

**PROGRAM IN MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES (MENA)**  
**MENA 301 Seminar in Middle East and North African Studies Sequence**  
**"The Middle East and the World"**

Fall 2014

301-1: "Middle East, Modernity and Identity"

Professor Amina Tawasil

This course takes on an anthropological perspective in looking at the different ways modernity is defined and is manifested in aspects of social life in different areas of the Muslim-majority Middle East. The course will provide an overview of the relationship between the language of modernity, cultural practices, economic, political and social forces in the region. The course will focus on the ways social groups have engaged with religion, the modern state, and globalization as these continuously influence social life. The intersection between gender/race/class, community, religion, identity will be examined. Finally, how the "Middle East" is represented in both popular and anthropological texts will be compared and analyzed throughout the course.

Winter 2015

301-2: "What is a Place? Art and the Visual Public Sphere in the Contemporary Middle East and North Africa"

Professor Hannah Feldman

Drawing on selected contemporary art practices and their histories, urban space, visual culture, and literary representations in a few specific Middle Eastern and North African contexts, this course considers the ways in which visual, spatial, and literary cultures combine to articulate a public sphere in the Middle East, especially in the near decade bracketed by 9/11 and the Arab Spring. We consider carefully the ways in which these practices speak to local histories and populations as well as to an international audience. Our analyses will also be formed in dialogue with theoretical texts generated by an interdisciplinary assembly of fields.

Spring 2015

301-3: "The Middle East in International Politics"

Professor Elizabeth Shakman Hurd

This is an unprecedented time in the Middle East and North Africa. Citizen revolts and revolutions have shaken and, in some cases, overthrown regimes. New forms of politics are emerging. Regional order is up for grabs. Parts of the region are experiencing violence and humanitarian crisis. This course examines select themes in the global history and politics of the Middle East and North Africa to help students improve their understanding of these developments and develop a capacity to situate them in broader historical, global, and political contexts. Students will learn to think, write, and speak critically and constructively about the region, with an emphasis on seeing beyond common tropes and misperceptions to develop more nuanced and sophisticated understandings of contemporary regional and transnational politics. While we will discuss some topics that are frequently in the news, the course is intentionally designed to broaden the canvas to explore less well-known subjects such as Turkish-Armenian relations, the histories of the Jewish citizens of Iraq, and the repercussions of the US-sponsored 1953 coup in Iran. This course is recommended for students who have a background in international relations interested in conducting upper-level independent research, and advanced students in the MENA Studies program.