MESA 201 – Introduction to Middle East Studies – Fall 2013

This class is the required introductory class for the Middle East Studies/Arabic major and minor. This should be the first class that students take in the major/minor. The purpose of the class is to introduce major and minor students to different approaches to studying the Middle East. We note that the Middle East and Middle Eastern Muslims seem to engender strong reactions, and we work to unpack responses to study of the region. Some studies utilize a disciplinary lens; others operate on an ideological foundation. We will survey these different approaches and inquire as to whether power configurations figure in how the Middle East is studied. The class also presents basic information about the MESA major/minor program and potential career choices.

Required Texts:
- Articles assigned in the syllabus are posted in the Content file on Learning Suite.

Class Assignments:

As you are university students, I expect you to be able to work on assignments well before the due date. If you wait to the last moment to prepare your work, also prepare for a lower grade. Allow time for multiple drafts and reworking of your material.

Reading: This class requires a considerable amount of reading and thinking about what you have read. Reading, analysis, critical thinking and writing are key in this class. We will work together each class period on analyzing readings.

Quizzes: Since we are doing so much reading, before every class, every day we will have reading quizzes mounted on Learning Suite before class to encourage you to be up-to-date on reading. We will also have a syllabus, a country and a capitals quiz of states in the Middle East (scheduled on class schedule). We will also do quizzes on definitions given in class lectures (such as terrorism) without notice when needed. This will help us practice for the midterm). We will drop two reading and terms quiz grades. No make-up quizzes will be given.

Book papers: I will assign a 4 page writing assignment on three books. I will give you the questions to write on after we have begun reading the book. Papers will be evaluated on
the thoughtfulness of content, analytical content, and attention to book content. Criteria will be listed with each writing assignment. Each paper will be due at the beginning of class on the due date. No late papers accepted.

**Due Dates are as follows:**
- **Everyday Life:** October 24, 2013
- **Riverbend:** November 13, 2013
- **Matar:** December 4, 2013

**Careers:** There will be a multi-part career assignment where you analyze where you are going. It includes writing a resume, writing a cover letter, putting together a personal statement, and a short paper on yourself and your priorities based on introspection and watching career lectures and videos. Sources for these assignments are largely found by 1) pondering your talents and aspirations; 2. Perusing the superb materials on BYU’s Career center website [https://ucs.byu.edu/](https://ucs.byu.edu/) (click on Students tab); 3. And use of the internet which has myriad sources. I’ve put a few excellent resources on Learning Suite for you. The due dates for the four parts of the assignment is on the syllabus.

**Library Research Training Session:**
We will hold a one-hour training session in the Lee Library on research resources and methods applied to the Middle East. Connie Lamb, professor in the Lee Library will conduct each hands-on session. **Attendance at the Library Resources training session is mandatory** and worth 2% of your final grade. We will schedule 3 sessions.

**Exams:** There will be a midterm and a final exam. The exams will test concepts learned in class lectures as well as reading assignments. The final exam will be comprehensive, will be in our classroom, and will last the entire exam period.

- Midterm Exam (in testing center): October 31 and November 1. November 2 (Saturday) will be a late day.
- Final Exam (in our classroom): TH December 19 from 11 a.m. -2 p.m. in 2111 JKB

**Criteria for Figuring Final Grades:**
- Reading quizzes and other quizzes: 30%
- Book papers: 30%
- Library Research Training Session: 2%
- Career materials: Total of 13%
  - Resume 3%
  - Cover letter 2%
  - Personal statement 4%
  - 1-page paper on what you have learned about yourself and your career hopes (refer to at least 2 lectures or videos watched on career options). 4%
- Midterm Exam: 15%
- Final Exam: 10%
Student Evaluations: Filling out the Student Evaluations at the end of the semester is mandatory. You will receive a perfect quiz score for filling out the evaluation.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance in class is mandatory. I will deduct points from your final grade if you miss classes. Classes are fascinating; the readings are fascinating, and I don’t want you to miss anything. Participation is a must. Again, points will be deducted for those who do not participate in class discussions.

