

HTST 593.02

Dr Tuba Demirci

Office SS643

Email: tdemirci@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays btw. 12.00-14.00, effective from September 16, 2009

**HTST 593.o20 Gender Issues in the Middle East
(September 14- December 9, 2009, Mondays btw14.00-16.45 at SS 639)**

Assembly point for class in case of emergency : Professional Faculties Food Court (regular) Education Block Food Court (alternate), for further details please visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> for latent regulations about emergency measures.

Course Description: This is an undergraduate seminar course on various historical and social aspects of gender issues in the Middle East. It aims to examine gender relations and changing position of women in the Middle East over the last century. While acknowledging the diversity of women and their experiences across Middle Eastern cultures, it focuses primarily on the lives of non-elite women in the region. The course also aims to provide in-depth information concerning the following issues: status of women according to religion; modernization and gender issues; development of female education; women's participation into public life; family life, marriage, divorce and sexuality as well as cultural traditions and ideology, politics and economic conditions in selected Middle Eastern countries such as Algeria, Iran, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Afghanistan, Tunis, Morocco and Turkey. A specific attention will be paid to the complex interconnections or interplays between gender-based movements and other socio-political and economic phenomena such as nationalism, nation-formation and citizenship; colonization and globalization, and women's response to the forces of discrimination in the region. Class discussions will be based on selected texts in the bibliographical section.

- 1. Grade Assessment, Paper and Annotations:** Participants are required to write a paper (maximum 5000 words) on topics of their preference. (5000 word limit for essays only means that you can write up to 5000 thousand words, and there is no lowest limit. Please do not ask questions about the lowest acceptable word count; try to have a meaningful discussion instead of concerning about the limit provided above. It is only a psychological-pedagogical tenet.) As an option, you can choose to construct your essay **one of the novels or a memoir** whose citation details provided in course reading section, or **form your own research question about a topic related to course outline/topics.**

For the ones who chose to construct their essays around novels, a set of questions will be provided so that you can easily form and structure your essays. Please note that I will not accept any literary criticism/ synopsis without a historical discussion if you choose the novel/memoir option; these novels should be utilized not as the pure reflections of historical reality but supplementary material to discuss the questions you are asked or the issues which are critically discussed in our classes. You are expected to integrate the themes available in these novels to better demonstrate whatever you

are asked to answer. Apart from these novels/memoirs, you are also expected to utilize relevant course readings as bibliography for your essays. Please note that forming your paper around these novels/memoir is optional, not a requirement.

The ones who would like to form their own research/essay questions for the essay must note that they are responsible to form a bibliography with a proper academic search. Only after you formed your research question and in case you need it, you will be provided assistance and guidance about essay bibliography.

Readings, Class Presentations and Annotations: If the seminar is to be genuinely exploratory and enlightening, it is vital that everyone participates and reads widely each weekly reading set. In addition, each seminar participant is expected to do **a class presentations of 20 minutes** in which they introduce readings arranged for that class, summarizing their arguments and raising general issues and topics for discussion. You will be assigned for presentation topics & weeks on our first meeting. Apart from this, on topics and pieces of their preference they are required to write **6 short annotations** (i.e., a short summary of the readings of each weekly set, maximum 5 pages) **out of 13 weeks**. The collective grade of the papers, annotations and class presentations & participation will correspond to the arithmetic average of the individual grades. The grading will be as follows:

Component	Percentage
Paper	35
Class presentation	25
(Six) annotations	30 (5 % each)
General participation	10

The following scheme will be used in converting percentages to letter grades;

A+	Applicable for exceptionally well-performed students
A	92-100 %
A-	90-91 %
B+	87-89 %
B	83-86 %
B-	80-82 %
C+	77-79 %
C	73-76 %
C-	70-72 %
D+	65-69 %
D	60-64 %
F	59 % and below

2. Reading Assignments: Please note once more that if the course is to be genuinely exploratory, it is vital to read widely. Students are required to read all assigned readings before they come to the class. Overall speaking, to be able to prompt for annotations and papers, all readings have to be done on regular basis. **(All readings except novels & memoirs will be uploaded to Blackboard on weekly basis after Wednesday September 9 2009)**

DEADLINE for Paper and (six) Annotations- Wednesday December 2 2009, 14.00 the latest. Late , electronic (soft copy) submissions will not be accepted. All submissions have to be made to Red Box at the entrance of History Common Office.

Paper and annotation format: Font: Times New Roman, 12, 1.5 space, justified, pages must be numbered, a cover page indicating your name, student ID number and essay question/ or title must also be added. Submissions fail to meet these standards will be graded (-2) out of overall paper/annotation grade.

Communication & Contact: Please note that I am not able to respond constantly to instant e-mails and questions after working hours, during weekends and bank holidays. Do not expect me to respond promptly to the last minute inquiries especially just before paper submissions.

