ANTH 4533
Middle East Cultures
Spring 2004
Safari # 3609

INSTRUCTOR: Ted Swedenburg tsweden@uark.edu
Class meetings: TTh 9:30-10:50am, Old Main 327
Office: Old Main 338; hours TTh 11:00-12:30
Telephone 575-6624
Syllabus on web comp.uark.edu/~tsweden

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Muhammad Asad, *The Road to Mecca*
Asef Bayat, *Street Politics*
Farha Ghannam, *Remaking the Modern*
David McMurray, *In & Out of Morocco*
Anne Meneley, *Tournaments of Value*
Ted Swedenburg, *Memories of Revolt*
Plus selected articles at webct.uark.edu

Goals:
This course introduces students to some of the peoples/cultures of the Middle East, to critical issues facing the region, and to some important and innovative anthropological approaches to the study of this area. We take a thematic approach, rather than attempting to survey the entire region. Among the issues we deal with are: Islam in Arabia, nationalist rebellion in Palestine, street politics in Iran, female socializing in Yemen, migration in Morocco, and the politics of space in Cairo.

Course Requirements:

Reaction Papers (7) ----------	140 points (20 points each)
Book report ----------	60 points
Critical Essays (3) ----------	180 points (60 points each)
Participation ----------	40 points
Total	420

1. REACTION PAPERS ESSAYS: 6 short papers, approximately 1 typed page, based upon the key readings assigned for the previous 1-2 weeks. The purpose of these essays is to (a) encourage you to keep up with the readings, (b) develop a synthetic understanding of course materials, and (c) raise issues for discussion that are pertinent to these materials. Be sure that your papers do not simply repeat arguments or discussions brought up in class. (30% of grade)

2. BOOK REPORT: Book report on an ethnography dealing with the Middle East. To be chosen by the student, from a list of books supplied by the instructor. A handout will be passed out later. (15%)

3. CRITICAL ESSAYS: Three papers, between 5 and 7 typed, double-spaced pages. These essays should engage with the major themes and topics of the readings in a critical fashion. (45%)

4. PARTICIPATION: Participation in class discussion is expected and will be considered in assignment of final grades. Class lectures and discussions will cover material that supplements the readings, so please come to class—even if you are unprepared. Attendance will be taken. KEEP UP WITH READINGS! (10%)

ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED AND DOUBLE SPACED.

Writing Guidelines: All work written for this course should be of a level appropriate to college students. **Mechanics and grammar DO count**. Please type and proofread carefully. Everyone can improve his or her writing skills--even great writers.

SHORT GUIDE TO WRITING A STRONG ESSAY:
Re-read frequently!

Your goal is to develop an argument, which consists of the following components: a claim, reasoning to support that claim, evidence to support it, conclusion about the claim.

- Try for a strong opening, the better to lure the reader.
- Situate particular statements or points from the book within the author's overall argument. This serves to contextualize your focus (i.e., to avoid taking the arguments out of context).
- Support your argument with some examples from the text (and other relevant materials) to illustrate what you mean to say.
- Briefly identify the work(s) and author(s) under discussion within your text, so we'll know what you're addressing (underline or *italicize* Book Titles, put quotations around "Article Titles").
- Locate quotations (give page number; if unclear from context, give author and title).
- As a rule, put punctuation inside quotations: "xxxxx." "xxxx," "xxxx?" "xxxxx" (p. x).
- Do you make a point? Avoid leaving your readers in confusion, or in "so-what?" land.
- Push your analysis and explore the implications of your argument (for anthropology, for everyday life, themes in the course, etc.).
- Wrap up the end of your paper by tying it back to your starting point. This will confirm your thesis point, remind the reader of what you aimed to address, and show how far your argument has taken you.
- Proofread your essay. Try having someone else read it aloud to you and listen for clarity, persuasiveness, awkward sentence structure or poor grammar, etc.

<u>LATE ASSIGNMENTS</u>: Unexcused late assignments will automatically have **10%** deducted from the grade, and must be turned in by the end of the week they were due. An additional **10%** will be deducted each week thereafter.

Grading, attendance, etc. Final grades will be determined on the basis of total points earned on short papers, critical essays, book report and active participation in class (see above). **Regular attendance is expected, and excessive absences may result in the student being dropped from class.** I will make every effort to hold class in inclement weather.

Academic honesty: Provisions of the Code of Conduct of the University (see 2003-2004 Catalog of Studies: advancement.uark.edu/catalogofstudies/03-04/html/academicregs.html#02) will be followed in this course.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Additional and/or substitute readings will be assigned as needed.

WEEK 1 January 13 & 15 **Orientations**
E. Said, *Covering Islam*, Chapters 1, 3
Film: *The Shadow of the West*

WEEK 2 January 20 & 22 **Islam & Arabia I**
M. Asad, *The Road to Mecca*
Film: *The Wisdom of Faith: Islam*

Map quiz: Tuesday, Jan. 20

WEEK 3 January 27 & 29 **Islam & Arabia II**
M. Asad, *The Road to Mecca*

January 26: Last day to drop without a mark of "W" or change from credit to audit

Reaction paper 1 due, Tuesday Jan. 27, on Asad

WEEK 4 February 3 & 5 **Palestine & Memory**
T. Swedenburg, *Memories of Revolt*

WEEK 5 February 10 & 12 **Palestine & Memory II**
T. Swedenburg, *Memories of Revolt*

Reaction paper 2 due, Tuesday Feb. 10 on Swedenburg

WEEK 6 February 17 & 19 **Women, Sociability, Hierarchy I**
A. Meneley, *Tournaments of Value*

Critical Essay 1 due, Tuesday, Feb. 17

WEEK 7 February 24 & 26 **Women, Sociability, Hierarchy II**
A. Meneley, *Tournaments of Value*
A. Meneley, unpublished paper

Reaction paper 3 due, Tuesday February 24 on Meneley

WEEK 8 March 2 & 4 **Quiet Encroachment of the Ordinary**
A. Bayat, *Street Politics*

WEEK 9 March 9 & 11 **Street Protest**
A. Bayat, *Street Politics*

Reaction paper 4 due, Tuesday March 9 on Bayat

March 15-19 **SPRING BREAK**!!

WEEK 10 March 23 & 25 **Relocation, Identity, Urban Space I**
F. Ghannam, *Remaking the Modern*

Critical Essay 2 due, Tuesday March 25

March 26: *LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE WITH A W*

WEEK 11 March 30 & April 1 **Relocation, Identity, Urban Space II**
F. Ghannam, *Remaking the Modern*

Reaction Paper 5 due, Tuesday March 30 on Ghannam

WEEK 12 April 6 & 8 **Migration & Smuggling I**
D. McMurray, *In & Out of Morocco*

WEEK 13 April 13 & 15 **Migration & Smuggling II**
D. McMurray, *In & Out of Morocco*

Reaction paper 6 due, Tuesday, April 13 on McMurray

WEEK 14 April 20 & 22 **TBA**

WEEK 15 April 27 & 29 **TBA**
Reaction paper 7 due, Thursday, April 29

April 29: *LAST DAY TO OFFICIALLY WITHDRAW FROM SPRING COURSES*

Book report due, Thursday, April 29, in class. **NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED!**
ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE IN TODAY!
(Check with instructor to see if you owe any assignments) **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Critical Essay 3 due, Wednesday May 5
Turn in to Dr. S's office, Main 338, by 5 p.m.
NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED!