

## Syllabus

<b>Title of the Course:</b>	The Arab Spring: Its Makings, Transitions and Political Arts in Perspective	<b>Course Breakdown:</b>	28 hours online course and 152 hours individual study
<b>Name of the Instructor:</b>	Dr. Hassan Almohammed	<b>Weekly class time:</b>	Wednesdays 16:00 – 18:00 CET 10:00 – 12:00 EST
<b>Language:</b>	English		
<b>Hosted by:</b>	Marburg University	<b>Certificate issued by:</b>	Marburg University 6 ECTS
<b>min. number of participants:</b>	5	<b>max. number of participants:</b>	30

*This Seminar is funded by the New University in In Exile Consortium based at the New School*

### Description of the course

The Arab Spring- the Arab World’s largest mass mobilization protests since its 1950s-1960s national liberation movements - has swept most of the Arab Middle East and North Africa since 2011. How can we understand the eruption and the development of such large-scale mass protests and mobilization movement/s in the Arab world? What trajectories and transitions did the Arab Spring take in the various Arab countries and why? What role did political art and digital mass media play in this mobilization?

This online course/seminar will analyze the Arab Spring in light of these questions. The course will be divided into two parts. The first will focus on the Arab world’s politics, neoliberal economics, demographics that preceded the Arab Spring and which had contributed to its making and transitions. The second focuses on the agency of the political art of the Arab Spring, such as graffiti, mural and digital street art. It will analyze such arts in Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Yemen, and Libya. The course will conclude with a reflection on the making, the transitions and the “modest harvest” of Arab Spring, as well as on the overall claims of the Arab Spring in comparison with those of the 1950s-1960s revolutions.

## Learning Aims

### **The course aims to provide an understanding and an analysis of:**

- the sociopolitical conditions/contexts that animated the Arab Spring
- the roles various social classes and social groups such as women and youth played in the making of the Arab Spring
- the various transitions and trajectories the Arab Spring made in various Arab countries.
- the particular requests/demands/claims of the Arab Spring
- the role of political arts in the making of the Arab Spring...

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

- the sociopolitical conditions/contexts that animated the Arab Spring.
- the roles various social classes and groups such as women and youth played in the making of the Arab Spring.
- the role of political arts in the Arab Spring
- the various trajectories and transitions the Arab Spring made in the various Arab countries.

## Course requirements

Course components include:

- Lectures
- Readings
- Films
- Images (photographs, graffiti, visual media, banners, etc)

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

- Reading Reflections (20%): Brief text about weekly readings for 200-500 words
- Short Essay (30%): 500-1000 words essay on a topic the participant will decide on with the support of the instructors.
- Long Essay (50%): 1000-2000 words essay on a topic the participant will decide on with the support of the instructors.

## Outline of the Course Schedule

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Should Start Submitting Reading Reflections and Focus on Short Essay</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>Week 2</b>		
<b>Week 3</b>		<b>Submission of Reading Reflections Start</b>
<b>Week 4</b>		<b>Short Essay Topic to be determined</b>
<b>Week 5</b>		
<b>Week 6</b>		<b>Long Essay Topic to be determined</b>
<b>Week 7</b>		
<b>Week 8</b>		<b>Short Essay Due</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Should focus on the long essay</b>	
<b>Week 10</b>		
<b>Week 11</b>		
<b>Week 12</b>		
<b>Week 13</b>		
<b>Week 14</b>		<b>Wrap-up and Conclusion – Long Essay</b>

### Organization of the course

*Below you will find weekly course materials. The reading material will be provided on the Off-University platform and the visual material will be given as links. We expect you to come to classes prepared so we can have interactive discussions.*

*The course is divided into two parts focused on theory and practice of politics and arts.*

## Syllabus / Reading List

### PART ONE

#### Theory and practice of politics and arts of the Arab spring

##### Week 1: The Arab Spring in historical perspective.

###### Readings:

- Zubaida, S., 2012. The 'Arab Spring' in the historical perspectives of Middle East politics. *Economy and Society*, 41(4), pp.568-579. **(11pages)**
- Goldstein, E., 2012. Before the Arab Spring, the unseen thaw. Human Rights Watch World Report, pp.23-29. Online. Available at <https://www.hrw.org/node/259729> [Accessed July 22, 2022]. **(6 pages)**

##### Week 2: Politics and Political Art in the Arab World: When Art is the Weapon

###### Reading:

- LeVine, M. (2015) *When Art Is the Weapon: Culture and Resistance Confronting Violence in the Post-Uprisings Arab World*, Religions (Basel, Switzerland Volume 6, Issue 4, pp. 1277-1302. **(25 Pages)**

##### Week 3: The Arab Spring, A Visual Scope

###### Film:

- *The Square* 2013, a Documentary, Director Jihan Noujaim (104 minutes). Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2a6SLuVtiVU&t=612s>

##### Week 3: The Arab Spring, the Arts and Neoliberalism

- Murphy, Emma, C. 2013. Under the Emperor's Neoliberal Clothes! Why the International Financial Institutions Got it Wrong in Tunisia? In Gana, Nouri, 2013. *The Making of the Tunisian Revolution: Contexts, Architects, Prospects*. Ed. Edinburgh, UK: Edinburgh, pp.35-56. **(21 pages)**
- Khattab, L.W., 2022. The genealogy of social and political mobilization in Lebanon under a neoliberal sectarian regime (2009–2019). *Globalizations*, pp.1-18. **(17 pages)**.

