeWalt, Kathleen and Billie DeWalt. 2002. "What is Participant Observation?" and "Learning to Be a Participant Observer." In DeWalt and DeWalt, Participant Observation: A Guide for Fieldworkers. New York: Altamira Press, pp. 1-34.

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. 1969 [1940]. "Introductory." In E.E. Evans-Pritchard, The Nuer: A Description of the Modes of Livelihood and Political Institutions of a Nilotic People. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-15.

Malinowski, Bronislaw. 2007 [1922]. "Method and Scope of Anthropological Fieldwork." In Robben, Antonius and Jeffrey Sluka eds., Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 46-57.

Rabinow, Paul. 2007 [1977]. "Fieldwork and Friendship in Morocco." In Robben, Antonius and Jeffrey Sluka eds., Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 447-454.

Rabinow, Paul. 1988. "Representations are Social Facts: Modernity and Post-Modernity in Anthropology." In James Clifford and George Marcus eds., Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 234-261.

Rosaldo, Renato. 1986. "From the Door of His Tent: The Fieldworker and the Inquisitor." In James Clifford and George E. Marcus eds.,

- Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 77-97.
- Further Readings on the Field and Fieldwork (not required):*
- Abu-Lughod, Lila. 1989. "Zones of Theory in the Anthropology of the Arab World." Annual Review of Anthropology, Vol. 18: 267-306.
- Asad, Talal. 1986. "The Concept of Cultural Translation in British Social Anthropology." In James Clifford and George Marcus eds., Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 141-164.
- Asad, Talal ed. 1973. Anthropology & the Colonial Encounter. London: Ithaca Press.
- Clifford, James. 1986. "Introduction: Partial Truths." In James Clifford and George Marcus eds., Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 1-26.
- Guyer, Jane. 2004. "Anthropology in Area Studies." Annual Review of Anthropology 33: 499-523.
(<http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.anthro.32.061002.093129>)
- Rabinow, Paul. 2007 [1977]. Reflections on Fieldwork in Morocco, with a foreword by Robert N. Bellah ; afterword by Pierre Bourdieu. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Salamandra, Christa. 2006. "Chastity Capital: Display, Distinction and Hierarchy in Damascus". In Samir Khalaf and John Gagnon, eds., Sexuality in the Arab World. Saqi Books. (Usefully read with Salamandra's A New Old Damascus: Authenticity and Distinction in Urban Syria)
- Sangren, P. Steven. 1988. "Rhetoric and the Authority of Ethnography: 'Postmodernism' and the Social Reproduction of Texts." Current Anthropology, Vol. 29, No. 3. (June): 405-435.
- Additional Ethnographies (not required, but perhaps desirable if you're interested in other parts or aspects of the Middle East than those covered in Winegar):*
- Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2004. Dramas of Nationhood: The Politics of Television in Egypt. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Deeb, Lara. 2006. An Enchanted Modern: Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (e-edition available through OLIS)
- Özyürek, Esra. 2006. Nostalgia for the Modern: State Secularism and Everyday Politics in Turkey. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.
- Salamandra, Christa. 2006. A New Old Damascus: Authenticity and Distinction in Urban Syria. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press.
- Shryock, Andrew. 1997. Nationalism and the Genealogical Imagination: Oral History and Textual Authority in Jordan. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Varzi, Roxanne. 2006. Warring Souls: Youth, Media, and martyrdom in Postrevolution Iran. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.

Cheater's guides to anthropology (useful if you feel you need a formal introduction to the discipline):

Agar, M. (1996) The Professional Stranger: An Informal Introduction to Ethnography. London: Academic Press.

