
TOPICS: REFUGEES, MIGRATIONS, AND THE MIDDLE EAST in Fall 2018 (ME3091)

Course Code	ME3091	Professor(s)	Leïla Vignal
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	
Class Schedule	W: 09:00-11:55 in A-2	Office Hours	
Credits	4	Email	lvignal@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

This course examines the contemporary human space of the Middle East with regard to patterns of human settlement, migration and forced or involuntary displacement, and dispossession. We will study demographic changes, conflicts and economic challenges in Syria, Iraq, Palestine and other Middle Eastern and Mediterranean countries. The course invites students to understand some of the most tragic humanitarian crises of our time, with a special focus on Syria. In doing so, the course provides an introduction to various concepts and approaches (e.g. urbanization, demographic transition, migrations, forced displacement, refugee status, and so forth) while contextualizing them in the contemporary Middle East.

The course is organized into three main sections. The first section aims at 'setting the stage' of the human geography of the Middle East, especially with regards to mobility issues. The second section is dedicated to migrations within the Middle East. The third section will examine forced displacement in the region and its causes, mostly through conflict, although induced involuntary displacement provoked by climate change may be addressed at the end of the semester.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS:

This course will enable students:

- To familiarize themselves with major aspects of the human geography of the Middle East: population and patterns of settlement, borders, transnational spaces, networks, circulations.
- To understand the social, economic and political transformations of the region in relation to economic transformation and insertion into globalization.
- To explore the political economy and the spaces of labor migration in the region.
- To have a command of the history and geography of forced displacement and refugees in the Middle East.
- To understand the main conflicts or other types of crises leading to dispossession and/or

to forced or involuntary displacement.

- To engage with notions that are grounded both in specific academic disciplinary fields (human geography, political economy, international relations, history, anthropology) and in more interdisciplinary fields of studies: urban studies, migration studies, forced displacement and refugee studies.
- To engage with different types of sources: academic literature as well as the 'grey literature' produced by international organizations and NGOs, and other open sources (including the press).

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

[PLEASE EDIT OR REMOVE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS APPLICABLE]

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

COURSE SYLLABUS

You need to prepare one text for each session (one article, one chapter of a book, or other types of documents). Please note that only the readings for the first sessions are provided.

The details for the subsequent classes will be provided during the course of the semester.

1. Week I. Setting the stage: the Middle East (12 sept)

The human space of the Middle East

Introductory readings and maps to be shared in class and on Blackboard

2. Week II. Setting the stage (tbc) (19 sept)

A space shaped by mobility, a history of dispossession and forced mobility

Readings

1) Doraï, Mohamed Kamel, "State, Migration, and Borders' Fabric in the Middle East", *Frontera Norte*, Vol. 26/3, 119—139, 2014

2) Fawcett, Louise, "[States and sovereignty in the Middle East: myths and realities](#)", *International Affairs*, Vol. 93 Issue 4, 789—807, 2017.

3. Week III. Mobility and Migration in the Middle East (26 sept)

Session 1: Mundane transnational mobility

Session 2: Intra-regional labor migration

Readings

For session 1: Moghadam, Amin and Weber, Serge, "Circulating by Default. Yerevan and Erbil, the Backyards of Iranian Mobility", in Vignal, L. (ed.) *The Transnational Middle East. People, Places, Borders*, Abingdon/New-York: Routledge, 2017, 164—180.

For session 2: Chalcraft, John, "Syrian Workers in Lebanon and the Role of the State: Political Economy and Popular Aspirations", in *Migration et politique au Moyen-Orient*, de Bel-Air F. (ed.), Beirut: Presses de l'IFPO, 2008, 81-103 (available on <https://books.openedition.org/ifpo/4777>)

4. Week IV. The magnet of the Gulf Countries (3 oct)

Readings

Thiollet, Hélène, 'Managing transnational labour in the Arab Gulf: External and internal

dynamics of migration politics since the 1950s', in Vignal, L. (ed.) *The Transnational Middle East. People, Places, Borders*, Abingdon/New-York: Routledge, 2017, 21—43.

Pagès-El Karoui, Delphine, 'Transnational connections between Egypt and the Gulf: The experiences of migrants in the Emirates after the Arab Spring', in Vignal, L. (ed.) *The Transnational Middle East. People, Places, Borders*, Abingdon/New-York: Routledge, 2017, 44—63.

5. Week V. Being a refugee, forced migrations: definitions (10 oct)

Readings

1) On Blackboard: David Turton, *Conceptualising Forced Migration*, RSC Working Paper No. 12, October 2003.

2) On Blackboard: *The Convention of Geneva*: we will analyze it in class but I would like you to have a first look at home. Read at the introduction of the document, the Preamble of the Convention, and articles 1 and 2. Peer through the structure of the text (different parts) and at the scope of the articles.

6. Week VI. Being a refugee in the Middle East: Legal, Historical, and Political Perspectives (17 oct)

Readings

Pauline Brücker, "A Life in Asylum: Sudanese Mobility between Egypt and Israel and the Reconfiguration of Political Structures in the Middle East", in Vignal L. (ed.), *The Transnational Middle East. People, Places, Borders*, Abingdon/New-York: Routledge, 2018.

Dawn Chatty and Nisrine Mansour, "Unlocking protracted displacement: An Iraqi case study", *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, Vol. 30, No. 4, 2011 (on Blackboard)

7. Week VII. Refugees in the Middle East (24 oct)

First session: Course review

Second Session: Mid term exam

8. Week VIII (7 nov)

Session 1: Fixing the gaps

Session 2: Being a refugee in the Middle East

Readings

Tamirace Fakhoury, "Governance strategies and refugee response: Lebanon in the face of Syrian displacement", *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 49 (2017), 681–700 (through JSTOR/AUP's Library).

9. Week IX. Refugees in the Middle East. The economics of hosting refugees/being a refugee in the Middle East (14 nov)

No readings to prepare

10. Week X. Spaces of refuge: From camps to urban refugees(21 nov)

Reading

Mohamed Kamel Dorai, 2010, « [Palestinian Refugee camps in Lebanon. Migration, mobility and the urbanization process](#) », in A. Knudsen & S. Hanafi, eds., *Palestinian Refugees. Identity, space and place in the Levant*, London : Routledge, pp. 67-80 (On blackboard)

11. Week XI. The Syrian conflict: dispossession, internal displacement, and the unfolding geography of the Syrian refugee diaspora (28 nov)

No readings to prepare

12. Week XII. The Syrian conflict: dispossession, internal displacement, and the unfolding geography of the Syrian refugee diaspora (28 nov) //(5 dec) Tentatively: Visit to an association dedicated to asylum-seekers

No readings to prepare

13. Week XIII. Conclusion and Course Review (12 dec)

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

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.

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.

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 recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

GRADING:

Midterm: 20%

Essay 40% (to be submitted by week 13). 3500 words.

Final written exam: 30%

Class attendance and participation: 10%

Final exam: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 - 08:30

Other