Illness and family problems are unfortunately part of all of our lives. If you become ill or run into serious problems, please contact Prof Bowen. We will work with you diligently to help you succeed in the class.

The Critical Rule: Come to each class with reading assignments prepared.

BYU's policy is to not post grades. If you wish your final examination paper or your final grade, please leave a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your professors before the final examination.

Honor Code Standards
In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honor Code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact be your own work and not that of another. Violations of this principle may result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university. See http://www.byu.edu/honorcode for specific examples of intentional, inadvertent plagiarism, and fabrication, falsification. We will work with you on the meaning of these concepts.

Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. Adherence demonstrates respect for yourself and others and ensures an effective learning and working environment. It is the university’s expectation, and my own expectation in class, that each student will abide by all Honor Code standards. Please call the Honor Code Office at 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

Preventing Sexual Discrimination or Harassment
Sexual discrimination or harassment (including student-to-student harassment) is prohibited both by the law and by Brigham Young University policy. If you feel you are being subjected to sexual discrimination or harassment, please bring your concerns to the professor. Alternatively, you may lodge a complaint with the Equal Employment Office (D-240C ASB) or with the Honor Code Office (4440).

Students with Disabilities
If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this course, you should get in touch with the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (1520 WSC). This office can evaluate your disability and assist the professor in arranging for reasonable accommodations. If you have a disability, notify Prof Bowen or Schulthies at the beginning of the semester so we can work out the best path to follow.
Fall 2013 Class Schedule
Remember: Reading Quizzes will be set up on Learning Suite almost every day. If you have questions, contact Ryan Hughes or Prof Bowen

