Topics in the History of Media

Media Revolutions in the Modern Middle East

CAS HI230: Spring 2016

Betty Anderson (banderso@bu.edu)
CAS 315 MWF: 10:00-11:00

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Office Hours: M 12:00-2:00, W 1:30-3:30, F 3:00-4:00, and by appointment

This course examines how citizenries and state leaders in the Middle East over the last 150 years used a host of media venues to define their national identities, gain supporters for their political positions, garner attention from the international community and mobilize attention for their many coups and rebellions. Intellectuals of the 19th century constructed their national and personal identities through the pages of magazines and newspapers; with the formation of the modern nation-states after WWI, radio, music and movies became the new forum for articulating identity. After WWII, and the rise of authoritarian states throughout the Middle East, textbooks and radio broadcasts set the parameters for obedience to state rule; the proliferation of statues and posters of state leaders provided the imagery for the personality cults surrounding such leaders as Saddam Husayn. In the last two decades, state leaders and newly rebellious populations have competed through social media, cable television stations and even tourism campaigns to gain supporters for their visions of the national future. In all these eras, the class will analyze how the producers of all kinds used the media of the day to define their projects, entice supporters to follow their message and, when necessary, enforce obedience from those resisting them.

The students are required to complete all the readings assigned and take a mid-term and a final. In these exams, the students will be tested not only on their knowledge of historical events but they must be able to analyze the different historical developments and changes taking place during the period of time covered by the course. Answers must incorporate information gleaned from the class lectures, the assigned readings, and the discussions.

The students will also write 2 five-page papers analyzing an aspect of the course covered in the readings and lectures. The papers must be turned in on the date specified below; otherwise it will lose 1/3 a grade for each day it is late. Plagiarism will be handled per the guidelines set out in the CAS Academic Conduct Code (http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/).

In addition to the written work, discussions will take place every week concerning the assigned readings. On these days, the students must arrive in class prepared to analyze and contribute to the topics proposed in order to receive full credit for participation.

Books:

*(All other articles are on the Web: [http://people.bu.edu/banderso/hi230](http://people.bu.edu/banderso/hi230))*

**Requirements:**

1 mid-term worth 25% of the grade
2 five-page papers worth 30% of the grade
1 final exam worth 25% of the grade
Class participation worth 20% of the grade

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**Week 1 (January 20 and 22)**

Betty S. Anderson, *A History of the Modern Middle East: Rulers, Rebels, and Rogues* (Stanford University Press, 2016), Prologue and Chapters 1, 2, and 3

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**Week 2 (January 25, 27, and 29)**

1) Anderson, Chapter 4

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**Week 3 (February 1, 3, and 5)**

1) Anderson, Chapters 5 and 6

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**Week 4 (February 8, 10, and 12)**


**First Paper Due: Friday, February 12, 5:00 pm**

**Week 5 (Tuesday, February 16, 17, and 19)**

1) **Anderson**, Chapters 7 and 8

**Week 6 (February 22, 24, and 26)**

1) **Anderson**, Chapters 9 and 10 and Epilogue

**Week 7 (February 29. No classes on March 2 and 4)**

Guest speaker on Monday, February 29: TBA

**TAKE-HOME MID-TERM EXAMINATION DUE Friday, March 4, 2015 via email**

**SPRING BREAK, March 5-13**

**Week 8 (March 14, 16, and 18)**

Week 9 (March 21, 23, and 25)

Armbrust, Mass Mediations, Chapters 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, and 13

Week 10 (March 28 and 30 and April 1)

1) Eickelman and Anderson, New Media in the Muslim World, Chapters 1-7 and 10

Week 11 (April 4, 6, and 8)

1) Robert Fisk, Pity the Nation (Touchstone, 1990), pp. 48-91.

Week 12 (April 11, 13 and 15)

1) Iskandar and Haddad, Mediating the Arab Uprisings

Second Paper Due: Friday, April 15, 5:00 pm

Week 13 (Wednesday, April 20 and 22)

Week 14 (April 25, 27, and 29)

FINAL: Wednesday, May 4: 9:00-11:00am