

Topics in the History of Media

Media Revolutions in the Modern Middle East

CAS HI230: Spring 2018

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CAS 323A MWF: 1:25-2:15

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Office Hours: M 11:00-1:00, W 11:00-12:00, F 11:00-1:00, 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 Hussein. 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. In the final exam, 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, the films, and the discussions. Five critical reading exercise will require students to analyze a written text, an image or a film clip for historical context, authorship, and intended audience. In the last two weeks of class, students will be put into teams and will present their own critical reading exercises to the class.

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 dates 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:

Betty Anderson, **A History of the Modern Middle East: Rulers, Rebels, and Rogues**. Stanford University Press, 2016.

Walter Armbrust, ed. **Mass Mediations** (University of California Press, 2000).

Dale Eickelman and Jon W. Anderson, ed. **New Media in the Muslim World** (Indiana University Press, 2003).

(All other articles are on the Blackboard site)

Requirements:

2 five-page papers worth 30% of the grade

6 critical reading exercise worth 30% of the grade

1 final exam worth 20% of the grade

Class participation worth 20% of the grade

Week 1 (January 19)

Anderson, Chapters 2 and 3

Week 2 (January 22, 24, and 26)

1) Anderson, Chapter 4

2) Ami Ayalon, **The Press in the Arab Middle East** (Oxford University Press, 1995), pp. 28-72.

3) Ziad Fahmy, Ordinary Egyptians: Creating the Modern Nation through Popular Culture (Stanford University Press, 2011), pp. 96-133.

Week 3 (January 29 and 31, February 2)

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 5
 - 2) Virginia Danielson, The Voice of Egypt: Umm Kulthum, Arabic Song, and Egyptian Society in the Twentieth Century (University of Chicago Press, 1997), pp. 42-99.
 - 3) Sherifa Zuhur. Asmahan's Secrets: Woman, War, and Song (University of Texas Press, 2000), pp. 1-23.
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Week 4 (February 5, 7, and 9)

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 6
- 2) Lisa Wedeen, Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric and Symbols in Contemporary Syria (University of Chicago Press, 1999), pp. 32-66.
- 3) Rebecca Joubin, The Politics of Love: Sexuality, Gender, and Marriage in Syrian Television Drama (Lexington Books, 2013), pp. 61-114.

First Critical Reading Exercise, in Class, February 7

Week 5 (February 12, 14, and 16)

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 7
 - 2) Zeina Maasri, Off the Wall: Political Posters of the Lebanese Civil War (I.B. Tauris, 2008), 15-70.
 - 3) Lina Khatib, Image Politics in the Middle East: The Role of the Visual in Political Struggle (I.B. Tauris, 2013), pp. 1-35.
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Week 6 (Tuesday, February 20, 21, and 23)

- 1) Waleed Hazbun, Beaches, Ruins, Resorts: The Politics of Tourism in the Arab World (University of Minnesota Press, 2008), pp. 77-188.
- 2) Alamira Reem Al Ayedrous Bani Hashim, "Branding the Brand New City: Abu Dhabi, Travelers Welcome," Place Branding and Public Diplomacy, 8:1(2012): 72-82

Second Critical Reading Exercise, in Class, February 21

Week 7 (February 26 and 28 (No Class, Friday, March 2))

- 1) Laleh Khalili, "Virtual Nation: Palestinian Cyberculture in Lebanese Camps." Palestine, Israel, and the Politics of Popular Culture (Duke University Press, 2005), pp. 126-149.
 - 2) Sunaina Maira, Jil Oslo: Palestinian Hip Hop, Youth Culture, and the Youth Movement (Tadween Publishing, 2013), pp. 70-179.
 - 3) Marc LeVine, Heavy Metal Islam (Three Rivers Press, 2008), pp. 1-20 and 106-138.
 - 4) Damian Radcliffe, "10 Social Media Lessons from the Middle East for 2017." Informed Comment, January 9, 2017.
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SPRING BREAK, March 3-11

Week 8 (March 12, 14, and 16)

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

Third Critical Reading Exercise, in Class, March 14

Week 9 (March 19, 21, and 23)

- 1) **Eickelman and Anderson**, New Media in the Muslim World, Chapters 1-5 and 7.
- 2) Marc Lynch, Voices of the New Arab Public: Iraq, al-Jazeera, and Middle East Politics Today (Columbia University Press, 2006), pp. 1-28, 125-170.

First Five-Page Paper Due, Friday, March 23, 5:00pm

Week 10 (March 26, 28, and 30)

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 8
- 2) Editors, "The Times and Iraq." New York Times, May 26, 2004.
- 3) Adam Entous, Ellen Nakashima, and Greg Jaffe, "Kremlin Trolls Burned Across the Internet as Washington Debated Options," Washington Post, December 25, 2017.
- 4) Jeffrey St. Clair and Joshua Frank, "Go Ask Alice: The Curious Case of 'Alice Donovan,'" Counterpunch, December 26, 2017.
- 5) Virginia Tilley, "The New Hysteria on Kremlin Trolls," Counterpunch, December 29, 2017.
- 6) Jeffrey St. Clair and Joshua Frank, "Ghosts in the Propaganda Machine," Counterpunch, January 5, 2018.

Fourth Critical Reading Exercise, in Class, March 28

Week 11 (April 2, 4 and 6)

- 1) Melissa Aronczyk, "How to Do Things with Brands: Uses of National Identity." Canadian Journal of Communication (34, 2009): 291-296.
- 2) Kifah and Jennifer. "Jon Stewart's Theater of the Absurd." Jadaliyya.com. October 2, 2012.
- 3) Maysoun Sukarieh, "The Hope Crusades: Culturalism and Reform in the Arab World," Political and Legal Anthropology Review, 35:1(May 2012): 115-134.
- 4) Joumana, "Political Campaigns in Lebanon: I Love Life." MiddleMedia (December 10, 2008).
- 5) Andrew O'Hehir, "From 9/11 to the ISIS Videos: The Darkness We Conjured Up," Salon.com. September 6, 2014.

Fifth Critical Reading Exercise, in Class, April 4

Week 12 (April 9, 11, and 13)

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 9
 - 2) Mark Allen Peterson, Connected in Cairo: Growing up Cosmopolitan in the Middle East (Indiana University Press, 2011), pp. 28-95.
 - 3) Marwan Kraidy, Reality Television and Arab Politics (Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 1-45.
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Week 13 (Wednesday, April 18 and 20)

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 10 and Epilogue
- 2) Vivian Salama. "Al-Jazeera's (R)Evolution?" Mediating the Arab Uprisings. Edited by Adel Iskandar and Bassam Haddad (Tadween 2013), pp. 39-46.
- 3) Linda Herrera, "Egypt's Revolution 2.0: The Facebook Factor. Mediating the Arab Uprisings. Edited by Adel Iskandar and Bassam Haddad (Tadween 2013), pp. 47-53.
- 4) Mona el-Ghobashy, "The Praxis of the Egyptian Revolution," MERIP Spring 2011.

Second Five-Page Paper Due, Friday, April 20, 5:00pm

Week 14 (April 23, 25, and 27)

Student-led Critical Reading Exercises throughout Week

Week 15 (April 30 and May 2)

Student-led Critical Reading Exercises throughout Week

Tentative Schedule for Final: Friday, May 11, 12:30-2:30 pm