**Gender in North Africa**

**WGSS 243**

**Yale**

Fall 2016

Professor: Zakia Salime

Time: MW 11:35-12:50

Location:

Office Hours: Wednesday 1-3

**Required texts**

Farha Ghannam, Live and Die like a Man: Gender Dynamics in Urban Egypt (Stanford, 2013)

# Paula Helmes-Eber. Daughters of Tunis: Women, Family, and Networks in a Muslim City (Westview, 2003)

# Marc Schade-Poulsen, Men and Popular Music in Algeria: The Social Significance of Raï (Austin, 1999)

Zakia Salime, Between Feminism and Islam: Human Rights and Sharia Law in Morocco, (Minnesota, 2011)

**Recommended**

Slyomovics, Susan. 2005. *The Performance of Human Rights in Morocco. “I Will Erase You: Women and Testimony*.” University of Pennsylvania Press

# Bennoune Karima. 2013. *Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here: Untold Stories from the Fight Against Muslim Fundamentalism*. W.W Norton &Company

**Course Description**

This course offers several entry points to the study of gender in North Africa, including, law, religion, activism, sexuality, community, labor, and migration, as well as artistic expression and cultural production. The course provides an in-depth focus on North Africa as a distinctive part of the geography and the history of the Middle East. The readings for this course are interdisciplinary in scope combining theoretical approaches from history, sociology, anthropology, political science, media studies, sociology, and gender and feminist studies.

**Course Objectives**

1. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of gender dynamics in North Africa
2. Students will be able to identify the main debates about Gender in North Africa
3. Students will develop a critical understanding of connections between Islam, community, history, and state transitions in relation to gender dynamics in North Africa
4. Students will acquire a critical understanding of a range of methodologies and theoretical frameworks employed in the study of gender in North Africa.

**Class Format**

This course is organized as a seminar with the understanding that both students and faculty are fully involved in the class activities. The weekly assignments are designed to help students keep track of their progress in this course and to actively contribute to the conversations and learning process. I will keep track of your performance on a weekly basis by reading your posts, grading them and by evaluating your performance throughout out the semester.

**Course Requirements**

1) **Weekly reaction to the readings**

The students are expected to read **all** assigned texts and write a one-page reaction to the readings every week. Comments and questions should be posted every Sunday before midnight about the entire list of readings of the week. This activity is worth **40%** of your grade. You will have to submit **10** reaction papers for **4** points each. **I do not accept any late assignment. You have to cover all the readings to get full credit.**

**2)** **Media Watch**: Every **Wednesday** you will bring a short article from the press on questions related to feminism, gender, state or activism in North Africa. This activity is worth **10%** of your grade. You will have to bring a total of **10** to get full credit **10 points.**

**You can’t make up for your media watch.**

The list of magazines and newspapers you will be using includes the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Guardian, al-Jazeera English, al-Ahram English, Morocco Times, and if you can read Arabic or French you may also use sources in these languages. Jadaliyya Media Roundup will be a privileged source for your search.

You will be sharing your article in class, so bring a copy with you. Your articles should preferably be in line with the week’s readings.

**3)** Class presentation **20%. Depending on the number of students, y**ou could either work individually, or as a member of a group. In the case of group presentation you will be graded as a group. We will devote time in class for discussing the topics, identifying sources and having a clear division of labor. I will provide guidelines about this assignment early in the semester.

**4)** A 10-page **research Paper 30%**

Topics will be defined on the second week of class.

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| --- | --- |
| Research paper | 30% |
| Group presentation | 20% |
| Media Watch | 10% |
| Weekly reaction to the readings | 40% |

My policy on plagiarism is to award an **F** for the course.

**Grading scale** 100-95=**A+** 90=**A**; 85=**B+**; 80=**B**; 75=**C+**; 70=**C**; 60=**D;** 55=**E;** 50=**F**

**Policies:**

Please make sure you are familiar with the university’s regulations regarding plagiarism and academic integrity. Blatant plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the class. If you do not understand what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, or are uncertain, please ask the instructor for assistance. By attending this course all students are expected to have carefully consulted the Yale University policy regarding academic integrity available at the following web addresses: <http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students/using-sources/understanding-and-avoidingplagiarism/what-plagiarismplagiarism/what-plagiarism>.

**I authorize the use of computers only for course purposes. Your phones must be off during class time**.

**Syllabus (Subject to Revision)**

Introduction to the course, Syllabus, course requirements

Week 1

**History, Geopolitics, Cultural Mapping**

Week 2

ReadingsRashid Khalidi. 1998. “The Middle East as a Framework of Analysis: ReMapping a Region in the Era of Globalization.”

Comparative Studies of South Asia Africa and The Middle East. Vo XVIII (1): 74-80

Edward Said. 1978. Orientalism. Penguin Books (introduction).

Maya Mikhdashi. 2012. “How Not to Study Gender in the Middle East." Jadaliyya, Mars 21

Recommended: Lila Abu Lughod. 1989. “Zones of Theory in the Anthropology of the Arab World.” Annual Review of Anthropology. 18: 267-306

**Colonial (Knowledge) Production**

Week 3

Readings: Malek Alloula.1986. *The Colonial Harem*. (University of Minnesota Press (ch 1)

Marnia Lazreg. 1994. *The Eloquence of Silence: Algerian Women in Question*. Routledge (ch **6)**

Juliet Williams. 2009. “Unholy Matrimony, Feminism, Orientalism, and the Possibility of Double Critique” Signs 34: 611-632

Film: The Battle of Algiers

Group 1 presentation (20 minutes)

-Colonial Representations of Women in North Africa

**Feminist Critique, Orientalism, Liberalism, Fundamentalism**

Week 4

Readings: Lila Abu Lughod. 1988. “Orientalism and Middle East Feminist

Studies.” Feminist Studies 27(1): 101-113

Marnia Lazreg. “Feminism and Difference: The Perils of Writing as a Woman on Women in Algeria.” Feminist Studies14(1): 81-107.

