

Institute for Middle East Studies

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Founded in 2007, the Institute for Middle East Studies (IMES) at the George Washington University aims to foster research, dialogue and the creation of an intellectual community focused on the modern Middle East, geographically defined as the Arab world, Turkey, Israel, and Iran. To this end, IMES encourages intellectual collaboration among members of the GW community interested in the Middle East, between GW research institutes, and with other organizations in the Washington area.

Funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Title VI National Resources Center, the IMES Outreach Program provides K-12 educators throughout the Washington, DC, Northern Virginia, Maryland, and wider region with access to resources, scholars, and teaching tools on the Middle East. We assist educators in teaching about this important region by moving beyond the headlines to provide an in-depth and interdisciplinary look at the Middle East.

Our summer 2017 teacher workshop, “The Middle East in Middle America,” is a two-day series of presentations on topics in contemporary Middle East studies led by our faculty experts. It is through this workshop that we hope to support teachers who are committed to learning more about contemporary issues in Middle East studies and to answer the increased demand to teach about the region in American classrooms.

We recognize that Middle East studies can be a contentious subject to teach. Topics like sharia, jihad, media representations of Muslims, and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict are debated in popular media and academia alike. In addition to increasing literacy about the region, we want to equip teachers with content and pedagogies that foster critical thinking about the Middle East. As a research institution, we are committed to education that advances sustained study and persistent inquiry.

The workshop consists of a range of topics and resources that complicate representations of the Middle East and the people who live there. In 2009, the Nigerian writer and MacArthur Fellow, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, gave a TED talk in which she describes her experience as an immigrant Nigerian woman in the United States. Through a description of the assumptions people make about her based on her identity, she argues that if we do not study a multiplicity of stories about the world and the people who live in it, we risk critical misunderstandings that have real consequences. Adichie titled her talk, “The danger of a single story.” The faculty presenters in our workshop seek to present multiple perspectives on the Middle East that provide teachers with information that complicates any single story.

Video: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: [The danger of a single story](#) | TED Talk | TED.com.

Resources

The following list includes learning and teaching resources associated with each of the workshop presentations. The resources are available on a memory stick provided to all workshop participants (unless otherwise noted). Resources include a variety of primary and secondary source material, academic and popular texts, music and documentaries. If you have additional questions about resources, please let us know at: imesnrc@gwu.edu

Muslims and Islam in American Media & Culture

Melani McAlister

Monday/session 1 (9:30-10:45)

Articles

Alsultany, Evelyn. "[Arabs and Muslims in the Media after 9/11: Representational Strategies for a 'Post-race' Era,](#)" *American Quarterly* 65(1):161-169, 2013.

Bayoumi, Moustafa. "[Why Do They Hate Us?](#)" *The Nation*. June 29, 2015.

Kahf, Mohja. "[The Pity Committee and the Careful Reader: How Not to Buy Stereotypes about Muslim Women,](#)" in *Arab and Arab American Feminisms*, 2010, 111-123.

Saleem, Muniba, et. al., "[Exposure to Muslims in Media and Support for Public Policies Harming Muslims,](#)" *Communication Research* (2015), 1-29.

Shaheen, Jack. "[Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People,](#)" *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 558, July 2003, 171-193.

Stone, Meighan. [Snake and Stranger: Media Coverage of Muslims and Refugee Policy](#). Report. Kennedy School's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy, Harvard University. June 2017.

Tétreault, Mary Ann, "[The Sexual Politics of Abu Ghraib: Hegemony, Spectacle, and the Global War on Terror.](#)" *NWSA Journal* 18.3 (2006): 33-50.

Said, Edward. "[Orientalism,](#)" in *The Edward Said Reader*, eds. M. Bayoumi and A. Rubin (Vintage, 2000), 63-75.

Said, Edward. "[Islam Through Western Eyes,](#)" *The Nation*, April 26, 1980.

McAlister, Melani. "[Introduction](#)" in *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945*. University of California Press, 2005.

Kumar, Deepa. "[Colonialism and Orientalism](#)," in *Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire*. Haymarket Books, 2012.

Book

Alsultany, Evelyn. [Arabs and Muslims in the media Race and representation after 9/11](#). New York: New York University Press, 2012.

***A copy of this book will be provided to all workshop participants.

Syllabus

The Islamophobia is racism syllabus

<https://islamophobia.isracism.wordpress.com/>

Videos

Bayoumi, Moustafa. "[This Muslim American Life](#)." YouTube. December 11, 2015.

Shaheen, Jack, "[Reel Bad Arabs](#)" documentary film.

Said, Edward. [On Orientalism](#). YouTube. October 28, 2012.

Israel and Palestine: A Brief History

Shira Robinson

Monday/session 2 (11:00-12:15)

Articles

Fisher, Max. "[9 questions about the Israel-Palestine conflict](#)." *Vox*. July 17, 2014.

Judis, John B. "[Seeds of Doubt](#)." *New Republic*. January 15, 2014.

--On Truman's reluctant decision to recognize Israel in 1948.

