

Syllabus

Title of the Course:	Archaeology, Museums and Identities in the Middle East	Course Breakdown:	14 lectures
Name of the Instructor:	Dr. Ahmed Fatima Kzzo & Dr. Nedal Haj Darwich	Weekly class time:	Wednesday 16:00-18:00 CEST 10:00-12:00 EDT
Language:	English		
Hosted by:	University of Potsdam	Certificate issued by:	University of Potsdam (10 ECTS)
min. number of participants:	10	max. number of participants:	40

This Seminar is funded by the New University in In Exile Consortium based at the New School and is hosted by the Department of Global History at the Historic Institute at University of Potsdam.

Description of the course

States draw on the past to re-shape national identities. In this context, museum exhibits play a crucial role in the Middle East in connection with archaeological excavations that rediscovered new civilization centers such as Assur, Babylonia, Mari, Ebla, Ugarit, and others.

Museums in former colonial *metropoles* such as the Louvre in France and British Museum in the United Kingdom, enriched their collections with artefacts from some of these sites to demonstrate and enhance their imperial power. As a counterweight to imperial collections, museums in Middle Eastern countries were founded with the goal of reinforcing national identity.

This course will engage with the history of archaeology and museums in the Middle East. In addition, it will discuss the complex relationship between archaeology and museums and ask how both are related to cultural and national identities. In so doing, it will encourage discussions about new perspectives on cultural heritage and its role across the Middle Eastern societies.

Learning Aims

To provide a general understanding about:

- To present the birth and the history of ancient Near Eastern studies and its relationship with imperialism, colonialism and nationalism.
- Spotlight on Arabic historical resources which are usually ignored in the European universities.
- To present and analyze the educational system (basically in Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia) and its role in building the national identity.
- To develop new perspectives on the role of archaeology and cultural heritage in societies.

Upon the successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- To develop an understanding of archaeology as a discipline and its relationship with imperialism, colonialism and nationalism.
- To promote a comprehensive understanding of policies used to employ cultural heritage in the construction national identities.
- To promote a comprehensive understanding of national states' histories and the cultural identities in the Near East.
- To enhance awareness about the ideologies and their views on the past/antiquities (such as political parties or even the ISIS "Islamic State in Iraq and Syria")

Course requirements

Course components include:

- Readings
- Presentation or two short essays
- Final long essay

The final grade for the course will be based on the following:

- Presentation or two short essays
- Final long essay (100%)

Outline of the Course Schedule

Week 1		Introduction to the Course: Does the Middle East Exist?
Week 2	Submitting the first short essay before the 4 th lecture.	The Beginning of Archaeological Excavations in Egypt
Week 3		Excavations during the Ottoman Empire
Week 4		Colonialism and National Museums
Week 5	Second short essay to be submitted before the 6 th lecture	Museums: Perspectives and Present Role in Societies
Week 6		New-ancient Languages: Exploration and Deciphering
Week 7	Submitting the presentations titles.	Peoples, Languages and Writings
Week 8	Starting of the presentations	Archaeology after Independence and National Identities
Week 9		The History as a Method to Build an Identity (Iran and Turkey)
Week 10		Mediaeval-Arabic Writings and Archaeology
Week 11		Syrian Political Parties and their Views on History and Archaeology
Week 12		Destructions and Conflicts
Week 13	Submit the final long essay subject	Reconstruction Methods and Society
Week 14		Summary and New Perspectives for Cultural Heritage and Identity

Syllabus / Reading List

Week 1: Introduction to the Course: Does the Middle East Exist?

- Overview on the course and its requirements.
- Introduction to the course argument.

Reading materials:

- Amanat, Abbas (2012). Introduction: Is There a Middle East? Problematizing a Virtual Space. In Michael E. Bonine, Abbas Amanat and Michael Ezekiel Gasper, *Is There a Middle East? The Evolution of a Geopolitical Concept*, pp. 1-10. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Yilmaz, Huseyin (2012). The Eastern Question and the Ottoman Empire: The Genesis of the Near and Middle East in the Nineteenth Century. In Michael E. Bonine, Abbas Amanat and Michael Ezekiel Gasper, *Is There a Middle East? The Evolution of a Geopolitical Concept*, pp. 11-35. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Week 2: The Beginning of Archaeological Excavations in Egypt

- The European interest in Egypt.
- Napoleon's Campaign on Egypt.
- Formation the Egyptology.

Reading materials:

- Bard, Kathryn A. (2007). *An Introduction to the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt*. Victoria: Blackwell Publishing. (from p. 3 parag. "1.2. Egyptian Archaeology" to p. 21)
- Tyldesley, Joyce (2014). Egypt. In Paul Bahn, *The History of Archaeology: An introduction*, pp. 73-89. London and New York: Routledge.
- Hassan, Fekri A. (2011). Imperialist Appropriations of Egyptian Obelisks. In David Jeffreys, *Views of Ancient Egypt since Napoleon Bonaparte: imperialism, colonialism and modern appropriations*, pp. 19-68. London and New York: Routledge.

Week 3: Excavations during the Ottoman Empire

- Beginning of the excavation in Iraq and Syria.
- The European and Ottoman interest in archaeology.

Reading materials:

- Bahrani, Zainab; Çelik, Zeynep and Eldem, Edhem (2011). *Scramble for the Past: A Story of Archaeology in the Ottoman Empire, 1753-1914*. Istanbul: SALT Galata

- Liverani, Mario (2016). *Imagining Babylon: the modern story of an ancient city*. Boston: De Gruyter..

Week 4: Colonialism and National Museums

- The colonialist documents for Syria and Iraq.
- The antiquities laws in Syria and Iraq.
- The foundation of National Museum of Damascus, Aleppo and the Iraqi museum.

