Topics in the History of Media

Media Revolutions in the Modern Middle East

CAS HI230: Spring 2017

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CAS B06A MWF: 2:30-3:20

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Office Hours: M 12:00-2:00, W 11:00-12:00, F 11:00-12:00, 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, the films, and the discussions. A critical reading exercise will require students to analyze a written text, an image or a film clip for historical context, authorship, and intended audience.

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:

(All other articles are on the Blackboard site)

Requirements:

2 five-page papers worth 30% of the grade
1 critical reading exercise worth 5% of the grade
1 mid-term worth 15% of the grade
1 final exam worth 30% of the grade
Class participation worth 20% of the grade

Week 1 (January 20)

Anderson, Chapters 2 and 3

Week 2 (January 23, 25, and 27)

1) Anderson, Chapter 4

Week 3 (January 30, February 1 and 3)

1) Anderson, Chapter 5

Week 4 (February 6, 8, and 10)

1) Waleed Hazbun, Beaches, Ruins, Resorts: The Politics of Tourism in the Arab World (University of Minnesota Press, 2008), pp. 77-188.

First Paper Due: Friday, February 10, 5:00 pm

Week 5 (February 13, 15, and 17)
1) Anderson, Chapter 6

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**Week 6 (Tuesday, February 21, 22, and 24)**

1) Anderson, Chapter 7

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**Week 7 (February 27, March 1 and 3)**


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**TAKE-HOME MID-TERM EXAMINATION DUE Friday, March 3, 2015 via email**

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**SPRING BREAK, March 4-12**

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**Week 8 (March 13, 15, and 17)**

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

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**Week 9 (March 20, 22, and 24)**

1) Eickelman and Anderson, *New Media in the Muslim World*, Chapters 1-5 and 7.

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**Week 10 (March 27, 29, and 31)**
1) Anderson, Chapter 8

**Week 11 (April 3, 5, and 7)**

Articles and Images to Be Assigned for Reading Exercise

**Critical Reading Exercise Due: TBD**

**Week 12 (April 10, 12, and 14)**


**Second Paper Due: Friday, April 14, 5:00 pm**

**Week 13 (Wednesday, April 19 and 21)**

1) Anderson, Chapter 9

**Week 14 (April 24, 26, and 28)**

1) Anderson, Chapter 10 and Epilogue
Week 15 (May 1 and 3)

No Readings

FINAL: Take-Home Final, Due Date TBD