

American University – Central Asia
Anthropology Department
Spring 2011

PEOPLES AND CULTURES OF THE MIDDLE EAST
ATNH 259

Instructor: Cholpon Chotaeva (PhD)
Classes: Tuesdays 12:45 (R) and Thursdays 12:45 (R 329)
Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 13:00-15:00
E-mail: cholponchtv@yahoo.com

Course Description

The study of the Middle East has become very topical recently. Terrorism, fundamentalism, Islamism has become the issues associated with the region. At the same time, the Middle East is not only about Islam. It is a very diverse region with a rich history and culture. Along with Muslims there are various Christian and Jewish communities living side by side with Muslims. Different languages are spoken such as Turkish, Persian, Kurdish as well as European languages.

The course will provide an anthropological introduction to the Middle Eastern region. It will discuss such issues as history, religion, ethnicity, the importance of kinship, family and tribal relations, folk culture and printed media. Specific classes will address the position of women in the Middle East and the challenges the society and people in the region face today.

Readings:

Daniel G. Bates and Amal Rassam, *Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East* (Prentice Hall, 2001).

Dale F. Eickelman, *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, Forth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2002) (at the AUCA library).

Ilan Pappé, *The Modern Middle East* (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group: London and New York, 2005).

Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1991) (at the AUCA library).

John L. Esposito (ed.), *The Oxford History of Islam* (Oxford University Press, 1999) (at the AUCA library).

Marilyn Stokstad (ed.), *Art History* (Pearson Education, 2005).

Assignments

Attendance - 10%

Attendance is required. Attendance will be checked in the beginning of each class period. If you are late you will not be allowed to the class. OR, you can attend the class but will get an absence in the attendance list. Your attendance grade will be reduced by 2% for each unexcused absence.

If you get sick, you have to notify the instructor or the office manager in advance, and submit an official document (spravka) from a physician as soon as possible, especially if you are scheduled to make a class presentation. **Four unexcused absences** will result in “X” for the whole course.

Participation – 20%

Participation means more than good attendance. You must be prepared and actively discuss the readings of the course as listed on the schedule.

Class Presentation – 20%

You have to sign up for a topic of the course in the presentations’ list provided by the instructor to make a group or individual presentation during a seminar class. Presentations should be made on a topic discussed during the course. It can be oral or power point presentation. Not more than two students can sign up for a topic. Each student should make at least one class presentation. If you fail to make a class presentation on time, you will not be given a second chance to do it and loose 10% assigned for the presentation. The presentation will be evaluated on the basis of its organization, contents and delivery style.

Midterm - 20%

The midterm is in-class written exam of the course. You will receive a question out of those discussed previously during the course and write a one-page essay on it. In case of cheating you will receive a zero for the assignment.

Research paper – 30%

The research paper (5 pages minimum, typewritten, 12 point font, double spaced) should be written on any topic related to the course. The delayed papers will be not be accepted and graded. In case of plagiarism you will receive a zero for the paper with no right to rewrite it.

Grading System

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

100-96 = A

95-91 = A-

90-86 = B+

85-81 = B

80-76 = B-

75-71 = C+

70-66 = C

65-61 = C-

60-56 = D+
55-51 = D
50-46 = D-
45 and lower = F

Course Policy

Mobile phones

Mobile phones and other electronic devices must be off while you are attending the class.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated during the course. Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas and representing them as your own original work. You must either paraphrase the sentence by putting it completely in your own words and citing it with the proper footnote, endnote or in text citation, or put the quotation marks, or make block quotation if you use the direct words of the source without any change with the following footnote, endnote or other citation after the copied words. All information must be cited. Always cite a legitimate source. Wikipedia is not a legitimate source. Books published by university presses and academic papers found on JSTOR are legitimate sources.

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated during the course. Cheating is the use of unauthorized sources during exams such as books, student's notes, cellular phones, etc.

Deadlines

All written assignments should be submitted to the e-course before the deadline. Deadlines can only be extended for medical reasons. Only those late papers with a legitimate excuse will be accepted but penalized. *Papers submitted in hard copy, or to the instructor email will not be accepted and graded.*

Appeals

If you don't agree with your grade for an assignment or the course, you must submit a written appeal for the name of the Chair of Anthropology Department explaining the reasons of your disagreement. Oral appeals are not considered.

Course Outline

Week 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Assigned:

Dale F. Eickelman, *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, Forth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2002) (at the AUCA library), pp 8-20.

Ilan Pappé, *The Modern Middle East* (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group: London and New York, 2005), pp 15-57.

Week 2

HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Assigned:

Ilan Pappé, *The Modern Middle East* (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group: London and New York, 2005), pp 93-111.

Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1991), pp 98-108, 333-336.

Week 3

THE RELIGION OF ISLAM

Assigned:

Dale F. Eickelman, *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, Forth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2002) (at the AUCA library), pp 241-272.

Week 4

THE RELIGION OF ISLAM

Assigned:

Dale F. Eickelman, *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, Forth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2002) (at the AUCA library), pp 285-298.

Week 5

ETHNICITIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Assigned:

Dale F. Eickelman, *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, Forth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2002) (at the AUCA library), pp 192-214.

Week 6

KINSHIP, MARRIAGE, FAMILY

Assigned:

Dale F. Eickelman, *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, Forth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2002) (at the AUCA library), pp 140-167.

Week 7

PASTORALISTS AND AGRICULTURALISTS

Assigned:

Dale F. Eickelman, *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, Forth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2002) (at the AUCA library), pp 45-83.

Week 8

CITIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Assigned:

Dale F. Eickelman, *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, Forth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2002) (at the AUCA library), pp 84-114.

Week 9

MIDTERM

Week 10

TRIBALISM

Assigned:

Dale F. Eickelman, *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, Fourth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2002) (at the AUCA library), pp 115-139.

Week 11

FOLK CULTURE

Assigned:

Ilan Pappé, *The Modern Middle East* (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group: London and New York, 2005), pp 183-205.

Week 12

PRINTED MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS

Ilan Pappé, *The Modern Middle East* (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group: London and New York, 2005), pp 207-221.

Week 13

THEATRE, CINEMA, RADIO AND TELEVISION

Assigned:

Ilan Pappé, *The Modern Middle East* (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group: London and New York, 2005), pp 223-267.

Movie

Week 14

THE POSITION OF WOMEN

Assigned:

Dale F. Eickelman, *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, Fourth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2002) (at the AUCA library), pp 176-192.

Ilan Pappé, *The Modern Middle East* (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group: London and New York, 2005), pp 223-267.

Week 15

THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY

Assigned:

Dale F. Eickelman, *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, Fourth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2002) (at the AUCA library), pp 313-360.

Ilan Pappé, *The Modern Middle East* (Routledge Taylor & Francis Group: London and New York, 2005), pp 291-301.

Research Paper Final Draft