

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area	Arabic
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org	Near Eastern Languages/Culture - D0554
College/Academic Group	Arts And Sciences
Level/Career	Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog	3501
Course Title	Middle Eastern literature and post colonial theory
Transcript Abbreviation	Post Col Thry/Lit
Course Description	Surveying and examining literary texts, theories, and films that explore the relationship between cultural power, colonialisms and different forms of representation
Semester Credit Hours/Units	Fixed: 3

Offering Information

Length Of Course	14 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course	Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component?	No
Grading Basis	Letter Grade
Repeatable	No
Course Components	Lecture
Grade Roster Component	Lecture
Credit Available by Exam	No
Admission Condition Course	No
Off Campus	Never
Campus of Offering	Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites	none
Exclusions	

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code	16.1101
Subsidy Level	Baccalaureate Course
Intended Rank	Sophomore, Junior, Senior

Quarters to Semesters

Quarters to Semesters	New course
Give a rationale statement explaining the purpose of the new course	Fulfills a need for colonial/post colonial theory at the undergraduate level.
Sought concurrence from the following Fiscal Units or College	NA

Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Surveying and examining literary texts, theories, and films that explore the relationship between cultural power, colonialisms and different forms of representation

Content Topic List

- What is colonial discourse and post-colonial theory
- Relationship between empire and writing: The case of Britain
- Lawrence of Arabia and forms of colonial shifts
- Post colonial writings: the case of Egypt
- Post colonial literary representations: the case of Algeria, Lebanon, Iraq and Palestine

Attachments

- Youssef ME Lit and Postcolonial Theory rev.doc: Syllabus with 16pt ft

(Syllabus. Owner: Heysel,Garett Robert)

- Youssef ME Lit and Postcolonial Theory.doc: Syllabus w/ 16pt & GE designation removed

(Syllabus. Owner: Webber,Sabra Jean)

Comments

- Garrett or Bernadette--I have removed the GE designation, but couldn't remove the old uploaded syllabus. Thanks

(by Webber,Sabra Jean on 03/10/2012 02:24 PM)

- Syllabus mentions on p. 1 that this is a GE course, but no other GE information is included in the syllabus. Also there is no GE rationale or GE assessment plan. Is GE reference left over from previous draft? (Please remove old version of document when new version is uploaded. Thanks.)

(by Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal on 02/29/2012 02:55 PM)

- A Syllabus should be submitted for this course.

(by Heysel,Garett Robert on 01/27/2012 08:52 PM)

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Webber,Sabra Jean	01/02/2012 07:35 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Noble,Stafford Carter	01/04/2012 01:09 PM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Heysel,Garett Robert	01/27/2012 08:52 PM	College Approval
Submitted	Webber,Sabra Jean	02/26/2012 07:31 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Webber,Sabra Jean	02/26/2012 07:32 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	02/29/2012 10:28 AM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	02/29/2012 02:55 PM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Webber,Sabra Jean	03/10/2012 02:25 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Webber,Sabra Jean	03/10/2012 02:27 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	03/12/2012 10:13 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen,Dawn Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Meyers,Catherine Anne Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Hogle,Danielle Nicole Hanlin,Deborah Kay	03/12/2012 10:13 PM	ASCCAO Approval



Middle Eastern Literature and Postcolonial Theory

1. *Edward Said* 2. *Lawrence of Arabia* 3. *Hodda Barakat* 4. *Ahlem Mosteghanemi*



1. Introduction

This course will survey developments in recent cultural and literary theory, which are primarily concerned with the relationships between cultural power, colonialism and different forms of representation. Surveying a wide range of issues, literary texts and theorists, this course will consider the impact of colonialism; it will examine the relationship between empire and writing; it will consider forms of resistance to the process of domination, and will look in particular at the ways literary and artistic representations from the Middle East have been crucial to this “writing back” and “writing beyond” by unsettling or undermining the ideologies at the core of imperialism, colonialism and internal structures of oppression like authoritarianism. As well as drawing upon the history of colonialism in the Arab world, concepts associated with colonial discourse analysis and postcolonial/ critical theory, this course will consider works of fiction, autobiography, paintings and film, and will relate these representations to approaches which have emerged out of Marxism, feminism, post-structuralism, psychoanalysis and cultural materialism.

