INST 4850.001    POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Dr. Ozlem Altiok
What has been the relationship between gender, religion and politics in the Middle East? Does Islam oppress women? What has been the role of the nation-state in the 20th century in codifying gender relations? The first part of the course will be conceptual. We will begin by problematizing and destabilizing our relationship to our subject(s). To this end, we will discuss Edward Said’s influential critique of “orientalism.” We will also learn the meaning of gender, and how a gender lens makes a difference in understanding history and society.

In the second part of the course we will learn some key Islamic beliefs and practices. This is not a course on Quranic exegesis though our discussions will bear on how Abrahamic traditions were shaped within concretely patriarchal societies. In particular, we will discuss a) Leila Ahmed’s (1992) argument regarding whether Islam promotes equality between men and women and b) debates surrounding the compatibility and state of human rights in Islam.

In the third part, we will focus on how nationalistic and religious ideas, practices and movements interacted to produce new, “modern” interpretations of the Qur’an, and hadith in the 20th and 21st centuries, and what these interpretations have meant for the region’s different political regimes in general, and their gender politics in particular. Deniz Kandiyoti’s (1991) edited volume Women, Islam and the State will be one of our sources for this part of the class. In addition, I will assign contemporary articles and reports on Blackboard (Bb) that deal specifically with "political Islam,” the Arab Spring, and the status of ethnic and religious minorities in Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia.

INST 4850.002    REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE

Professor Hugh Parmer
Imagine being forced to flee your home with nothing but the clothes on your back. Forty million people in the world have been driven from their homes by war and ethnic conflict. Some have been “warehoused” in refugee camps for decades. The course will examine the causes for these dislocations, the organizations that try to help these people, the problems they face, and the possible solutions. Professor Parmer served for six years as the president of the American Refugee Committee, an international non-profit organization that has helped refugees in fourteen conflict stricken countries including the Balkans, Pakistan, Thailand, Sudan, Rwanda, and other African nations. He has personally worked in official United Nations refugee camps and informal refuges for people displaced in their own country. Prior to the American Refugee Committee, Mr. Parmer was the chief humanitarian officer of the U. S. Agency for International Development, appointed by former President Clinton.

INST 4851.001    INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Dr. Emile Sahliyeh
INST 4851 International Security and Diplomacy Senior Seminar is required for students whose areas of specialization are International Security and Diplomacy and Peace Studies. Students are required to take this course during their senior year. Open for International Studies Major students only.

INST 4852.001    GLOBAL ECONOMY

Dr. James Goodnow
This seminar will help international studies students in their final year of undergraduate study understand how real world small, medium-sized and multinational companies based in both the rich Triad as well as emerging market countries develop strategies to grow and compete in complex global markets. Students will examine concepts and issues that companies face during their internationalization process including the competitive nature of their respective industries, their internal resources and external forces such as regulatory institutions, cultures and ethical traditions. Case studies and ethical dilemmas of real companies will be examined to learn how companies select markets and entry strategies, work with strategic alliance partners, diversify, and acquire outside international firms. Additional topics include selected operational aspects of international trading activities, international intracorporate politics and globalizing firms’ relationships with their stakeholders. Each student will write a global situation analysis and competitive strategy commentary paper for a selected real world company.