Core Texts:

*Margaret L. Meriwether & Judith Tucker (eds) A Social History of Women & Gender in the Modern Middle East, Boulder : Colorado, Westview Press, 1999 [**From now on Meriwether & Tucker**]

*Nikki R. Keddie, Women in the Middle East: Past and Present, Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2007. [**From now on Keddie**]

Valentine M. Moghadam (ed) From Patriarchy to Empowerment: Women's Participation, Movements and Rights in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia, Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2007. [**From now on Moghadam (a)**]

*Valentine H. Moghadam, Modernizing Women: Gender and Social Change in the Middle East, Boulder & London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003. [**From now on Moghadam (b)**]

*Leila Ahmed, Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of A Modern Debate, New Haven, London: Yale University Press, 1992. [**From now on Ahmed**]

*Lucinda Joy Peach, Women and World Religions, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2002. [**From now on Peach**]

Julia Ann Clancy-Smith, Exemplary Women and Sacred Journeys : Women and Gender in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam from Late Antiquity to the Eve of Modernity, US: American Historical Association, c2006, [**From now on Clancy-Smith**] **BL458 .C536 2006.**

Lady Mary Montagu, Turkish Embassy Letters (London: Virago books, 1994), Letters 36, 39-41, 46-48. [**From now on Montagu**] **DA501.M47 A4 1993**

Mai Ghousseub & Emma Sinclair-Webb (eds), Imagined Masculinities ; Male Identity and Culture in the Modern Middle East, London; Saqi Books:2000. [From now on Ghousseub & Sinclair-Webb]

Novels & Memoirs

*Elif Shafak, *The Bastard of Istanbul*, US: Penguin Books, 2007.

*Shahrnush Parsipur, *Touba and the Meaning of Night*, NY,:The Feminist Press at the University of New York, 2008.

*Leila Ahmed, *A Border Passage: From Cairo to America: A Woman's Journey*, New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999.

Starred readings are available in University Bookstore and Second&Used Books Units. Library reserve copies will also be arranged. All of the assigned readings in course outline will be provided via Blackboard, organized as weekly packages under course documents.

Course Schedule and Reading Plan

Each class will begin with a short introduction by the instructor. The rest will be devoted to class presentations and discussion.

Week 1 - Monday September 7 2009- NO Class- Labor Day

Week 2 Monday September 14 2009

Introduction. Means and Aims

Women and Gender Issues in the Middle East; Contextualizing Women and The State of Historical Research

Meriwether & Tucker, "Introduction", passim. *A Social History of Women & Gender in the Modern Middle East*, Boulder : Colarado, Westview Press, 1999, pp. 1-24

Keddie, "Problems in the Study of Middle Eastern Women", pp. 279-296.

Ahmed, Ch. 1 "Mesopotamia" pp. 11-24.

Week 3 Monday September 21 2009 Women According to Monotheistic Religious Doctrines I : Women and Judaism

Peach, Ch.5 " Women and Judaism" pp. 157-176.

Clancy-Smith, "Exemplary Women and Sacred Journeys in Judaism", pp. 8-18.

Week 4

Monday September 28 2009 Women According to Monotheistic Religious Doctrines II: Women and Christianity

Peach, Ch.6 "Women and Christianity", pages 201- 214.

Ahmed, Ch.2 " The Mediterranean Middle East", pages 25-37.

Clancy-Smith, "Exemplary Women and Pilgrimage in Christianity", pp. 19-27.

Week 5 Monday October 5 2009 Women According to Monotheistic Religious Doctrines III: Women and Islam

Peach, Ch.7, " Women and Islam", pp. 249-294.

Keddie, "Regional Background and the Beginnings of Islam", "From the Pious Caliphs through the Dynastic Caliphates", 13-47.

Clancy-Smith, "Exemplary Women and Pilgrimage in Islam, pp.27-39.

No class on Monday October 12 2009, Thanksgiving Day

Week 6

Monday October 17 2009 Colonialism, Orientalism and Travelers' Account on Middle Eastern Women

Keddie, "From the Turkish and Mongol Invasions to 1798; Turks, Mongols, and Mamluks: New Rulers and Gender Attitudes", 48-74.

Montagu, , Letters 36, 39-41, 46-48.

Irwin Cemil Schick, "Representing Middle Eastern Women: Feminism and Colonial Discourse", Feminist Studies, Summer 1990, vol.16 Issue 2, p.346-382.

