

Syllabus

Title of the Course:	Decolonizing and Deconstructing the MENA/SWANA ¹	Course Breakdown:	28 h. online teaching 180 h. total work-load
Name of the Instructor:	Dr. Teoman Aktan Dr. Mabruk Derbesh	Weekly class time:	Wednesdays 12:00 - 14:00 CEST 06:00 – 08:00 EDT
Language:	English		
Hosted by:	Bremen University & Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich	Certificate issued by:	Bremen University (3 or 6 ECTS)
min. number of participants:	5	max. number of participants	25

Description of the course

The Middle East and North Africa, SWANA, is of great strategic importance, as it has a large part of the world's oil reserve, home to world's sacred sites, and is located at the crossroads of important trade routes. There are important issues in the SWANA that come from the past and give the current parameters to the region in general. The Palestine-Israel issue, the water crisis, the bloody rivalries of the regional states, the democratization process and the sectarian wars are the main concerns in the region. It has not always been easy to change the old order in the SWANA. The region has been shaken by serious political crises and social upheavals recently. Youth, women and social media have impacted the formation of these social movements. Recent developments and changes in the region prompted many to rethink the region and look at the ongoing events from different angles. In this context, this seminar series will be organized online for those interested in the field in order to better analyse the change processes and transformations in the SWANA. The course will last for 14 weeks and different topics related to the region will be discussed each week.

¹ SWANA is the decolonization term for MENA; it is South West Asia and North Africa

Learning Aims

To provide a general understanding about:

- Information about the 19th and 20th century SWANA political history
- Obtaining information on modernization movements in the SWANA
- Obtaining the necessary information about the causes and nature of regional rivalries and conflicts in the SWANA
- To explore views on social issues, social changes and various social movements in the SWANA

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

- To review the main breaking points of the contemporary political history of the SWANA
- To evaluate the main problems of the SWANA in the light of new changes in the region
- To discuss the main characteristics of social movements in the SWANA
- To discuss the dynamism of new social movements in the SWANA

Course requirements

Participants are required to attend the sessions and to contribute to the discussions in the class according to their ability. They will be given a choice between taking the 3 ECTS or the 6 ECTS format.

Course components include:

- Lectures
- Readings
- Discussions
- Presentations

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

The 3 ECTS option will consist of two assignments:

- Assignment 1: One position paper, 50% (400 - 600 words)
- Assignment 2: Presentations 50% (Group Presentation: 25% + Individual: 15%)

The 6 ECTS option will consist of Three assignments:

- Assignment 1: Two position papers 25% (for both; 12.5% each: 400 - 600 words)
- Assignment 2: Presentations 40% (Group Presentation 25%, Individual 15%)
- Assignment 3: Final Essay 35% (1000 - 1300 words)

It is requested that the papers be submitted by the date determined. It is requested that the final paper and other papers be submitted electronically. In order to pass the course, a learner must pass all the assignments of the chosen version (3 ECTS /6 ECTS workload).

Outline of the Course Schedule

Week 1		Introduction to the Course including presenting the general ideas, assignments and expectations.
Week 2		The Legacy of Colonialism in the SWANA and The Struggle for Autonomy
Week 3	Should Start Submitting Reading Reflections and Focus on Short Essay	Arab Nationalism and the Modernization Movement in the Arab World
Week 4		Authoritarianism, Nationalism, and Local Resistances: The case of Iran
Week 5		The Ideals of the Revolution in Iran: From Constitutional Revolution to Cultural Revolution
Week 6		Identities and Conflicts in The SWANA
Week 7		Presentations by participants
Week 8		The Arab World After the Arab Spring
Week 9	Should Focus on Long Essay	The Rise or demise of Political Islam
Week 10		The Role of Social Movements in the Development of Civic Capacity in the SWANA
Week 11		Digital Activism in the SWANA
Week 12		Failed States, Regime Change and Foreign Intervention: Libya, Lebanon, Syria and Afghanistan (Political Theories)
Week 13		Feminism in the SWANA
Week 14		Discussion and review of the course and feedback on assignments.

Suggested Reading List

Week 1:

Introduction to the Course including presenting the general ideas, assignments and expectations.

Week 2: The Legacy of Colonialism in the SWANA and the Struggle for Autonomy

Reading materials:

- Juan R. I. Cole, & Kandiyoti, D. (2002). Nationalism and the Colonial Legacy in the Middle East and Central Asia: Introduction. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 34(2), 189–203.
- Al Quntar, S. (2017). Repatriation and the Legacy of Colonialism in the Middle East. *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology & Heritage Studies*, 5(1), 19–26.