Reading materials:

- Carman, John (2002). *Archaeology and Heritage: An Introduction*. Leicester University Press.
- Kzzo, Ahmed Fatima (2020). The Future of the Past: How the Past Contributes to the Construction of Syrian National Identity. In Lorenzo Verderame and Agnès Garcia-Ventura, *Perspectives on the History of Ancient Near Eastern Studies*. Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State University.

Week 5: Museums: Perspectives and Present Role in Societies

- The social role of museums in the Middle East.
- How museums are perceived by locals in countries like Syria and Lebanon.
- The social role of the new high-standard museums in the Middle East such as the National Museum in Qatar and Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Reading materials:

- Exell, Karen and Rico, Trinidad (2014). *Cultural Heritage in the Arabian Peninsula: Debates, Discourses and Practices*. New York: Routledge (2nd ed. 2016)
- Qassar, Hiba (2020). Politics, identity and the social role of museums in Syria, Museum Management and Curatorship, DOI: 10.1080/09647775.2020.1723131.

Week 6: New-ancient Languages: Exploration and Deciphering

- Discovering the ancient languages/writings (Sumerian, Akkadian and Hieroglyphic).
- Deciphering these old languages.

Reading materials:

- Haarmann, Harald (1991). *Universalgeschichte der Schrift*. Frankfurt /New York: Campus Verlag.
- *Reading the past: ancient writing from cuneiform to the alphabet*. Introduced by J.T. Hooker (1990). Berkeley: University of California Press/British Museum.

Week 7: Peoples, Languages and Writings

- Overview on the languages in the Middle East.
- The classifications of these languages.

Reading materials:

- Haarmann, Harald (2006). *Weltgeschichte der Sprachen: von der Frühzeit des Menschen bis zur Gegenwart*. München: C.H. Beck.
- Lewis, Bernard (1998). *The Multiple Identities of the Middle East*. New York: Schocken Books

Week 8: Archaeology after Independence and National Identities

- The situation of archaeological excavations in Syria and Iraq after the independence.
- How history/archaeology is used in the constitutions.
- How Using history/archaeology is used in the education textbooks.

Reading materials:

- *Archaeology under Fire. Nationalism, Politics and Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East*. Edited by Lynn Meskell (1998). London: Routledge.
- Jones, Siân (1997). *The Archaeology of Ethnicity: Constructing Identities in the Past and Present*. Routledge.
- Kzso, Ahmed Fatima (2016). The Ancient Past in the East, from the East: An Oriental Perspective (Syria, Saudi Arabia), *Proceedings of the 9th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East*, Vol. 1: 379-393.

Week 9: The History as a Method to Build an Identity (Iran and Turkey)

- The history effects in modern Iran.
- Using history to shape an identity in Turkey.

Reading materials:

- Dassow, Eva von (2020). Nation Building in the Plain of Antioch from Hatti to Hatay. In Lorenzo Verderame and Agnès Garcia-Ventura, *Perspectives on the History of Ancient Near Eastern Studies*. Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State University.
- Vaziri, Mostafa (2nd ed. 2013). *Iran As Imagined Nation*. Gorgias Pr Llc.

Week 10: Mediaeval-Arabic Writings and Archaeology

- Overview on mediaeval-Arabic writings related to ancient antiquities.
- Presenting a manuscript as example.

Reading materials:

- El Daly, Okasha (2005). *Egyptology: The Missing Millennium Ancient Egypt in Medieval Arabic Writings*. London and New York: Routledge
- Kzzo, Ahmed Fatima (2018). A Description before the “*Description de l'Égypte*”. Abd al-Latif al-Baghdai's Book on Egypt, *A Oriente del Delta: Scritti sull'Egitto ed il Vicino Oriente antico in onore di Gabriella Scandone Matthiae, Contributi e Materiali di Archeologia Orientale*, XVIII, pp. 287-294.

Week 11: Syrian Political Parties and their Views on History and Archaeology

- Presenting the political parties in Syria
- How the political parties use history in their discourses.

Reading materials:

- Kzzo, Ahmed Fatima (2020). The Future of the Past: How the Past Contributes to the Construction of Syrian National Identity. In Lorenzo Verderame and Agnès Garcia-Ventura, *Perspectives on the History of Ancient Near Eastern Studies*. Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State University.

Week 12: Destructions and Conflicts

- The factors of cultural heritage destructions
- Cases of cultural heritage destructions.

Reading materials:

- Matthiae, Paolo (2015). *Distruzioni, saccheggi e rinascite. Gli attacchi al patrimonio artistico dall'antichità all'Isis*. Milano: Electa. (Translated notes)

Week 13: Reconstruction Methods and Society

- Reconstructions examples such as Beirut after the civil war.
- New methods for reconstruct the cultural heritage (3D and VR)

Reading materials:

- Diara, Filippo (2020). Cultural Heritage Digital Data: Future and Ethics. In Horst Kremers, *Digital Cultural Heritage*. Switzerland AG: Springer Nature

- Höckel, Kathrin (2007). Beyond Beirut: Why reconstruction in Lebanon did not contribute to state making and stability. *Crisis States Occasional Paper No. 4*. London: Development Studies Institute.
- Naccache, Alber Farid Henry (1998). Beirut's Memorycide: Hear no Evil, See no Evil. In Lynn Meskell, *Archaeology under Fire. Nationalism, Politics and Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East*, pp. 140-158. London: Routledge.

Week 14: Summary and New Perspectives for Cultural Heritage and Identity

- Giving summary on lectures and presentations.
- Discussing perspectives on cultural heritage.