Stork, Joe. "U.S. Policy and the Palestinian Question," in *The United States in the Middle East: A Search for New Perspectives*, ed. Hooshang Amirahmadi (Albany: Suny Press, 1993), 125-148.

--An analysis of each administration's approach spanning from Wilson to Reagan.

Thrall, Nathan. "[Faith-Based Diplomacy](#)." *Medium*. September 18, 2014.

--On US policy since the mid-1990s, but especially under the Obama administration.

Thrall, Nathan. "[The Past 50 Years of Israeli Occupation. And the Next](#)." *The New York Times*. June 02, 2017.

[Primer on Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict](#) | Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP)

Book

Gelvin, James L. *The Israel-Palestine conflict: one hundred years of war*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

***A copy of this book will be provided to all workshop participants.

A Primer on Islam & Sharia Law

Nathan Brown

Monday/session 3 (1:00-2:15)

Articles

Brown, Nathan J. "[A Dozen Questions about the Islamic Sharia: Some Things You Wanted to Know about Islamic Law but Were Too Embarrassed to Ask.](#)" Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS). 2017.

Blecher, Joel. "[A Newly Discovered Manuscript and Its Lesson On Islam](#)". *The Atlantic*. June 27, 2017.

Book

Brown, Jonathan A. C. *Muhammad: a very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

***A copy of this book will be provided to all workshop participants.

Website

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani's English language website

<http://www.sistani.org/english/qa/>

Al-Sistani is one of the leading Shia clerics in the world. The website provides insight in to some of the questions that English-speaking adherents ask for guidance, the explanations the cleric offers, and the way he navigates politicized subjects.

Podcast

"Islam in America: A Conversation with Nadia Marzouki." POMEPS. 2017.

<https://pomeps.org/2017/05/04/islam-in-america-a-conversation-with-nadia-marzouki/>

PowerPoint

Music and Political Expression in the Middle East

Will Youmans

Monday/session 4 (2:30-3:45)

Articles

El Amraoui, Ahmed. "[Gnawa music: From slavery to prominence](#)." *Al Jazeera*. December 3, 2015.

LeVine, Mark. "[The day the music died in the Arab world?](#)" *Al Jazeera*. May 25, 2014.

Namey, Isra. "[Palestinian rock band dreams of a brighter future](#)." *Al Jazeera*. March 10, 2017.

Orphans of the Sahara. "[Toumast: Music and identity: The band headed by a former Tuareg liberation fighter uses music as testimony about the struggle for self-rule](#)." *Al Jazeera*. January 8, 2014.

Neil, Erin. "[Inside Iran's 'revolutionary' rap](#)." *Al Jazeera*. September 9, 2014.

Bolongaro, Kait. "[Waging a lyrical war against Syria's Bashar al-Assad](#)." *Al Jazeera*. May 26, 2016.

El Haqed. "[My journey to rap, politics and prison](#)." *Al Jazeera*. October 4, 2014.

Al-Makhadhi, Sakhr. "[Syrian rappers hop to controversy](#)." *Al Jazeera*. September 25, 2009.

Tarabay, Jamie. "[Fairuz: Lebanon's Voice Of Hope](#)." All Things Considered/NPR. July 12, 2010.

Documentaries & News Videos

Nachmann, Ron. "[Can't Stop the SlingShot: Hip-Hop Arises in Palestine](#)." *Tikkun*. May/June 2005.

"[Umm Kulthum: A Voice like Egypt](#)." YouTube. Directed by Michal Goldman. 1996.

Trendle, Giles. "[Rhythms of resistance: For many Palestinians music is a means of safeguarding and promoting national identity](#)." *Al Jazeera*. April 5, 2010.

"[Daniel Barenboim: A musical path to peace - The award-winning pianist and conductor talks about the power of music and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict](#)." *Al Jazeera*. February 2, 2013.

"[Egypt's Music Revolution](#)." *The New York Times*. May 13, 2013.

"[Band tries to bridge Israeli-Palestinian gap](#)." *Al Jazeera*. March 30, 2013.

Books

Aidi, Hisham. *Rebel Music: Race, Empire, and the New Muslim Youth Culture*. Pantheon, 2014.

Frishkopf, Michael Aaron, ed. *Music and Media in the Arab World*. Oxford University Press, 2010.

Jayyusi, Lena and Anne Sofie Roald, eds. *Media and Political Contestation in the Contemporary Arab World*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Kraidy, Marwan. *Reality Television and Arab Politics: Contention in Public Life*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Music Videos

Lowkey. "[Cradle of Civilization](#)." 2010.

Narcy featuring Shadia Mansour. "[Hamdulillah](#)." 2010.

DAM. "[Born Here](#)." 2006.

Mashrou3 Leila. "[Fasateen](#)." 2012.

"[Mashrou3 Leila: NPR Music Tiny Desk Concert](#)." 2016.

Ali Attar. "[Patriotic song for the Syrian Arab Army](#)." 2013.

"[First song of the Syrian Revolution Ya Haif \(Oh Shame\)](#)." 2014.

"[Syria protest song: Go Out – ارجل](#)." 2011.

