
FROM MEDINA TO METROPOLIS: CITIES OF NEAR EAST & NRTH AFRCA in Fall 2020 (ME1099FB7)

Course Code	ME1099FB7	Professor(s)	Justin McGuinness
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-402
Class Schedule	F: 10:50-12:25 in G-L22 W: 16:20-17:55 in G-009	Office Hours	Friday 13h30 – 14h30
Credits	4	Email	jmcguinness@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	575

Course Description

This class, introducing the development and characteristics of the city in Western Asia and North Africa, allows students to see how various disciplines (cultural geography, urban planning, architectural history) look at the urban world. It provides a short overview of urban settlement in the Middle East from the beginnings of Islam to the eighteenth century, before focusing on the processes of urbanization in the MENA region from 1800 until today. After defining the specificities of the region's cities, the emphasis shifts to the interaction between **rapid social change, urban living conditions, political power and professional planning**. Today, uprisings fuelled by demands for social equity and democracy, major conflict driven migrations and the needs of capital all mark cities in the Middle East and North Africa. The course allows students to reflect critically on issues related to rapidly expanding, extensive city regions, historic centres and poorly serviced self-built areas. Students will thus become aware of the major trends and challenges in cities located at the critical meeting point of Africa and Eurasia.

In addition to films, course materials consist almost exclusively of academic articles available via Jstor on the university's library portal. Texts are organized according to **five main themes**: spiritual poles, precarity and privilege, destruction and memory, repression and equality, organicity and spectacle. This issue-based approach has been adopted to highlight the different processes shaping urban territories.

This course is part of the AUP's innovative First Bridge programme, and as such is twinned with the class CL1099 Modern to contemporary in the Arab World. Though a field-trip abroad is impossible due to the Covid-19 crisis, a weekend trip to Marseille, traditionally a city important as a point where France and its southern neighbours meet, is planned. Short visits to institutions in Paris which reflect links with the Middle East and North Africa are also planned.

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

GLACC: *The Global Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (GLACC) degree requirements include the following categories of courses:*

- *Integrative Inquiry (coded CCI)*
- *Experiential learning (coded CCX)*
- *Research, Interpretation, and Writing (coded CCE)*
- *Digital Literacy and Communication (coded CCD)*
- *Disciplinary Research Methods and Writing (coded CCR)*
- *Quantitative Reasoning (coded CCM)*
- *Experimental Reasoning Course with Lab (coded CCS)*
- *Expression Française (coded FR)*
- *AUP Capstone (coded CCC)*

This course can be used to fulfill the _____ **Integrative Inquiry (CCI)** _____ requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes (Learning Outcomes for GLACC components are defined on the [AUP GLACC Website](#)):

- You will enhance your **information literacy skills**, acquiring an understanding of how information is produced and discovering how to evaluate, create and use it effectively and ethically. You will develop an awareness of the conversational nature of scholarship and be able to identify appropriate secondary sources to conduct effective research.
- You will develop **public speaking and presentation skills** in order to participate effectively and appropriately both in academic discussion and as a community leader, in a professional and engaging manner that can convey complex information.
- You will be able to appreciate **place as a source of knowledge**, to interrogate the multiple meanings of place and to develop a more informed and sensitive understanding of interactions between people and the physical environment.
- You will learn to **formulate questions that maximize learning potential** and lead to productive individual and group research projects.
- You will **strengthen concrete skills and aptitudes** needed to be successful at AUP and beyond, such as study skills and time management, developing appropriate classroom behavior and interpersonal skills and a mindset that leads to lifelong learning.

Course Outline

ME 1099 From Médina to Metropolis, the city in the Middle East and North Africa

Autumn 2020

Weekly schedule with proposed texts and films (subject to alteration)

Week 1 Introduction Territories, spaces and places: the urban Middle East and North Africa

Wednesday 23 September

Introduction to the Middle East and North Africa: course themes and historical overview

Friday 24 September

Theme 1 Everyday and exceptional: sacred territories: spirituality and belief in Arabia

Belief and the city in the Muslim Middle East: Mecca and Médina – foundations.

Texts for discussion: **Watt**, M. (2018). A Historical Overview, **Saleh**, Walid A. (2010) The Arabian context of Muhammad's Life, **Reynolds**, G.S. (2012) Muhammed in Mecca and **Crone** (2008) What do we really know about Mohammed?

Week 2

Theme 1 Everyday and exceptional: sacred territories in Arabia

Wednesday 30 September

Texts for discussion: **Wheeler**, B. (2019). Sacrifice and Pilgrimage: body politics and the origins of Muslim pilgrimage. Film: Ismaël **Ferroukhi's** *Le Grand Voyage* (2004)

Friday 02 October

Texts: **Dunn**, R. (2012). Mecca. In *The Adventures of Ibn Battuta: A Muslim Traveler of the Fourteenth Century* and **Danforth**, L. (2016). Who can go to Mecca? Conversion and pilgrimage in Islam.

Week 3

Theme 1 (cont.) Everyday and exceptional: spiritual places and practices in MENA cities

Wednesday 07 October

Texts for discussion: **Mayeur-Jaouen**, C. (2012). What Do Egypt's Copts and Muslims Share? **Spadola**, E. (2019). On Mediation and Magnetism: Or, Why Destroy Saint Shrines? **Szanto**, E. (2019). Economies of Piety at the Syrian Shrine of Sayyida Zaynab. Film (extracts) from Nacer **Khemir's** *Looking for Muhyiddin*.

Theme 2 Precarity and privilege in Cairo and Istanbul

Friday 09th October

Texts for discussion: **Fahmi**, W. (2005) The impact of privatization of solid waste management on the Zabaleen garbage collectors of Cairo and **Fahmi**, W., & **Sutton**, K. (2013). Cairo's contested waste: the Zabaleen's local practices and privatisation policies. Documentary film (extracts): Mai **Iskander's** *Garbage Dreams* (2008).

Wednesday 14th October

Theme 2 (continued) Precarity and privilege in Cairo and Istanbul

Texts for discussion: **Akgün**, A., & Baycan, T. (2012). Gated communities in Istanbul and **Almatarneh**, R., & Mansour, Y. (2013). The role of advertisements in the marketing of gated communities as a new Western suburban lifestyle.

Friday 16th October

Field trip to Marseille.

Week 4

Theme 2 Precarity and privilege: illegal urbanism, the politics of planning for squatter settlements.

Wednesday 14th October

Texts for discussion: **Aguilera**, T. & Smart, A. (2020). Towards a political economy of toleration of illegality: comparing tolerated squatting in Hong Kong and Paris and **Deboulet**, A. (2012). Secure Land Tenure?: stakes and contradictions of land titling and upgrading policies in the global Middle East and Egypt.

Friday 16th October

Texts for discussion: **Pérouse**, J. (2012). Mülk Allah'indir ('This House is God's Property'): Legitimizing Land Ownership in the Suburbs of Istanbul.

Week 5

Theme 3 Destruction and memory: heritisation in Algiers, Fès and Tunis

Wednesday 21st October

Texts for discussion: **Rabinow** (1991) French Modern. Norms and forms of the social environment (extracts)

Friday 23rd October

Texts for discussion: **McGuinness** (1997) Conservation planning in Tunis and **McGuinness**, Justin (2012) Spectacularising Fès.

Week 6

Theme 3 Destruction and memory: authoritarian rule and the city - examples from Syria and Iraq

Wednesday 28th October

Texts for discussion: **Clerc**, V. (2014). Informal Settlements in the Syrian Conflict: Urban Planning as a Weapon. **Vignal**, L. (2014). Destruction-in-Progress: Revolution, Repression and War Planning in Syria (2011 Onwards).

Week 6 (continued)

Friday 30th October

Texts for discussion: **Danti**, Michael D. (2015). Ground-based observations of cultural heritage incidents in Syria and Iraq and **Lababidi**, Rim and Qassar, Hiba (2016) Did They Really Forget How to Do It? Iraq, Syria, and the International Response to Protect a Shared Heritage.

Week 7

Theme 4 Destruction and memory: occupation and urban segmentation

Wednesday 04th November

Texts for discussion: **Damluji**, Mona (2010) "Securing Democracy in Iraq": Sectarian Politics and Segregation in Baghdad, 2003-2007. Film: *Baghdad, Année Zéro* (extracts)

Friday 07th November

Theme 4 Repression and equality: culture and protest in Tunis

Texts for discussion: **Hawkins**, S. (2014). Teargas, flags and the Harlem Shake: images of and for revolution in Tunisia and the dialectics of the Local in the Global

Week 8

Theme 4 Repression and equality: culture and protest in Tunis

Wednesday 11th November

Viewing: *Le Challat de Tunis*.