Week 3: Arab Nationalism and the Modernization Movement in the Arab World

Reading materials:

- As'ad AbuKhalil. (1992). A New Arab Ideology?: The Rejuvenation of Arab Nationalism. *Middle East Journal*, 46(1), 22-36.
- Omar, S. (1992). Arab Nationalism: A Retrospective Evaluation. *Arab Studies Quarterly*, 14(4), 23–37.

Week 4: Authoritarianism, Nationalism, and Local Resistances: The case of Iran and Turkey

Reading materials:

- Zia-Ebrahimi, R. (2016). The Paleontology of Iranian Nationalism. In *The Emergence of Iranian Nationalism: Race and the Politics of Dislocation* (pp. 17-40). New York: Columbia University Press.
- Matin-Asgari, A. (2014). The Berlin Circle: Iranian Nationalism Meets German Countermodernity. In Aghaie K. & Marashi A. (Eds.), *Rethinking Iranian Nationalism and Modernity* (pp. 49-66). University of Texas Press.

Week 5: The Ideals of the Iranian Revolution: From Constitutional Revolution to Cultural Revolution

Reading materials:

- Sobhe, K. (1982). Education in Revolution: Is Iran Duplicating the Chinese Cultural Revolution? *Comparative Education*, 18(3), 271–280.
- Keddie, N. R., & Richard, Y. (2006). Society, Gender, Culture, and Intellectual Life. In *Modern Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution* (pp. 285–316). Yale University Press.

Week 6: Identities and Conflicts in the SWANA

Reading materials:

- Rahnema, S. (2008). Radical Islamism and Failed Developmentalism. *Third World Quarterly*, 29(3), 483-496.
- Hassan, H. (2016). *THE SECTARIANISM OF THE ISLAMIC STATE: Ideological Roots and Political Context*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Week 7: Presentations

Week 8: The Arab World After the Arab Spring

Reading materials:

- Herd, G. P. (2011). The Arab Spring: Challenges, Obstacles and Dilemmas. *Connections*, 10(4), 103–120.
- Bayat, A. (1998). Revolution without Movement, Movement without Revolution: Comparing Islamic Activism in Iran and Egypt. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 40(1), 136-169.

Week 9: The Rise or demise of Political Islam

Reading materials:

- Halliday, F. (1995). The Politics of 'Islam' - A Second Look. *British Journal of Political Science*, 25(3), 399-417.
- Hunter, S. T. (1988). Iran and the Spread of Revolutionary Islam. *Third World Quarterly*, 10(2), 730–749.

Week 10: The Role of Social Movements in the Development of Civic Capacity in the SWANA

Reading materials:

- Bayat, A. (2002). Activism and Social Development in the Middle East. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 34(1), 1–28.
- Norton, A. R. (1993). The Future of Civil Society in the Middle East. *Middle East Journal*, 47(2), 205–216.

Week 11: Digital Activism in the SWANA

Reading materials:

- Sreberny, A. (2015). Women's Digital Activism in a Changing Middle East. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 47(2), 357–361.
- Wheeler, D. (2017). Fear The State: Repression and The Risks Of Resistance In The Middle East. In *Digital Resistance in the Middle East: New Media Activism in Everyday Life* (pp. 131-147). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Week 12: Failed States, Regime Change and Foreign Intervention: Libya, Lebanon, Syria and Afghanistan (Political Theories)

Reading materials:

- Rotberg, R. I. (2002). Failed States in a World of Terror. *Foreign Affairs*, 81(4), 127–140.
- Jones, S. G. (2008). The Rise of Afghanistan's Insurgency: State Failure and Jihad. *International Security*, 32(4), 7–40.

Week 13: Feminism in the SWANA

Reading materials:

- Moghadam, V. (2004). Patriarchy in Transition: Women and the Changing Family in the Middle East. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 35(2), 137–162.
- Khamis, S. (2011). The Arab “Feminist” Spring? *Feminist Studies*, 37(3), 692–695.

Week 14: Discussion and review of the course and feedback on assignments

Supplemental Readings (Not required):

Fromkin, D. (2001). A peace to end all peace: The fall of the Ottoman Empire and the creation of the modern Middle East. New York: H. Holt.

Gelvin, J. L. (2005). The modern Middle East: A history. New York: Oxford University Press.

Bayat, Asef. (2013). Post-Islamism: the changing Faces of Political Islam. New York: Oxford University Press.

Said, E. W. (1978). Orientalism. New York: Pantheon Books.

Mernissi, Fatima. (1975). Beyond the veil: male-female dynamics in a modern Muslim society. Cambridge, Mass.: New York: Schenkman Pub. Co.; distributed solely by Halsted Press.