

ANTH 4913/MEST 4003
Mass Media & Popular Culture in the Middle East
Fall 2003 Safari #07712/02710

INSTRUCTOR Ted Swedenburg
Class meetings: MWF 1-3:50, Old Main 325
Office: Old Main 338; hours TR 11:30-12:30
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REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Armbrust, Walter. *Mass Culture and Modernism in Egypt*. Cambridge University Press.
- Danielson, Virginia. *The Voice of Egypt: Umm Kulthûm, Arabic Song, and Egyptian Society in the Twentieth Century*. Chicago University Press.
- Douglas, Allen and Fedwa Malti-Douglas. *Arab Comic Strips: Politics of an Emerging Mass Culture*. Indiana University Press.
- Nieuwkerk, Karin van. *"A Trade like Any Other": Female Singers and Dancers in Egypt*. University of Texas Press.
- Schade-Poulsen, Marc. *Men and Popular Music in Algeria*. University of Texas Press.
- Plus selected articles, on WebCT and public domain, internet.

REQUIREMENTS

Reaction Papers (6)-----	100 points (50 points each)
Critical Essays(3)-----	600 points (200 each)
Participation -----	<u>100 points</u>
Total	800

- 1. REACTION PAPERS:** 6 short papers, approximately 1 typed pages, 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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. **KEEP UP WITH READINGS!** Pop quizzes will occur when/if the instructor determines that they are needed.

ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED, 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 their 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., 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 text 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: "xxxx." "xxx," "xxx?" "xxxx" (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, for issues of nature/culture, etc.).
- Wrap up the end of your paper by tying it back to your starting point. This will confirm your thesis point, reminds the reader of what you aimed to address, and shows 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, poor grammar, etc.

Grading, attendance, make-ups, etc. Final grades will be determined on the basis of total points earned on papers, exams, and active participation in class. 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.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: 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.

Academic honesty Provisions of the Code of Conduct of the University will be followed in this course.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, TOPICS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

WK 1 August 27	Intro, Rai Film: <i>100% Arabica</i>
WK 2 September 3	Rai Schade-Poulsen, <i>Men and Popular Music in Algeria</i> , 3-96
WK 3 September 10	Rai II Schade-Poulsen, <i>Men and Popular Music in Algeria</i> , 97-196 Gross et al, "Rai, Rap and Ramadan Nights" Langlois, "The Local and Global in North African Popular Music"
	<u>DUE:</u> Reaction Paper #1 (on Schade-Poulsen)
WK 4 September 17	Umm Kulthûm Danielson, <i>The Voice of Egypt</i> , 1-99 Film: <i>Umm Kulthum, A Voice like Egypt</i> .

- WK 5 September 24 **Umm Kulthûm II**
 Danielson, *The Voice of Egypt*, 100-202
 Armbrust, "The Golden Age before the Golden Age"
DUE: Reaction Paper #2 (on Danielson)
- WK 6 October 1 **Modernism, Mass Culture**
 Armbrust, *Mass Culture and Modernism in Egypt*, 1-93
DUE: Critical Essay #1 (on Schade-Poulsen & Danielson)
- WK 7 October 8 **Modernism, Mass Culture II**
 Armbrust, *Mass Culture and Modernism in Egypt*, 94-220
 Vitalis, "American Ambassador in Technicolor and Cinemascope"
DUE: Reaction paper #3, (on Armbrust)
- WK 8 October 15
 Guest lecture: Dr. Joel Gordon
- WK 9 October 22 **Female Entertainers in Egypt**
 Nieuwkerk, "A Trade like Any Other," 1-94
- WK 10 October 29 **Female Entertainers in Egypt II**
 Nieuwkerk, "A Trade like Any Other," 95-192
 Dougherty, "Badi'ah Masabni, Artiste and Modernist"
 Dox, "Thinking Through Veils"
 Sellers-Young, "Raks El Sharki"
DUE: Reaction paper #4 (on Nieuwkerk)
- WK 11 November 5 **Comix**
 Douglas & Douglas, *Arab Comic Strips*, 1-109
DUE: Critical Essay #2 (on Armbrust & Nieuwkerk)
- WK 12 November 12 **Comix II**
 Douglas & Douglas, *Arab Comic Strips*, 110-227
DUE: Reaction paper #5 (on Douglas & Douglas)
- WK 13 November 19 **Transnationalized Middle Eastern Pop Culture**
 Zirbel, "Playing it Both Ways: Local Egyptian Performers between Regional Identity
 Schuyler, "Joujouka/Jajouka/Zahjoukah: Moroccan Music and Euro-American
 Imagination"
 Gysin, "The Pipes of Pan" (xerox)
- HOLIDAY: November 26
- WK 14 December 3 **Transnationalized Middle Eastern Pop Culture II**
 Swedenburg, "Saida Sultan/Danna International: Transgender Pop and the
 Polysemiotics of Sex, Nation and Ethnicity on the Israeli-Egyptian Border"
 Swedenburg, "Islamic Hip-Hop vs. Islamophobia"
 Swedenburg, "Arabs in 'World Music'"
 Swedenburg, "Sounds from the Interzone"
DUE: Reaction Paper #6 (readings of weeks 13 & 14)

Final Critical Essay (#3) is DUE Monday Dec. 15, in Professor Swedenburg's mailbox, Main 330,
 by 4:30 PM. NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED!