Syllabus

FEMINIST MOVEMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST - 38865

Last update 19-08-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: islamic & middle east stud.

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Liat Kozma

Coordinator Email: liat.kozma@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday, 11:00-12:00

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Liat Kozma
Course/Module description:
The purpose of the course is to study the diversity of feminist activism in the Middle East and North Africa, the achievements of women's movements and their challenges. While the first weeks of the semester will be dedicated to the beginning of feminist thought and activism in the region, most of the semester will examine various cases studies throughout the region. In Morocco and Iran, for example, we shall examine the work of Islamic feminism; the Turkish and Tunisian case studies will illustrate state intervention and sidelining of religion; the Israeli and Lebanese case studies will teach us of the challenges of a feminist movement in conflict-ridden society.

Course/Module aims:
1. Understanding the political context of feminist activism.
2. Understanding the challenges they are facing.
3. Understanding their strategies
4. Assessing their successes and failures

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Mapping women's movements around the Middle East, and explaining the differences between them

Attendance requirements(%):
90%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course will be based on class discussion.

Course/Module Content:
Beginnings: The beginning of the printed press, Qasim Amin, national struggle and state feminism.
Contemporary case studies: Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Palestinian society and Iran.
Women's movements after the Arab Spring.

Required Reading:
1. Introductory Remarks
2. Beginnings: The Lebanese printed press: why Lebanon?
Zachs, Fruma and Sharon Halevi. "From Dif' Al-Nis' to Mas'alat Al-Nis' in Greater Syria: Readers and Writers Debate Women and Their Rights, 1858-1900." International Journal of Middle East Studies 41 (2009), 615-633.

3. The Center moves to Egypt

4. Qasim Amin: The first Arab feminist? (reading divided to three groups)


5. Between Colonialism and Nationalism: The formation of the Egyptian movement

6. The Iraqi formative moment

7. Jewish Women in Pre-state Israel (reading divided between three groups)

8. Palestine's formative years

9. State Feminism: The Tunisia case

10. State Feminism in Nasserite Egypt
11. Nawwal al-Saadawi: Bringing sexuality to the fore

12. Fatima Mernissi: Islamic apologetics? (divided between three groups)

13. Feminism and Cyberspace
Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh, "'To do something we are unable to do in Iran': Cyberspace, the public sphere, and the Iranian women's movement," Signs 39 (2014), 831-840.
Sarah A. Tobin, "'My life is more important than family honor': offline protests, counter-cyberactivism, and article 308," CyberOrient 8 (2014).

14. Morocco: A success story?

15. Lebanon: Within and against a sectorial conflict

16. Jordan: Challenging tribal law

17. Iraq: Challenges of the post-Saddam era

18. Turkey: The downsides of the Kemalist project

19. Hamas and Hizballah women

20. Religious activism in Israel

21. Israel: Calling equality's bluff

22. Israel: Diverse Feminist voices

23. Palestinian citizens of Israel: A trapped minority
Rouhana, Hoda. "Muslim family laws in Israel: The role of the state and the citizenship of Palestinian women". Women Living under Muslim Laws: Dossier 27 (2005), 37-49.

24. Iran: Within the confines of a regime

25. Kurdish women: non-state movement
aha, mer, "The Kurdish women's movement: A third-wave feminism within the Turkish context," Turkish Studies 12 (2011), 435-449.

26. Palestine: A formative debate


27. The Arab Spring: Tunisia

28. The Arab Spring: Egypt
Morsy, Maya. "Safe city free of violence against women and girls is a safe city for everyone." Egypte / Monde Arabe 9 (2011), 151-164.

Additional Reading Material:
none.

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 20 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 70 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
The course will be taught in English.