Friday 13th November NO CLASS

Week 9

Theme 4 Repression and equality: culture and protest in Istanbul

Wednesday 18th November

Film: Mike Binder's *Crossing the Bridge, the sound of Istanbul* (1992)

Friday 20th November Texts for discussion: **TBA**

Week 10

Theme 5 Organicity and spectacle: contemporary urbanism in Arabia and North Africa

Wednesday 25th November

Texts for discussion: **Graham**, S. (2020). Verticality and centrality: The politics of contemporary skyscrapers, **Kanna**, Ahmed (2014) Speaking of the City: Establishing Urban Expertise in the Arab Gulf, and **Kanna**, Ahmed and Keshavarzian, Arang (2008) The UAE's Space Race: Sheikhs and Starchitects Envision the Future. In *Middle East Report*, No. 248, Waiting: The Politics of Time in Palestine (Fall, 2008), pp. 34-39 Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25164863>

Week 10 (continued)

Theme 5 Organicity and spectacle (continued)

Friday 28th November

Texts for discussion: **Barthel**, P., & Vignal, L. (2014). Arab Mediterranean Megaprojects after the 'Spring': business as usual or a new beginning? and **Crot**, L. (2013). Planning for Sustainability in Non-democratic Polities: the case of Masdar City. If time: **Al-Nakib**, F. (2018). Legitimizing the Illegitimate: a Case for Kuwait's Forgotten Modernity. *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review*, 29(2), 7-22. doi:10.2307/26877320

Week 11

Theme 5 Organicity and spectacle: migration and home in the Middle Eastern city

Wednesday 02 December

Texts for discussion: TBA

Friday 04 December Paris and the Middle East – presentation of student podcasts

Week 12

Theme 3 Paris and the Middle East – presentation of student podcasts

Wednesday 09th December

11th December, last day of classes,

12th - 15th December, reading days.

16th – 22th December final examination period.

ME1099 From Médina to Metropolis : the city in the Middle East and North Africa

Autumn semester 2020

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Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE:

If you are likely to miss a class for a valid reason (health or family emergency, pressing appointment), please send me a note at jmcguinness@aup.edu

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are still expected to attend ALL scheduled classes. Due to special circumstances related to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending some classes online either in a synchronous or asynchronous format. In general, students are expected to attend at least one class a week in a synchronous format by either being physically present or logged in via the TEAMS online platform during class. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

In all cases of missed course meetings, the responsibility for communication with the professor, and for arranging to make up missed work, rests solely with the student. Travel plans, *especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods*, must be made with attendance requirements in mind.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may also recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT: As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Grading Policy

GRADING:

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Presentation of a country in MENA region:	10%
Essay on a set of articles:	30%
Presentation to class of essay on articles:	10%
Podcast and accompanying note:	30%
Final exam:	20%

Course Requirements:

You will learn from this course if you read the **assigned materials** and are willing to discuss them in class. The materials will be made available in several ways: USB key, Blackboard and above all via Jstor on the AUP library portal. Make sure that you read each text before the relevant class session. You and your colleagues will present some of the readings, with a pair of students asked to look closely at a given day's texts or viewings.

From the start of the course, you should start thinking about making a short (ten to fifteen minutes) **audio piece** about a site or person in Paris linked to one of the course themes. A full brief of this final assignment will be provided. We will listen to these audio pieces together and discuss them in the final week of class.

Brief guidelines for written and audio assignments:

1. **Presentation of a country in MENA region** (10%). You will be assigned a country or a region to present to your colleagues. You should make a PowerPoint covering the salient points. This presentation should provide background to the issues covered in the current articles under discussion.
2. **Essay on a set of articles** (30%). You will write an essay of around 1,500 words discussing the lines of argument developed in two or three articles set for discussion. NB parenthetical citation required.
3. **Presentation to class of essay on articles** (10%). You will present the essay (item 2 here) to your colleagues.
4. **Podcast and accompanying note** (30%). In the final week of class, we will listen to this piece of work together in class.
5. **Final exam** (20%). Consisting of some short answer questions and an essay on two articles, identifying discipline, approach and discussing the findings.

All written work done outside class should be typed, 1.5 space, in Times New Roman 11 pt font, in accordance with APA format for referencing. Please note that the research paper is to be submitted in print and electronic format on the Teams website. Late work will result in a lowered grade.

Other
