MENG 6260: Middle Eastern Women Writers

Dr. Kathleen Herndon
Officer: EH 461

Spring, 2016
Office Hours: 4:00 P.M.

Phone: 801-626-6217

Course Description: This course will introduce students to the literature written by women from the Middle East. Students will be introduced to a range of novels, poetry, and short stories from 8 different Middle Eastern countries. In addition, student will explore issues common to the Middle East and other issues common to women’s experiences internationally. There is a long history of women writers in the Middle East but only recently have these texts been translated into English. The literature is a reflection of history, culture, religion and social practices of the region.

MENG Program Learning Outcomes (LO):
The MENG Program is dedicated to helping students master the following learning outcomes. LO 1: Gather, analyze, and communicate information effectively as well as think creatively and critically.
LO 2: Cultivate skills in close reading, critical thinking, logical argument from evidence presented, creative expression, and persuasive writing.
LO 3: Apply various theoretical perspectives and literary terminology to interpretations of literary texts to showcase and understanding of theoretical perspectives.
LO 4: Acknowledge and articulate the significance of key primary text(s) in one specific literary genre, period, culture or style.
LO 5: Demonstrate knowledge of an interaction with current scholarly criticism.
LO 6: Ability to employ academic conventions and protocols for written or multimodal presentations, including the application of appropriate conventions, citation formats and style manuals.

Course Goals: By the end of the semester you should be able to:
1. Discuss, share, and evaluate a wide range of literature written by Middle Eastern Women Writers.
2. Discuss issues connected to the experiences of Middle Eastern Women Writers.
3. Develop an understanding of the viewpoints expressed in each text.

Required Texts:
Expectations and Requirements:

Attendance and Class Participation: You must come prepared for class as your insights, reactions to readings and critical analysis will be central to discussion and understanding. Participation means that you willingly share your opinions and responses the treat others’ input with respect and thoughtful consideration. Missing any of the class sessions or coming unprepared will affect your grade. If you miss more than 2 classes you should consider dropping the course.

Novel Journal: You are expected to write a two page response to each of the required texts. This will be due the day the text will be discussed in class. You may use an informal style in your response. However, you are expected to examine your response to the text in an in-depth tone.

Critical Paper: You may develop your own topic for the critical paper. Consider the following suggestions: an in-depth response to a novel (more in depth than a journal), explore a cultural practice or a social expectation common in the cultures of the Middle East, read another novel by one of the required authors, or select a new author, read their work and write a critical paper about that work. You may develop a topic based on an idea that came our of class discussion, or a question that arises from your reading. The critical paper should be a reflection on your personal inquiry or an interest related to the region or the works of the authors required in this class.

Project and Oral Presentation: You will have the opportunity to work in a small group or individually on a project which reflects a specific area of interest in a topic related to the themes and ideas of this course. This is a major assignment which will require advanced planning. The projects will be presented during finals week and perhaps during the last class of the semester.

Grading:

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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novel Responses</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project and Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
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**Additional Important Information:**

**Academic Dishonesty:** As specified in PPM 6-22, Iv, D, cheating and plagiarism violate the Student code. Plagiarism is the “unacknowledged (uncited) use of another person’s or group’s ideas or work.” Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism are subject to failure of a specific assignment, or, in more serious cases, failure of the entire course.

**Core Beliefs:** According to PPM 6-22, IV, students are to “determine, before the last day to drop courses without penalty, when a course requirements conflict with a students’ core beliefs. If there is such a conflict, the student should consider dropping conflict with the class. A student who finds this solution impracticable may request a resolution from the instructor. This policy does not oblige the instructor to grant the request, except in those cases when a denial would be arbitrary and capricious or illegal. The request must be made to the instructor in writing and the student must deliver a copy of the request to the Department Office or the Department Head. The students’ request must articulate the burden that the requirement would place on the students’ beliefs.”

**University Emergency Closure:** If for any reason the University is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct class via WSU Online. You will be contacted through your Weber e-mail address.

**Students with Disabilities:** Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in the Student Services Center #181. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternate formats if necessary.

**Late Assignments:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates indicated. Alternate dates may be arranged if you speak with the instructor before the due date. Late assignments without prior arrangements will be reduced in grade.
Supplemental Texts:
These texts will be available to students are housed in the instructor’s office. Note: Additional texts will be made available if the following list does not provide the source material necessary for student needs. The University of Utah and Weber State University libraries have collections of materials dealing with the Middle East.


Class Schedule: Any changes or adjustments to this schedule will be discussed by the full class
and agreed upon by both students and instructor.

**Week 1: January 13**
- Introduction to the class
- Introduction to the Middle East
- Introduction to Islam

**Week 2: January 20**
- *Dreams of Trespass*

**Week 3: January 27**
- *Dreams of Trespass*
- Moroccan Poets

**Week 4: February 4**
- *Honor*
- Journal: *Dreams of Trespass*

**Week 5: February 10**
- *A Sky So Close*
- Iraqi Poets
- Journal: *Honor*

**Week 6: February 17**
- *Cages on Opposite Shores*
- Journal: *A Sky So Close*

**Week 7: February 24**
- *Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow*
- Journal: *Cages on Opposite Shores*

**Week 8: March 2**
- *Touch*
- Journal: *Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow*

**Spring Break: March 7-11**

**Week 9: March 16**
- *Pillars of Salt*

**Week 10: March 23**
- *Pillars of Salt*
- Jordanian Poets

**Week 11: March 30**
- *The Abaya Chronicles*
- Journal: *Pillars of Salt*

**Week 12: April 6**
- *Savushun*
Week 13: April 13

Savushun

Iranian Poets

Week 14: April 20

Journal: Savuisun

Presentations

Finals Week: April 27

If necessary class may be held to complete the presentations