Monaghan, J. and Just, P. (2000) A Very Short Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Supplementary Readings on the Field and Fieldwork:

<http://users.ox.ac.uk/%7Esant1114/MPhilField.pdf>

Reading List for M.Phil. Option on Social Anthropology of the Middle East:

<http://users.ox.ac.uk/%7Esant1114/MPhilSocAnth.pdf>

Essay: Evaluate one or more ethnographies (Jessica Winegar's Creative Reckonings and others if you wish) in terms of the author's approach to fieldwork. How is the content of the book (or books) facilitated or limited by the author's approach to fieldwork?

Note: Everyone should read and discuss Creative Reckonings in their essays so that we have a common yardstick for discussion in the seminar. You are not required to read additional ethnographies for the seminar or for the essay, but it is helpful to do so. An anthropology graduate course would assign the sort of conceptual/theoretical readings of which I have given you a sample here. But these are inevitably taught in conjunction with as many ethnographic case studies as possible—that is how anthropologists learn fieldwork methodology rather than through “how to” manuals. I have therefore suggested some additional ethnographies of Middle Eastern societies for those who wish to read further—or wish to read an ethnography focused on a non-Egyptian field site in addition to Winegar's book.

Week 3: In and Out of the Archive: approaches to Middle East history (Lucie Ryzova)

Primary Reading: Chalcraft, John. 2005. The Striking Cabbies of Cairo and Other Stories: The Crafts and Guilds in Egypt, 1863-1914 (New York: SUNY Press).

Additional Required Reading:

Burton, Antoinette. 2003. Chapter 1: “Memory Becomes Her,” in Dwelling in the Archive: Women Writing House, Home and History in Late Colonial India (Oxford UP).

Doumani, Beshara. 2003. “Introduction,” and “Adjudicating Family: The Islamic Court and Disputes between Kin in Greater Syria, 1700-1860,” in Family History in the Middle East: Household, Property and Gender, edited by Beshara Doumani (New York: SUNY Press).

Ferguson, Heather. 2003. “Property, Language and Law: Conventions of Social Discourse in Seventeenth-Century Tarablus al-Sham,” in Family History in the Middle East: Household, Property and Gender, edited by Beshara Doumani (New York: SUNY Press).

Zemon Davis, Natalie. 1987. Introduction & Chapter 1: "The Time of Storytelling," in Fiction in the Archives: Pardon Tales and their Tellers in sixteenth-century France (Stanford UP), especially pages 15-25.

Further reading (not required, but useful)

Cuno, Kenneth. 2003. "Ambiguous modernisation: The Transition to Monogamy in the Khedivial House of Egypt," in Family History in the Middle East: Household, Property and Gender, edited by Beshara Doumani (New York: SUNY Press).

Hunt, Lynn (ed.). 1989. The New Cultural History (University of California Press), especially essays by Ryan and Chartier.

Ryzova, Lucie. 2009. "Hearts Full of Hope," and "Passages to Modernity" in Efendification: The Rise of Middle Class Culture in Modern Egypt (Doctoral dissertation, Oxford); you might find the Introduction useful as well.

Extended further reading:

Steedman, Carolyn. 1998 [1986]. Landscape for a Good Woman: A Story of Two Women (Virago Press).

Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. 1991 [1990]. A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard based on her diary, 1785-1812 (Vintage Books).

White, Luise. 2000. Speaking with Vampires. Rumor and History in Colonial Africa (Berkeley: University of California Press).

Essay: What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of archival research? Discuss in reference to Chalcraft's book, using the other readings as food for thought on how archives are used in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Week 4: Israel: State, Society, Identity (Raffaella A. Del Sarto)

Readings: Barnett, Michael N. 1996. "The Politics of Uniqueness," in Michael N. Barnett (ed.), Israel in Comparative Perspective: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom, Albany: SUNY, pp. 3-25.

Kimmerling, Baruch. 2001. The Invention and Decline of Israeliness: State, Society, and the Military, Berkeley: University of California Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 56-88).

Migdal, Joel S. 1996. "Society Formation and the Case of Israel," in Michael N. Barnett (ed.), Israel in Comparative Perspective: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom, pp. 173-198.

