PS 399-Politics of North Africa

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GTF:

Description
The Arab Spring, born out of North Africa, was received with a contradictory mixture of excitement, awe, concern and confusion by the Western world. To understand the reasons behind these mixed emotions it is important that we explore the politics of North Africa within the larger world context. This is done in four parts. 1) The Western perceptions of Arabs and Muslims, 2) The clash between nationalism and European imperialism, 3) The importance of Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and 4) The continuing western intervention in support of authoritarian regimes whose corrupt and repressive rule served as a catalyst for the Arab Spring.

Grading
Two Examinations (60%): A mid-term and a final. Each of the two non-cumulative essay exams will worth 30% of your course grade. Each will have six questions. You will answer four. Three questions will be based on class material and three based on the required readings. The six questions are provided one day in advance. On the day of the exam, I will provide you with the four questions you must answer.

Essay (25%): This 5-7 page assignment requires writing an analytical piece challenging one of the myths surrounding politics of North Africa. I cannot read drafts of your essays. However, I am available to discuss your choices or to answer any questions you may have as your work advances during office hours or by appointment. (Not by email). Additional information is provided at the bottom of this syllabus.

Geography Quizzes (15%): Two geography quizzes will each have ten questions. These questions will be based on maps and geographic information presented in lectures and posted on Blackboard. Questions will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and identifications.

Grading Thresholds: 97-100 A+, 93-96 A, 90-92% A-, 87-89% B+, 83-86% B, 80-82% B-, 77-79% C+, 73-76% C, 70-72% C-, 60-69% D-, Below 60% F. I will take into account improvements during the term if at the end you are on the borderline.
Deadlines
Week 4: Geography Quiz # 1
Week 6: Mid-term
Week 8: Geography Quiz # 2
Week 9: Essay
Final Exam:

Readings
Sven Lindqvist, Exterminate All the Brutes (1996)
Articles on Blackboard marked on this syllabus by asterisks

These books have been ordered at the Duck Store.
I will also post study help and news stories related to class on Blackboard.

Rules
Punctuality is required.
Use of laptops and all other electronics is not allowed in class.
Students are responsible for saving their graded assignments and a copy of their paper.
There will be no makeup exams or any extension of deadlines without a documented personal medical emergency.
Extra credit assignments, or “study guides” for exams are not provided.
Late essays are penalized at the rate of one full letter grade per each late day.
Students are expected to do the readings the day they are assigned.
Films shown in class or assigned as home viewing are integral part of the course and should be treated as such.
The GTF and I will be happy to provide you with advice to improve your grade during the course of the quarter. However, grades are not subject to negotiation. In absence of a clerical error, your grades are final.

Lecture Schedule and Readings

Week 1
Arabs and Muslims

- Pictures in our heads
- What evidence shows
- Ignorance and bigotry
- Orientalism
- Analysis and compassion

Osman
* Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations”
* Said, “The Clash of Ignorance”

Class film and discussion: “Reel Bad Arabs"
Week 2
Geographic Significance of North Africa

- Physical geography
- Cultural geography
- Political geography

Osman, Chapter 1
*Maps

Weeks 3 & 4 – Imperialism, Nationalism, and Neo-Imperialism
- Britain, Ottoman Empire, and Egypt
- France in Maghreb
- The Suez Crisis

**Lindqvist, All**
Naylor, Chapters 5 & 6
Osman, Chapter 1
*Shlaim, “Protocol of Severs”

Class film and discussion: “The Other Side of Suez”

**Geography Quiz # 1**

Weeks 5 & 6 - Arab-Israeli Conflict
- Egypt, Israel, and the question of Palestine
- Egypt’s search for a separate peace
- 1979 Treaty and the “Cold Peace”

Naylor, Chapter 7
Osman, Chapter 2
*Gerges, “Egypt and the 1948 War”
*Shlaim, Chapters 7 & 9
*Maps

**Mid-term (Week 6)**

Week 7 - American and European Interests
- Egypt: Sadat and Mubarak Dynasties
- Algeria: 1991 Coup and its Consequences
- Morocco and Western Sahara

Naylor, Chapter 8
Osman, Chapter 4 and 6
Zoubir and Amirah-Fernández, Chapters 15, 16 & 17
*Brownlee, “Peace Before Freedom”
*Davidson, “Reform and Repression in Mubarak's Egypt”
*Maps

Week 8 - North Africa and America’s “War on Terror”
Zoubir and Amirah-Fernández, Chapters 13 & 14  
*Walsh and Piazza, “Why Respecting Physical Integrity Rights Reduces Terrorism”  
*National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism

**Geography Quiz # 2**

Week 9 - Arab Spring and American – European Counter Revolution  
- Controlling the Egyptian revolution  
- Overthrowing Colonel Gaddafi

Naylor, Chapter 9  
Osman, Chapter 7

Class film and discussion: Frontline: “Egypt in Crisis”

**Essay (Electronic copy to GTF, Tuesday Week 9)**

Week 10 - Future Choices  
- Imperialism, Repression, and War  
- Democracy and Peace

Naylor, Chapter 10  
Osman, Chapters 3 and 5  
*Gerges, “Premature Obituaries”

**Final Exam:**
Essay Directions

Your essay must challenge one of the following myths:

1. Egypt-Israel peace treaty as a model for peace making between Arabs and Israelis.
2. Egyptian 2013 military coup as an inevitable development.
3. Morocco as a moderate and stable monarchy.

Ground Rules:

1. The essay must be based on your own research. You can use the course readings alone if you believe they provide sufficient support for your analysis or (preferably) consult outside sources.
2. Your analysis must be free of value judgments. Views not supported in scholarly research should not enter into your writing.
3. The paper should be no less than five and no longer, than seven pages in length, double-spaced, 12 font, one-inch margins all around.
4. Sources should be listed in bibliography and all references and quotes cited in the text of the paper parenthetically (author, year, pages). No alternative formats are accepted as substitute.
5. Direct quotes longer than two sentences must be typed single-spaced and indented.
6. Papers will be evaluated on the basis of the clarity of your presentation, the consistency of your analysis and conclusion, and the range and the depth of sources consulted. (See Essential Resources below)

Essential Resources:

1. Phyllis Martin, *Word Watchers Handbook*
2. William Strunk and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*
3. Kate L. Turabian, *Student’s Guide to Writing College Papers*