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<th>Reading and Film Assignments</th>
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<td>W - Sept 4</td>
<td>Introduction to Class</td>
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| 9.9    | Who and What do we study when we study the Middle East? | Read: Dil Parkinson, “Faculty Graduation Talk, August 2012”  
Watch "What a Billion Muslims Really Think"  
http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/inside_islam_what_a_billion_muslims_really_think  
http://www.pewforum.org/uploadedFiles/Topics/Religious_Affiliation/Muslim/worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-full-report.pdf | 1. Find two articles or youtube videos that discuss Islamophobia or perpetuates stereotypes of Muslims worldwide.  
2. Find two facts in the Pew Report which you did not know about Muslims.  
Email your two articles (including references and/or url) and two facts to Prof Bowen and Ryan before class. |
http://www.polsci.wvu.edu/faculty/hauser/PS103/Readings/HuntingtonClashOfCivilizationsForAffSummer93.pdf  
http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/07/how-confirmation-bias-can-lead-to-war/260347/ | Syllabus quiz -- a ten question quiz on contents of the class syllabus will be on line as well as the quiz for today's readings. Take both quizzes. |
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Read: Introduction to Everyday Life 3 (manuscript) on Learning Suite. Optional: If possible read Introduction to Everyday Life 2 (book) and contrast differences. | Country and Capitals Map Quiz (in class unless we can figure out how to get it on line). In that case, you would have two quizzes on Learning Suite, today's reading and the map quiz. |
On Learning Suite: “Section Introduction to Home, Community and |  |
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<td>10.2</td>
<td>Work</td>
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<td>10.14</td>
<td>Orientalist Art</td>
<td>No readings</td>
<td>No quiz</td>
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<td>10.21</td>
<td>Everyday Life</td>
<td>Learning Suite: “Democracy’s Collateral Damage;”</td>
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<td>10.24</td>
<td>Paper Due</td>
<td><strong>Paper for Everyday Life due Friday, October 24 in Drop Box SWKT 7th Floor by Elevators: Put your name, MESA 201, Professor Bowen on top of paper before 5 p.m.</strong></td>
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<td>10.28</td>
<td>Tribes: People, boundaries, languages, religions.</td>
<td>Consult maps found on <a href="http://gulf2000.columbia.edu/maps.shtml">http://gulf2000.columbia.edu/maps.shtml</a>. For Iran and Iraq (some data will be missing, but check all possible connections to these two countries) study maps of ethnicities, religions, languages, and tribes. Read: ELMME: 34. To Mount at-Tiyal He Declared, Learning Suite: “Childhood and Development in Rural Morocco: Cultivating Reason and Strength”</td>
<td>Google Earth Assignment due</td>
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<td>10.30</td>
<td>Tribal Gender paradigms</td>
<td>Read: 11. “Harasiis Marriage, Divorce and Companionship;” 35. Sad Songs of the Western Desert. Learning Suite: “A New Jordanian Generation Wears the Hijab”</td>
<td>Midterm exam will be in Testing Center October 31 and November 1. November 2 (Saturday) will be a late day.</td>
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<td>11.4</td>
<td>Control Room</td>
<td>Discuss &quot;Control Room&quot;</td>
<td>Before Class watch film: <em>Control Room</em></td>
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<td>11.6</td>
<td>Baghdad Burning</td>
<td>Read, Riverbend, &quot;Baghdad Burning,&quot;</td>
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<td>11.13</td>
<td>Jobs 1</td>
<td>The Blue Book: A Guide to Professional Self Presentation.</td>
<td>Write 1) a new resume 2) a cover letter for a job application 3) personal statement for application to a graduate or professional program 4) watch a career video or attend career lectures at the Kennedy Center 5) Using information gained from #4, write a one page paper on what you have learned about your career possibilities.</td>
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<td>11.18</td>
<td>Jobs 2</td>
<td>&quot;Graduate Degrees: are they worth it?&quot;, Washington Post</td>
<td>All Career materials due today.</td>
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|       |                          | http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/magazine/the-education-issue-more-students-getting-graduate-degrees/2012/01/26/gIQAGQTvHR_story.html | • One page paper on your career hopes  
• Resume  
• Cover Letter  
• Personal Statement (which includes data from lectures and videos) |
<p>| 11.25 | State Terrorism: In the Country of Men | Read: Hisham Matar, &quot;In the Country of Men.&quot;                                               | <strong>Write a 3-4 page paper on In the Country of Men. Due: 12.4</strong>                              |
| 11.27 | THANKSGIVING Holiday     | Be Safe on the Roads and Joyful with Your Families.                                         | <strong>Watch film: Lawrence of Arabia</strong>                                                          |
| 12.2  | In the Country of Men    | Further discussion                                                                          |                                                                                             |</p>
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<td>12.11</td>
<td>Terrorism; Imperialism; War.</td>
<td>Discussion of materials read this semester including more discussion of <em>Lawrence of Arabia</em>. Assignment of Final Exam.</td>
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<td>12.19</td>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>TH December 19 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in 2111 JKB</td>
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**Two thoughts to keep in mind this semester:**
"Your life is carefully watched over, as was mine. The Lord knows both what He will need you to do and what you will need to know. He is kind and He is all-knowing. So you can with confidence expect that He has prepared opportunities for you to learn in preparation for the service you will give. You will not recognize those opportunities perfectly, as I did not. But when you put the spiritual things first in your life, you will be blessed to feel directed toward certain learning, and you will be motivated to work harder. You will recognize later that your power to serve was increased, and you will be grateful."


"Just as the capacity to defer gratification is a sign of real maturity, likewise the willingness to wait for deferred explanation is a sign of real faith and of trust spread over time."

Neal A. Maxwell, "Willing to Submit," *Ensign*, May 1985, 71
Prof Bowen’s Suggested To-Do List:

To be prepared for assignments when they come due:

1. Do all the reading as assigned.
2. If possible, get ahead on reading *Baghdad Burning* and *In the Country of Men*.
3. Read the writing prompt for each paper before beginning your reading.
4. As you read the books and listen to lectures, take notes on points you could write about so you have concrete examples to refer back to.
5. Think about your personal career aspirations. Take notes of your questions about different career paths.
6. Begin attending Kennedy Center career lectures. Ask experts about the questions you have identified.
7. Watch videos on careers; take notes on how the videos address your aspirations and concerns.
8. Start work on your resume
9. Write drafts of a cover letter, and your personal statement
10. Take drafts of your personal statement and resume to the career counseling center to have them checked. They do a great job of improving your documents.
11. Watch films that are assigned (such as *Control Room* and *Lawrence of Arabia*) before the due date. Watch in groups so you can discuss the film.