Shindler, Colin. 2008. A History of Modern Israel, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Further readings:

Del Sarto, Raffaella A. 2006. Contested State Identity and Regional Security in the Euro-Mediterranean Area, New York: Palgrave, Chapter 4 "Israel" (pp. 87-129).

Kook, Rebecca. 1996. "Between Uniqueness and Exclusion: The Politics of Identity in Israel in Comparative Perspective," in Michael

- N. Barnett (ed.), *Israel in Comparative Perspective: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom*, Albany : SUNY, pp. 199-225.
- Sternhell, Zeev. 1997, *The Founding Myths of Israel: Nationalism, Socialism, and the Making of the Jewish State*, Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, Introduction (pp. 3-46).
- Telhami, Shibley. "Israeli Foreign Policy: An Ideal-Type or a Breed of Its Own?" pp. 29-51, in: *Israel in Comparative Perspective : Challenging the Conventional Wisdom*. Barnett, Michael N . (Albany : State University of New York Press, c1996.)

Readings for the MPhil Option "Israel: State, Society, Identity":

<http://users.ox.ac.uk/%7Esant1114/MPhillsrael.pdf>

Essay: Does Israel really represent a unique case of state- and nation-building, as has often been claimed, or is it comparable to other states?

Week 5: International Relations (Avi Shlaim)

Readings: Shlaim, Avi. 1995. *War and Peace in the Middle East*. New York: Penguin.

Fawcett, Louise ed. 2009. *International Relations of the Middle East* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2nd Edition. (especially essays by Hinnebusch, Fawcett, Hudson and Robins).

Further Readings: Gerges, Fawaz. 1994. *The Superpowers and the Middle East: Regional and International Politics, 1955-1967*. Boulder: Westview Press, pp. 1-21.

Brown, L. Carl. 1984. *International Politics and the Middle East: Old Rules, Dangerous Game*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Brown, L. Carl ed. 2004. *Diplomacy in the Middle East: The International Relations of Regional and Outside Powers*. London: I.B Tauris.

Haliday, Fred. 1997. "The Middle East, the Great Powers, and the Cold War." In Yezid Sayigh and Avi Shlaim eds, *The Cold War and the Middle East*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp 6-26.

Yapp, Malcolm. 1991. *The Near East Since the First World War* London: Longman, pp. 411-440.

Readings for the M.Phil. Option on International Relations of the Middle East:

<http://users.ox.ac.uk/%7Esant1114/MPhilIR.pdf>

Essay: "The dominant feature of the postwar international politics of the Middle East was the manipulation of the external powers by the regional powers." Discuss.

Week 6: Modern Islamic Thought (Tariq Ramadan)

Reading: Esposito, John L. and François Burgat, eds., 2003, *Modernizing Islam: Religion in the Public Sphere in Europe and the Middle East*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press

Further background reading:

- Abou El Fadl, Khaled. 2004. "Islam and the Challenge of Democracy." In Khaled Abou El Fadl, Islam and the Challenge of Democracy. New Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-46
- Brown, Daniel. 1999. Rethinking Tradition in Modern Islamic Thought. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,
- Ramadan, Tariq. 2009. Radical Reform, Islamic Ethics and Liberation. New York: Oxford University Press. Parts 1 and 2

Further Reading (not required):

- Amanat, Abbas and Frank Griffel. 2007. Shari'a: Islamic Law in the Contemporary Context. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press
- Osman, Fathi. 1994. Sharia in Contemporary Society. The Dynamics of Change in the Islamic Law. Los Angeles: Multimedia Vera International.
- Saeed, Abdullah. 2006. Islamic Thought: An Introduction. London: Routledge.
- Safi, Omid ed. 2003. Progressive Muslims: On Gender, Justice, and Pluralism. New York: Oneworld
- Smock, David. 2004, Ijtihad: Reinterpreting Islamic Principles for the Twenty-first Century. United States Institute of Peace
<http://www.usip.org/resources/ijtihad-reinterpreting-islamic-principles-twenty-first-century>

Essay: What are the main areas and the main topics discussed in modern Islamic thought? Expose what are the main arguments and explain why these fields are so critical.