--corresponding article: Harkin, James. "[The Incredible Story Behind the Syrian Protest Singer Everyone Thought Was Dead](#)." *Pulitzer Center*. December 8, 2016.

Fayrouz. "[Sa'alouni Al Nas](#) (The People Asked Me)."

Faiirouz. "[Eddaysh Kan Fi Nas](#)."

Marcel Khalife. "[Rita](#)."

Marcel Khalife. "[Passport](#)."

Film and discussion
Amanda Steinberg
Monday/session 5 (4-5:30)

A Bottle in the Gaza Sea

Catsoulisjan, Jeannette. "[Personal Connection Amid Political Dissonance in the Middle East](#)." *The New York Times*, January 3, 2013.

Ali Zaoua

Kehr, David. "[Living, Thieving and Dying on Casablanca's Mean Streets.](#)" *The New York Times*. April 16, 2003.

Amreeka

Holden, Stephen. "[Settlers From Afar, in Land of Lincoln.](#)" *The New York Times*, September 3, 2009.

Persepolis

Scott, A.O. "[In a Flat World, a Rebel With a Cause.](#)" *The New York Times*, December 25, 2007.

The Syrian Bride

Holden, Stephen. "[The Thing She Carried: A Bride's Passport to No Man's Land.](#)" *The New York Times*, November 16, 2005.

Wadjda

Bloom, Julie. "[Where a Bicycle Is Sweetly Subversive: 'Wadjda,' by Haifaa al-Mansour, Made in Saudi Arabia.](#)" *The New York Times*, September 13, 2013.

What does it mean to be poor? Mapping poverty in the Middle East
Mona Atia

Tuesday/session 5 (9:30-10:45)

Articles

Atia, Mona. "Poverty Mapping: Genealogy of a Term." *Middle East Report* 272, fall 2014.

Assaad, et al. "Egypt's Poverty Targeting Tool Kit: An Exercise Requested by The Social Fund for Development." The Population Council.

Bedi, Tara, Aline Coudouel, and Kenneth Simler. "[More Than A Pretty Picture: Using Poverty Maps to Design Better Policies and Interventions.](#)" *World Bank*. 2007.

Learning opportunities for teachers and students

Youth mappers

<http://www.youthmappers.org/>

Teach Open Street Map

<http://teachosm.org/en/cases/gwu/>

PowerPoint

Jihad: Love & War in Islamic History

Joel Blecher

Tuesday/session 6 (11:00-12:15)

Articles and chapters

Bonner, M. "Introduction." *Jihad in Islamic History: Doctrines and Practice*. Princeton, 2008, 1-18.

Creswell, Robyn and Bernard Haykel, "[Battle Lines: want to understand the jihadis? Read their poetry.](#)" *The New Yorker*. June 8 & 15, 2015.

Deeb, Lara. "Public Piety as Women's Jihad," *An Enchanted Modern: Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon*. Princeton, 2006, 204-219.

Shane, Scott. "[The Lessons of Anwar al-Awlaki](#)" in *The New York Times Magazine*. Aug. 27, 2015.

Fadlallah, Husayn. "11 September, Terrorism, Islam, and the Intifada: an interview with Shaykh Muhammad." *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 31, No. 2 (Winter 2002), pp. 78-84

Usama ibn Munqidh. Excerpt from the *Book of Contemplation: Islam and the Crusades*.

Translated by Paul M. Cobb. Penguin Books 2008.

--a resource for the history of the Crusades through Muslim eyes.

Syllabus

Jihad: Love and War in Islamic History

Prezi (Mac and Windows link to google drive)

Panel discussion: contemporary religious practices of young Muslims

moderated by **Younus Mirza**

Tuesday/session 7 (12:15-1:30)

Articles

Hammer, Juliane. "Gendered Islamophobia." *In Islamophobia in America: The Anatomy of Intolerance*, edited by Carl Ernst. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Maira, Sunaina. "Islamophobia and the War on Terror: Youth, Citizenship, and Dissent." In *Islamophobia: The Challenge of Pluralism in the 21st Century*, edited by John Esposito and Ibrahim Kalin, Oxford University Press, 2011.

Shryock, Andrew J. "Attack of the Islamophobes: Religious War (and Peace) in Arab/Muslim Detroit." In *Islamophobia in America: The Anatomy of Intolerance*, edited by Carl Ernst. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Sirin, Selcuk R. and Michelle Fine. "Growing up in the shadow of moral exclusion." *Muslim American Youth: Understanding Hyphenated Identities through Multiple Methods*, New York University Press, 2008.

Sirin, Selcuk and Michelle Fine. "Moral Exclusion in a "Nation of Immigrants": An American Paradox or Tradition?" *Muslim American Youth: Understanding Hyphenated Identities through Multiple Methods*, New York University Press, 2008.

Video

[Unmosqued](#)

UnMosqued is a documentary film which aims to highlight the growing need for reform in many of the mosques found in America. The purpose of the documentary is to engage a group of people who have been disconnected from their local mosque and explore the various reasons that have led to this sentiment.

***There is a fee to stream this film.