Afsaneh Najmabadi. 2000. (Un)veiling Feminism, Social Texts, 18:29-46

Mernissi Fatema. 1991. The Veil and the Male Elite. Albin Michel (ch 6,7)

**Law, State, Religion**

Week 5

Readings: Mir Hosseini, Ziba. 2003. “The Construction of Gender in Islamic Legal Thought: Strategies for Reform.” Hawwa: Journal of Women in the Middle East and Islamic World. 1(1): 1-28. <http://www.drsoroush.com/PDF/E>

## Katherine Hoffman. 2010. “Law by French Means: Customary Courts in the Moroccan Hinterlands, 1930–1956.” Comparative Studies in Society and History. 52 (4): 851-880

Zakia Salime. 2011. *Between Feminism and Islam* (intro, ch 2 )

Langhi, Z. 2014. “Gender and State-Building in Libya: towards a politics of inclusion.” Journal of North African Studies, 19(2): 200-210.

Film: Submission

Theo Van Gogh/ Ayaan Hirsi Ali

Group 2 Presentation (20 minutes)

-Gendering the debate about the Sharia in Western contexts

# Human Rights, Women’s Rights

Week 6

Readings: Susan Slyomovics. 2012. “Fatna El Bouih and the Work of Memory, Gender, and Reparation in Morocco.” Journal of Middle East Women's Studies. 8(1): 37-62

# Karima Bennoune. 2007. “Secularism and Human Rights: A Contextual Analysis of Headscarves, Religious Expression, and Women’s Equality Under International Law.” Columbia Journal of International Law. 45(2)

# Zakia Salime. 2011. *Between Feminism and Islam* (ch 3,4, 5)

video

Untold Stories of Women’s Struggles Against Muslim Fundamentalism with Karima Bennoune <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cK74vhqzeeQ>

Group 3 Presentation (20 minutes)

-Women in the religious sphere in Morocco: the Morshidates

Week 7

Readings: The Arab Human Development Report (2002) see the part on gender.

Lila Abu-Lughod. 2009. “Dialects of Women’s Empowerment: The International Circuitry of the Arab Human Development Report 2005” in International Journal of Middle East Studies. 41: 83-103

CEDAW (2009) “Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.”

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws43.htm

Group 4 Presentation (20 minutes)

-The 2002 Arab Human Development Report, a critical assessment

**Gender, Community, Network**

Week 8

Readings: [Paula Holmes-Eber](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=rdr_ext_aut?_encoding=UTF8&index=books&field-author=Paula%20Holmes-Eber). 2003. *Daughters of Tunis* (intro, ch 2,3)

Paula Holmes-Eber. 2003. *Daughters of Tunis* (ch 4, 5, 6)

Week 9

Readings: Paula Holmes-Eber. *Daughters of Tunis* (ch 7)

Johanna Mannergren Selimovic And Disa Kammars Larsson. 2014. “Gender and Transition in Libya Mapping women’s participation in post-conflict reconstruction.” 11-28.

<http://www.ui.se/eng/upl/files/109573.pdf>

Group 5 presentation (20 minutes)

-Gender and the Tunisian Revolution

**Masculinities, Manhood and Nation**

Week 10

# Readings: Marc Schade-Poulsen Men and Popular Music in Algeria (Intro, ch 2)

# Marc Schade-Poulsen Men and Popular Music in Algeria (ch 3, 5, 6 )

Recommended: Salime Zakia. 2014. “I Vote, I Sing”: The Rise of Aesthetic Citizenship in Morocco. International Journal of Middle East Studies. 47: 36-139

# Bodies, Sexualities, Reproduction

# Week 11

Readings: Farha Ghannam, Live and Die like a Man: Gender Dynamics in Urban Egypt (ch 1, 2)

Anne Donadey. 2013. “Representing Gender and Sexual Trauma: Moufida Tlatli’s Silences of the Palace.” South Central Review. 28(1) 36-51

Paul Amar. 2012. “Turning the Gendered Politics of the Security State Inside out: Charging the Police with Sexual Harassment in Egypt.” International feminist Journal of Politics. (13) 3.

Film: The Silences of The Palace

Blog Entries

Group 6 Presentation

-Art and the Tunisian Revolution (20 minutes)

Week 12

Readings:

Marcia C. Inhorn. 2004. Middle Eastern Masculinities in the Age of New Reproductive Technologies: Male Infertility and Stigma in Egypt and Lebanon. Medical Anthropology Quarterly

18( 2) : 162-182

Sheren Seikaly and Maya Mikhdashi. 2012. “Let’s Talk about Sex.” Jadaliyya, April 25.

<http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/5233/lets-talk-about-sex?fb_comment_id=10151177685325931_10153340154905931#f2346f4f95d3f9e>

Farha Ghannam, Live and Die like a Man: Gender Dynamics in Urban Egypt (ch 4,5)

**Work, Labor, Diaspora**

Week 13

Readings:

Cairoli, M. Laetitia. 1998. “Factory as Home and Family: Female Workers in the Moroccan Garment Industry.” Human

Organization. 57(2) : 181-189

De Haas Hein, Aleida Van Rooij. 2010 “Migration as emancipation? The impact of internal and international migration on the position of women in rural Morocco.” Oxford Development Studies 38(1): 43-62

**Final Papers Due December 15 at 4pm**