

**Course Title: Media and Culture in the Middle East**  
(Sample Syllabus 15 Weeks)

**Course Description:**

This course explores the past, present, and future of media and cultural resources in the Middle East. Through readings, discussions, and assignments, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the region's media landscape and its global cultural and media transformations.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of media and culture in the Middle East.
2. To encourage critical thinking about the role of media in shaping cultural and political discourse in the region.
3. To develop students' ability to analyze and interpret media content from the Middle East.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify key theories, ideologies, and problematics related to media and culture in the Middle East.
2. Analyze the role of media in shaping cultural and political discourse in the region.
3. Evaluate the impact of global cultural and media transformations on the Middle East.

**Assignments:**

1. Weekly Reading Responses (30%): Each week, students will submit a 1 page response to the assigned readings. Responses should demonstrate engagement with the material and critical thinking.  
(Or Weekly Perusal Annotation or Weekly Discussion Posts)
2. Midterm Presentation (20%): In Week 8, students will give a presentation based on chapters from Parts IV and V of the textbook. Presentations should be 10-15 minutes long and demonstrate a deep understanding of the material.
3. Final Paper (40%): In Week 15, students will present their final papers. Final papers should be 8-10 pages long and present a case study in mainstream, alternative, independent, social media, or art in the Middle East. Papers should demonstrate original research and critical analysis.
4. Participation (10%): Students are expected to attend all classes, actively participate in discussions, and complete all assignments on time.

**Week by Week Breakdown:**

***Week 1: Introduction to Media and Culture in the Middle East***

- Objective: To provide an overview of the course and introduce key concepts and themes.
- Reading: Media and Culture in the Middle East: An Introduction (Pages: 1-12)

***Week 2: Theories, Ideologies, and Problematics I***

- Objective: To introduce students to key theories, ideologies, and problematics related to media and culture in the Middle East.

- Reading: Orientalism and Culture (Pages: 13-22)
- Reading: Muslims, Art, and Invisible Modernities (Pages: 23-29) or Development and Modernization in the Middle East (Pages: 30-36)

Or

- Reading: Development and Modernization in the Middle East (Pages: 30-36) By Karin Wilkins

### ***Week 3: Theories, Ideologies, and Problematics II***

- Objective: To continue exploring key theories, ideologies, and problematics related to media and culture in the Middle East.
- Reading: Hybridity as Dazzlement: Rethinking Fusion Through Joseph Tonda's Postcolonial Imperialism (Pages: 37-44)
- Reading: "Arab" Cultural Studies: Phenomenology Being Digital, and Other Notes (Pages: 45-52)

### ***Week 4: Politics, Gender, Minorities, and Class I***

- Objective: To explore the role of intellectuals in shaping modernities, the emerging public sphere, and feminist movements in the Middle East.
- Reading: Intellectuals, Modernities, and the Emerging Public Sphere (Pages: 53-64) by Gholam Khiabany
- Reading: Feminisms and Feminist Movements in the Middle East (Pages: 65-72) by Gül Aldıkaçtı Marshall

### ***Week 5: Politics, Gender, Minorities, and Class II***

- Objective: To analyze the relationship between the state, the media, and labor activism in the Middle East and the significance of "minority media" in the region.
- Reading: The State, the Media, and the Revival of Labor Activism in the Middle East (Pages: 73-81) by Anne Alexander
- Reading: The Meaning and Purpose of "Minority Media" in the Middle East and North Africa (Pages: 82-89) by Elizabeth Monier

### ***Week 6: Media Industries, Markets, and Technologies I***

- Objective: To examine media policy and its political impact in the Middle East and North Africa.
- Reading: Media Policy in the MENA: The Political Impact of Media Confluence (Pages: 91-106) by Tourya Guaaybess

### ***Week 7: Midterm Presentations (Parts IV and V)***

### ***Week 8: Midterm Presentations (Parts IV and V)***

### ***Week 9: Media Industries, Markets, and Technologies I***

- Objective: To analyze the challenges and triumphs of journalism in the region.
- Reading: Journalism in MENA: Triumph and Tragedy in the Struggle to Speak Truth to Power (Pages: 107-121) by Lawrence Pintak

### ***Week 10: Media Industries, Markets, and Technologies II***

- Objective: To explore the purposes, practices, and evolution of television in the Middle East and North Africa, and examine the digital landscape, infrastructure, policies, and media practices in the region.

- Reading: Purposes and Practices of MENA Television: Components of an Ever-evolving Medium (Pages: 122-133) by Naomi Sakr

***Week 11: Media Industries, Markets, and Technologies II***

- Objective: To explore examine the digital landscape, infrastructure, policies, and media practices in the region.

- Reading: Digital MENA: An Overview of Digital Infrastructure, Policies, and Media Practices in the Middle East and North Africa (Pages: 134-146) by Carola Richter

***Week 12: Researching Middle East Media and Culture***

- Objective: To discuss the challenges and insights of media research in the Middle East and beyond.

- Reading: Documents, Archives, Absence: Current Challenges and Insights from Media Research in the Middle East and Beyond (Pages: 147-161) by Hatim El-Hibri and Kaveh Askari

***Week 13: Perspectives***

- Objective: To explore the cultural politics of the Middle Eastern diaspora and examine youth resistance in the Middle East.

- Reading: Cultural Politics of the Diaspora (Pages: 503-512) by Orit Ouaknine-Yekutieli and Yigal Nizri

- Reading: Dialectics of Resistance: Youth in the Middle East (Pages: 513-519) by Joe F. Khalil

***Week 14: Perspectives***

- Objective: To discuss the concept of borders in the Middle East and examine the relationship between activism and surveillance in the region.

- Reading: Borders (Pages: 520-525) by Helga Tawil-Souri

- Reading: Activism and Surveillance in the Middle East (Pages: 526-534) by Bilge Yesil

***Week 15: Final Presentations and Final Paper Submission***