This course is organized around five themes/ topics, and four historical geographies:

1. History: The British Empire in “Arabia”
2. Re-writing Empires through Fiction
3. French Algeria: The Battle of Algiers
4. Lebanon: Remembering the Civil War
5. Iraq: Inscribing ViolenceS

2. Course Requirements

Final Paper/ exam % 30

Two Short Midterm Papers (6-8 pages each) % 30

Presentation in class (15 min % 20) (choose a topic or a text to present on. Last date to decide will be the end of the second week. If you are not sure, you may sign up for a provisional title or speak with me to help you choose a specific topic, you don't have to know the exact topic at this stage. **It is important to realize that the date of your presentation will fall on the very week specified on this syllabus for that topic/ essay/ book/ film etc).**

Class Attendance, Book responses (one paragraph each) and **Participation** % 20

3. Teaching

Teaching on this course will consist of one weekly lecture and one precept (discussion period) every two weeks or when necessary. The lecture (during which students will be invited to participate, make comments or ask questions) is meant to clarify primary readings, and introduce students to some of the cultural/ historical and theoretical background of Arabic texts assigned for this course. For every class and the precept, **students will be expected to attend both having carried out the primary reading and having prepared material for presentation if it is their turn to present.** For every class there will be small assignments like preparing points for

discussion, or leading a discussion. An electronic course packet of all the articles you will need to read will be available soon through the library e-Reserve Web. Because we will be conducting close reading of the essays and the books, be sure to have your own copies; you may want to have a folder of all the essays first week of class to avoid confusion and to save time. Anyone without the required texts (both novels and essays) for any class may not be admitted to attend the class. A list of the books you are required to buy is at the end of this syllabus.

Presentations will be scheduled on second and third week of class. Presentations are for 15-20 minutes. You are expected to conduct further research on your topic (if need be), and do readings outside the syllabus; you may use power point to make a presentation. If you need help on presentation come and see me during my office hours.

YOU MUST PURCHASE (OR BORROW FOR THE DURATION OF THE COURSE) ALL OF THE BOOKS REQUIRED AND HAVE THEM ON YOU FOR THE RELEVANT CLASSES.

4. Attendance

Attendance at all teaching and precept sessions is expected and will be monitored. If two classes are not attended, then the student will need to make sure that his/ her absence is covered by appropriate documentation. If you cannot come to class because of specific circumstances, please be courteous and let me know beforehand by e-mail or in person. **Honesty is ALWAYS the best policy.**

5. Goals of the Course:

The course will help students evaluate significant writing and works of modern Middle Eastern literature. Such studies help develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical reading, thinking, and writing; and experiencing literature and reflecting on that experience.

6. Expected Learning Outcome:

1. Students will learn to analyze, appreciate, and interpret significant literary and filmic works.
2. Through reading, discussing, and writing about literature, students will learn to understand and evaluate the personal and social values of their own and other cultures.
3. Students will learn manners and skills of rational, well-informed and fair-minded reading of texts outside their culture, and will have an introductory familiarity with major concepts in Postcolonial theory.

Academic Misconduct:

“It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish 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).”

Disability Services:

“Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.”

5. Marking Your Papers

For paper topics (the two short midterms) students will be given a selection of choice questions related to the readings we would have covered at that point.

In assessing your work I look for

- a. an acceptable standard of clarity of expression;
- b. relevance to the question;
- c. effective organization of your argument;
- d. an appropriate range of basic material;
- e. evidence of appropriate supportive reading;
- f. use of appropriate analytical skills, including in a literary essay, detailed reference to and analysis of specific texts;
- g. ability to evaluate and justify the points you make;
- h. appropriate attention to questions of cultural significance, details of argumentation and selection of a well-chosen variety of specific examples;
- i. ability to show intellectual originality and creativity, sensitivity to historical context and theoretical implications;
- j. ability to demonstrate a critical reading especially of primary material;
- k. Appropriate use of bibliography, referencing, footnotes, etc. Presentation is also important.

NOTE: **Plagiarism WILL NOT** be tolerated. Please familiarize yourself with the guidelines for proper use of sources. Should you need help on this, see me during my office hours.

6. Lecture Program

Week 1.

Introductions, Outline and map of the course; general notes
The history of British Empire in the Arab World; the figure of Lawrence

Week 2.

Lawrence of Arabia inscribing Empire and Ambivalences in *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

Week 3.

Lawrence of Arabia inscribing Empire and Ambivalences in *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

Week 4.

Colonial Egypt: History and Theory, Watching Interviews, Reflecting on Paintings--
Colonizing Egypt in Latifa al-zayatt, *The Open Door*
Timothy Mitchell

Week 5.

Colonial Egypt: History and Theory, Colonial Exhibitions, Culture and Empire
Colonizing Egypt in Latifa al-zayatt, *The Open Door*
Introducing Postcolonial Theory and Middle Eastern Literature
The question of Orientalism

Week 6.

Postcolonial Theory and Middle Eastern Literature; the question of Orientalism

Week 7.

The Battle of Algiers (film); French Empire

Week 8.

History and Writing, Palestinian Intellectuals

Week 9.

History and Writing, Palestinian Intellectuals

Week 10.

The literature of War, the case of Lebanon: Other Writers on the Civil War. Hoda Barakat, *The Tiller of Waters*; The literature of War, the case of Lebanon, Hanan Al-Shaykh

Week 11.

The literature of War, the case of Lebanon: Other Writers on the Civil War. Hoda Barakat, *The Tiller of Waters*

Week 12.