Week 7: Business-State Relationship in the Middle East and North Africa (Bassam Fattouh)

Primary Reading: Crystal, J. 1995. Oil and Politics in the Gulf: Rulers and Merchants in Kuwait and Qatar. Cambridge University Press.

Additional Required Readings:

- Hvidt, M. 2006. Governance in Dubai: The Emergence of Political and Economic Ties between the Public and the Private Sector. Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies University of Southern Denmark.
- Moore, P. W. 2002. "Rentier Fiscal Crisis and Regime Stability: Business-State Relations in the Gulf." Studies in Comparative International Development **27**(1): 34-56.

Further Readings:

- Beblawi, Hazim. 1987. "The Rentier State in the Arab World," in eds. Hazem Beblawi and Giacomo Luciani, The Rentier State. London: Croom Helm, pp. 49-71.
- Christopher M. D. 2005. The United Arab Emirates: A Study in Survival. Boulder, CO and London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Crystal, J. 1989. "Coalitions in Oil Monarchies: Kuwait and Qatar." Comparative Politics **21**(4): 427-443.

- Cunningham, R.B. and Yasin K. Sarayrah. 1993. Wasta: The Hidden Force in Middle Eastern Society. Westport, Conn: Praeger.
- Dillman, B. 2000. State and Private Sector in Algeria: the Politics of Rent-Seeking and Failed Development. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press
- Evans, P. 1995. Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial transformation. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Haggard, S., Maxfield, S. & Schneider, B.R. 1997. "Theories of Business and Business-State Relations", in: Maxfield, S. & Schneider, B.R (ed), Business and the State in Developing Countries. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Heydemann, Steven. 2004. Networks of Privilege in the Middle East: The Politics of reform Revisited. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Ismael, Jacqueline. 1993. Kuwait: Dependency and Class in a Rentier State. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida.
- Kiren Aziz Chaudhry 1997. The Price of Wealth: Economies and Institutions in the Middle East. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.
- Moore, P. 2004. Doing Business in the Middle East: Politics and Economic Crisis in Jordan and Kuwait. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Niblock, Tim and Monica Malik. 2007. The Political Economy of Saudi Arabia. London: Routledge.
- Powell, W.W. & Smith-Doer, L. 1994. "Networks and Economic Life", in: Smelser, N. J. & Swedberg, R. (ed), The Handbook of Economic Sociology. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Schneider, Ben Ross. "Elusive Synergy: Business-Government Relations and Development." Comparative Politics 31, no. 1 (1998): 101-122.

Essay: How has the ruler-merchant relationship evolved over time and how has the concentration of oil wealth in the hands of rulers changed the balance of power? To what extent can the patrimonial framework depict the anatomy of business-government relationship in oil rich countries?

Week 8: The Iranian Revolution of 1979 (Homa Katouzian)

Readings: Katouzian, Homa. 2009. The Persians: Ancient, Medieval and Modern Iran. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press.

Katouzian, Homa. 2007. Iranian History and Politics, the Dialectic of State and Society, paperback edition. London: Routledge.

Keddie, Nikki. 2006. Modern Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution, updated edition. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.

Recommended:

Abrahamian, Ervand. 2008. A History of Modern Iran. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Fischer, Michael M.J. 1980. Iran: From Religious Dispute to Revolution. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

Milani, Mohsen. 1994. The Making of Iran's Islamic Revolution. From Monarchy to Islamic Republic, second edition. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.

Essay: 'The ideologies most represented in the Iranian revolution of 1979 were Islamism and Marxist-Leninism. Yet the revolution was neither Islamist nor Marxist-Leninist'. Discuss