## Week 4: I. The Arab Spring and social classes: The Youth

### Readings:

- LaGraffe, D., 2012. The youth bulge in Egypt: An intersection of demographics, security, and the Arab Spring. *Journal of Strategic Security*, 5(2), pp.65-80. **(15 pages)**
- Bayat, Assef., 2015. Plebeians of the Arab spring. *Current Anthropology*, 56(S11), pp. S33-S43. **(10 pages)**

### Film

- No More Fear 2011, Murad Ben Sheikh. Trailer only, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omqtE2jn10U??>

## Week 5: II, The Arab Spring and social classes: Women

### Readings:

- Marks, Monica 2013, Women's Rights before and after the Revolution. In Gana, Nouri, 2013. *The Making of the Tunisian Revolution: Contexts, Architects, Prospects*. Ed. Edinburgh, UK: Edinburgh, pp. 224-251. **(27 pages)**.
- Johansson-Nogués, E., 2013. Gendering the Arab Spring? Rights and (in) security of Tunisian, Egyptian and Libyan women. *Security Dialogue*, 44(5-6), pp.393-409. **(16 pages)**

### Film:

- A Revolution in Four Seasons, 74 minutes, 2016, Jessie Deeter. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sf-afAFDq1c>

## Week 6: The Arab Spring, Art and Religion

### Readings:

- Egypt's "Passive Revolution": The state and the Fragmentation of Islamism, 1992-2005, in Bayat, Asef, 2007. *Making Islam Democratic: Social Movements and the Post-Islamist Turn*. Stanford University Press, pp. 136-187. **(51 pages)**
- Korotayev, Andrey 2019. Where Will the Revolutions Go? Why Did Islamists Rise? In Korotayev, Andrey 2019. *Islamism, Arab Spring, and the Future of Democracy. World System and World Values Perspectives*, Springer, pp. 159-164. **(5 pages)**.

## **Week 7: The Claims/Demands of the Arab Spring and the artistic climate before and after 2010**

### *Reading:*

- Dabashi, H., 2012. The Arab Spring: the end of post-colonialism. Bloomsbury Publishing. Online, Available at: <https://stealthishijab.com/2013/01/08/the-arab-spring-the-end-of-postcolonialism/> [Accessed July 23, 2022].

## **PART TWO**

### **Visual analysis of the political and revolutionary Art**

#### **Week 8: Graffiti, Mural and art street as a weapon**

### *Reading:*

- Mulder, S. The Arts of Satire in the Syrian Uprising (2018). Special Issue: Creative Dissent: Visual Arts of the Arab World Uprisings. Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication, pp. 174-195. **(21 Pages)**

#### **Week 10: Graffiti: Street Art in Tunisia**

### *Reading:*

- Georgeon, D. (2012). Revolutionary Graffiti: Street Art and Revolution in Tunisia. Wasafir, pp.70–75. **(5 pages)**
- Shilton, S. (2016). Digital Art and the Tunisian Revolution. Wasafiri: The Magazine of International Contemporary Literature, 31, 4 (Special issue: Print Activism Twenty-First Century Africa, guest edited by Ruth Bush and Madhu Krishnan), pp. 69–75; **(6 pages)**  
at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02690055.2016.1218114>.CrossRefGoogle Scholar

#### **Week 11: Graffiti in Egypt**

### *Reading:*

- Abaza, M. (2014). Post January Revolution Cairo: Urban Wars and the Reshaping of Public Space. Theory, Culture & Society, 31(7–8), 163–183. **(20 pages)**  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0263276414549264>

## **Week 12: Murals and banners in Syria**

### *Reading:*

- Khatib, L. (2013). Image Politics in the Middle East: The Role of the Visual in Political Struggle. London: I.B. Tauris. pp. 182-208 **(26 pages)**

## **Week 13: Digital and street Art in Libya and Yemen and Untold stories of artist women**

### *Reading:*

- Oruc, Nurgul. (2021). Digitally Mediated Art in the War Zone: The Aesthetics of Resilience in Yemen. *CyberOrient*. 14. 10.1002/j.1804-3194.2020.tb00001.x.
- Gruber, Ch., King of King od Africa: Racializing Qaddafi in the Visual Output of the 2011 Libyan Revolution, (2018). Special Issue: Creative Dissent: Visual Arts of the Arab World Uprisings. *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*, pp. 196-224 **(28 pages)**

## **Week 14: Conclusions: The Current Arab World and reflection on its political arts**

### *Reading:*

- Shilton, S. 2021. *Performing Revolution: Constraint and Liberation in Tunisia, (2021) Art and the Arab Spring, Aesthetics of Revolution and Resistance in Tunisia and Beyond*, Cambridge University Press, pp. 186- 202 **(16 pages)**

### **Extra readings:**

Additional journal articles and websites dedicated to the political art of the Arab Spring will be mentioned during the online seminar.