Iraq: History and Writing/ Poetry

Week 13

Iraq: History and Writing

Week 14. Review/ Mock Exam

Week 15 Review

6. Primary Reading for Precepts

(All readings in this section are compulsory)

I. History: The British Empire in Arabia

• **Week 1:**

Start reading *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T. E Lawrence

• **Week 2**

Seven Pillars of Wisdom by T. E Lawrence
Read Colonizing Egypt

• **Week 3**

Seven Pillars of Wisdom by T. E Lawrence

Read Colonizing Egypt

- **Week 4**

Latifa al-zayatt, *The Open Door*

Representing Colonial history: gender

Sara Suleri, "Woman Skin Deep: Feminism and the Postcolonial Condition"
Critical Inquiry, 18, summer 1992.

David Blanks, "Gendering History: Europe and the Middle", *Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics*, no 19.

II. Theory: Rewriting Empire

- **Week 5**

"What is Post (-) colonialism?" in *Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman, Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory: A Reader, Hervester Wheatsheaf, 1993*, pp. 276-290

"Postcolonial Theory and Modern Arabic Literature: Horizons of Application", pp. 45-64, *Journal of Arabic Literature*, XXXIII, 1 (2002).

III. French Algeria: The Battle of Algiers

- **Week 6**

Ahlem Mosteghanemi, *Memory in the Flesh*

Edward Said, *Orientalism*

"Orientalism and its Problems" in *Colonial Discourse*, pp. 150-161

"Orientalism and After" *Colonial Discourse*, pp. 162-171

Other Responses to *Orientalism*

- **Week 7** Moustafa Bayoumi, "Shadows and Light: Colonial Modernity and the Grande Mosquée of Paris", *The Yale Journal of Criticism*, volume 13, no 2, 2000.

FIRST PAPER DUE

IV. Lebanon: Remembering and Forgetting the Civil War

- **Week 8**

Palestine: History and Writing memoir, Said's, *Out of Place*/ Mahmoud Darwish, *Unfortunately it was paradise*
Saad Al-Bazei, "The contemporary Poetry of Arabia", *World Literature*; Spring 2001; 75, 2

- **Week 9**

Readings from Darwish, "Eleven Stars Over Andalusia", *unfortunately it was paradise*.

Sections from, Khalid Sulaiman, *Palestine and Modern Arab Poetry*, Zed Books
Cartoonists/ Artists: Naji- al-Ali

Historical Background: two chapters from *The Origins of The Arab- Israeli Wars*,
Second edition, Richie Overndale, Longman, 1992.

"Reflections on Al-Nakba", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol 28, No 1, 1998.

- **Week 10**

Hoda Barakat, *The Tiller of Waters*

David Hirst, "South Lebanon: The War that Never Ends", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, vol 28, no 3, spring 1999.

SECOND PAPER DUE

VI. Iraq: Inscribing Violences

Week 11

Memories of State: Politics, History, and Collective Identity in Modern Iraq
(Paperback) by Eric Davis (Author)

Saadi Simawe (Editor), *Iraqi Poetry Today*; Readings and discussion

Week 12

Modern Iraqi Literature: Representation of Repressions

Week 13

Memories of State: Politics, History, and Collective Identity in Modern Iraq
(Paperback) by Eric Davis (Author)

Week 14

Memories of State: Politics, History, and Collective Identity in Modern Iraq
(Paperback) by Eric Davis (Author)

Review/ Discussion

Week 15

Review/ Discussion

FINAL PAPER/ OR EXAM

8. Journals for the course

(You may consult the following specialized journals to conduct further research for your papers and presentation. You may also speak with me for further advice on bibliographical sources; almost all of these journals are accessible through Bard's free e-journals)

- *Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics*
- *Journal of Arabic Literature*
- *Arabic and Middle Eastern Literature*
- *Critique: Critical and Middle Eastern Studies*
- *Representations*
- *Postcolonial Studies Journal*
- *Ariel*
- *Jouvet (free e-journal)*
- *World Literature*

9. Books to Purchase

1. T. E Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*
2. Latifa al-Zayat, *The Open Door*
3. Ahlam Mosteghanemi, *Memory in the Flesh*
4. Edward Said, *Out of Place*
5. Hoda Barakat, *The Tiller of Waters*
6. HANAN AL-SHAYKH, *THE STORY OF ZAHRA*, Publisher: Doubleday; Reprint edition (December 1, 1993), ISBN: 0385471300.
7. Saadi Simawe (Editor), *Iraqi Poetry Today*
 7. Mahmoud Darwish, *Unfortunately, It was Paradise* (selected poems) translated and edited by Munir Akash and Carolyn Forche, University of California Press, 2003
 8. *Colonizing Egypt* (Paperback) by Timothy Mitchell (Author) Paperback: 230 pages Publisher: University of California Press (October 11, 1991)