Nadia Wassef, "On Selective Consumerism: Egyptian Women and Ethnographic Representations", Feminist Review, 69, Winter, 2001, 111-123

Heleen Murre-van den Berg, "Protestant Missions and Middle Eastern Women: An Overview" in Inger Marie Okkenhaug & Ingvild Flakerud (eds) , Gender, Religion and Change in the Middle East: Two Hundred Years of History, (Oxford:UK; New York: Berg, 2005), pp.103-122. **HQ1785. G46 2005.**

Week 7

Monday October 26 2009 Revolution- Nation-State- Women

Keddie, "1914-1945: Nationalism and Women's Movements", "1945- Today: New States and Trends, Women's Activism, and the Rise of Islamism" pp. 75-101; 101-165 respectively.

Mervat F. Hatem, "Modernization, The State, and the Family in Middle East Women's Studies" in Margaret L. Meriwether & Judith Tucker, A Social History of Women & Gender in the Modern Middle East, Boulder : Colarado, Westview Press, 1999, pp. 63-83.

Deborah J. Gerner, "Mobilizing Women for Nationalist Agendas: Palestinian Women, Civil Society and the State- Building Process" in **Moghadam (a)**, pp. 17-39.

Senzil Nawid, "Afghan Women under Marxism" in **Moghadam (a)**, pp. 58-72.

Week 8

Monday November 2 2009 Family Life, Marriage, Divorce, and Motherhood in the Middle East

Annelies Moors, "Debating Islamic Family Law: Legal Texts and Social Practices" in **Meriwether & Tucker**, pp. 141-175.

Lilia Labidi, "Islamic Law, Feminism and Family: The Reformulation of Hudud in Egypt and Tunisia" in Valentine M. Moghadam (a), pp. 278-292.

Moghadam (b), "Women, Patriarchy and the Changing Family", pp.99-134

Week 9

Monday November 9 2009 Issues Regarding Sexuality and Women in Middle East

Keddie, "Sexuality and Shi'i Social Protest in Iran, pp. 297-323.

Liz Ercevik Amado, "Sexual and Bodily Rights as Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa", Reproductive Health Matters, 2004, 12 (23), 125-128.

M.Mazharul Islam, M. Mosleh Uddin, "Female Circumcision in Sudan: Future Prospects and Strategies for Eradication", International Family Planning Perspectives, Vol.27, No.2, 2001, pp.71-76.

Aysan Sev'er & Gökçeçişek Yurdakul, " Culture of Honour, Culture of Change: A Feminist Analysis of Honor Killings in Rural Turkey", Violence Against Women, Vol.7, No:9 September 2001, pp.964-998.

Week 10

Monday November 16 2009 Masculinities

Ghousoub & Sinclair-Webb, "Part I: Making Men: Institutions and Social Practices", pp.19-64; 65-91, 103-146.

Evelyne Accad, " Gender and Violence in Lebanese War Novels" in **Moghadam (a)**, pp. 293-310.

Week 11

Monday November 23 2009 Women's Employment in the Middle East

Moghadam (b) , Modernizing Women: Gender and Social Change in the Middle East (USA;UK: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1993),pp. 29-67,

M. Laetitia Cairoli, "Girl but Not Woman: Garment Factory Workers in Fez, Morocco", in **Moghadam (a)** pp. 160- 179.

Carol Malt, " Museum Feminization" : Women and Museum Employment in Jordan" in **Moghadam (a)** , pp. 215-229

Week 12

Monday November 30 2009 Gender and Modernization: Limits of Modernization

Ayse Gunduz Hosgor & Jeroen Smiths, "The Status of Rural Women in Turkey" in **Moghadam (a)** , pp.180-202

Sarab Abu-Rabia Queder, "Education, Tradition and Modernization": Bedouin Girls in Israel" in **Moghadam (a)** pp. 203- 214

Ibrahim al-Marashi, "Feminism and Censorship in an Islamic Republic" in **Moghadam (a)** pp.230- 242

Abla Amawi, "Against All Odds: Women Candidates in Jordan's 1997 Elections" in **Moghadam (a)** , pp. 40-57.

Week 13

Monday December 7 2009 Middle Eastern Women's Activism

Ziva Flamhaft, "Iron Breaks, Too: Israeli and Palestinian Women Talk About War, Bereavement, and Peace" in **Moghadam (a)**, pp. 311- 326.

Valentine Moghadam, "Peace-Building and Reconstruction with Women: Reflections on Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine" in **Moghadam (a)**, pp. 327-352.

Session C- Monday June 22 2009- Discussion

Moghadam (b) , pp. 135-170

Sarah E. Gilman, "Feminist Organizing in Tunisia: Negotiating Transnational" in **Moghadam (a)** pp., 97- 119

Loubna H. Skalli, "Women, Communications and Democratization in Morocco" in **Moghadam (a)**, pp.120-138.

Emergency Evacuation

Assembly Points have been identified across campus in case of an emergency evacuation. Should an emergency occur, our class would assemble at the Social Sciences Food Court. See the following link for a complete list of assembly points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>