



Gender in Contemporary Egypt

Year:	2017-2018
Catalog Number:	
Teacher(s):	
Language:	English
Blackboard:	No
EC:	5
Level:	300
Period:	Semester 1
Hours of study:	104 hrs
Lectures:	24 hrs
Practical work:	12 hrs
Tutoring:	hrs
Examination:	hrs
Other:	hrs
Elective choice:	Yes/No
Contractonderwijs:	Yes/No
Exchange:	Yes/No
Study abroad:	Yes/No
Evening course:	Yes/No
A la carte:	Yes/No
Honours class:	Yes/No

Admission requirements

This course is open to BA students. MA students may also be in the class, but with different assessment criteria.

Description

This course explores gender issues in Egypt while taking into account the intersectionality of class, gender, ethnicity and race. Against the backdrop of colonialism (including the West's Orientalizing depiction of local men and women), the state, cultural constructions of gender, and Islamism, the course will look into (Islamic and non-Islamic) women's movements, masculinities, and feminist activism. In order to do so, the course material will consist not only of theoretical texts, but will also look into cultural productions, like films, literature, music (mahraganat pop), and art. Key concepts from the social sciences, especially critical gender studies, will be introduced to serve as the necessary theoretical underpinnings.

Course objectives

After the course, students will have

- developed the skill to analyze cultural, religious, and political contexts that shape gender roles.
- become aware of the social and cultural processes by which gender and gender-related stereotypes are constructed.
- gained insight in current theoretical approaches of critical gender studies.
- have developed their skills in exploring a limited topic according to academically sound methods;
- have developed skills in summarizing academic studies on the topic;
- have developed skills in presenting their own academic analyses in oral and in written form.



Mode of instruction

Weekly seminar of 2 hours per week, a reader will be made available beforehand. The seminar will include lectures by local experts.

Course load

The total course load for the course is 140 hours (5 EC x 28 hrs), broken down as follows:

- Attendance in weekly lectures and seminars: $12 \times 2 = 24$ hrs
- Time for reading/studying compulsory literature = 52 hrs
- Time for preparing assignments: 12 hrs
- Research and writing of paper: 52 hrs

Assessment method

The final grade is made up of:

- Participation 10%
- Reading report/presentation 30%
- Final Essay 60%

Blackboard: N/A

Literature

Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam*, Yale: Univ. Press, 1992.

Maya Mikdashi, "How Not to Study Gender in the Middle East," *Jadaliyya* 21/3/2012.

Saba Mahmood, 2005. *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Lila Abu-Lughod, 2002. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others," in *American Anthropologist* 104(3):783-790.

Malek Alloula, 1986. *The Colonial Harem*. University of Minnesota Press

Badran, Margot, *Feminists, Islam, and Nation: Gender and the Making of Modern Egypt* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994).

Baron, Beth, *Egypt as a Woman: Nationalism, Gender, and Politics* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005).

Booth, Marilyn, *May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and Gender Politics in Egypt* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2001).

Danielson, Virginia, *The Voice of Egypt: Umm Kulthum, Arabic Song and Egyptian Society in the Twentieth Century* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997).



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Wilson Chacko Jacob, *Working Out Egypt: Effendi Masculinity and Subject Formation in Colonial Modernity 1870-1940* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2010).

Hanan Kholoussey, *For Better, For Worse: The Marriage Crisis That Made Modern Egypt* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010).

Frédéric Lagrange, "Women in the Singing Business, Women in Songs," *History Compass*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (Jan., 2009), 226–250.

Nancy Y. Reynolds, "Salesclerks, Sexual Danger, and Sexual Identity in Egypt, 1920s-1950s," *Journal of Women's History*, Vol. 23, No. 3 (Fall 2011), pp. 63-88.

Registration

To register and for further information, please contact NVIC (info@nvic.leidenuniv.nl).

Registration studeren à la carte and contractonderwijs: N/A

Contact

Netherlands Flemish Institute in Cairo (NVIC)
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Remarks

Is part of	Programme type	Semester	Block
The Arab World Today: a semester abroad in Middle East Studies	Semester abroad, Bachelor	1	