

Centre for West Asian Studies

School of International Studies

Course	PhD
Course No:	WA629N
Course Title:	Intellectual Traditions in the Arab World
Course Type	Optional
Course Teacher:	Prof. A K Ramakrishnan
Credits:	Two
Contact Hours:	Two per week
Evaluation Method	Term Paper, Book Review and End-Semester Examination.

Course Objectives: The course aims at providing students with ideas and tools that will enable them to have a creative and critical intellectual encounter with contemporary Arab world. It tries to capture the patterns of thought and action by studying streams of ideas and significant personalities engaged in intellectual debates. The course provides a history of ideas in the Arab world by discussing various traditions of intellectual dynamics of the region.

In order for a student to grasp the nuances of contemporary ideological, political and cultural transformations in the Arab world, an understanding of the intellectual traditions of the modern era in the region is of utmost necessity. Debates on Islam, nationalism and feminism that contributed to a gamut of intellectual works and movements in the early part of the twentieth century have a bearing on contemporary discourses and movements in the region. Ideas do not die and go away. Once generated in relations to an epoch's social, cultural and political needs, they take different hues in the ensuing periods by undergoing critical scrutiny and reworking. Some salient trajectories of the lives of ideas emanating from the Arab world over the last one century are sought to be introduced to students through this course. The course is divided into four units where religious modernity, nationalism, Orientalism, Islamism, Feminism, civil society, and human rights. are discussed in their multiple forms of expression within the context of the Arab world.

Learning Outcomes: The course seeks to cultivate critical thinking and analytical abilities that would provide students with skills to comprehend multiple and complex streams of ideas and thought.

Course Contents:

I. Intellectual Traditions and Contestations of Ideas:

(This module would provide an introduction to the notions of an intellectual. It would introduce the tradition of, and the diversity in, intellectual contributions in the Arab world. It would also look into the discursive constitution of the other in the Western and the Arab imaginations of the past. Contributions of Anouar Abdel-Malek, Edward

Said, Sadik Jalal al-Azm, Hassan Hanafi and others would be taken up for discussion in this module.)

A) Introduction:

Intellectual and the World

Diversity of Intellectual Traditions in the Arab World

B) Orientalism and Occidentalism:

Constructing and Imagining the Other

Western Perceptions of the Arab World

Arab Perceptions of the West

Readings:

Abdel-Malek, Anouar (1963), "Orientalism in Crisis", *Diogenes*, 11 (44): 103-40

Al-Azm, Sadik Jalal (1981), "Orientalism and Orientalism in Reverse," *Khamsin*, 8: 5-26

Hanafi, Hasan (2004), "From Orientalism to Occidentalism", Paper presented at the Symposium on "The Understanding of Progress in Different Cultures" at Alexandria, Egypt, March 20-22, 2004.

Said, Edward W. (1978), *Orientalism*, London: RKP.

Said, Edward W. (1996), *Representations of the Intellectual*, London: Vintage.

II. Islam and Modernity

(Varied responses of Islam towards modernity as espoused by Jamaluddin al-Afghani and Muhammad Abduh and others would be discussed in this module. The Islamist tradition of Muhammad Abd al-Wahhab and Hassan al-Banna is also discussed.)

a. Islamic Modernism:

Islamic Responses to European Modernity

Islamic Modernism in the Arab World

b. Islamisms:

The Wahabi Tradition

Ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood

Readings:

Abduh, Muhammad (1966), *The Theology of Unity*, London: George Allen & Unwin.

Al-Azmeh, Aziz (1993), *Islams and Modernities*, London: Verso.

Al-Banna, Hasan (1978), *Five Tracts of Hasan al-Banna*, Berkeley: University of California Press.

Hourani, Albert (1983), *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age 1798-1939*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kedourie, Elie (1997), *Afghani and Abduh*, London: Routledge.

III. Nationalism: Multiple Imaginations

(This module includes two sections on nationalism in the Arab world, one on Arab nationalism and the other on particular nationalisms. It would cover the ideas and works of Sati al-Husri, Michel Aflaq, Saad Zaglul, Taha Hussein, Gamal Abd al-Nasser, Frantz Fanon, Mahmoud Darwish, and others)

a. Nationalism -- Arab Manifestations:

Arab Nationalism and its Variety of Expressions
Phases of Arab Nationalism

b. Nationalism – Territorial Manifestations:

Egyptian Nationalism
Algerian Nationalism
Palestinian Nationalism and Resistance

Readings:

Ahmed, Jamal Mohammed (1968), *The Intellectual Origins of Egyptian Nationalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Amin, Samir (1978), *The Arab Nation: Nationalism and Class Struggle*, London: Zed Books.

Fanon, Frantz (1963), *The Wretched of the Earth*, New York: Grove Press.

Ashrawi, Hanan (1996), *This Side of Peace: A Personal Account*, New York: Touchstone.

Said, Edward (1980) *The Question of Palestine*, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Tibi, Bassam (1997), *Arab Nationalism: Between Islam and the Nation-State*, Basingstoke: Macmillan.

IV. Feminism, Civil Society and Human Rights: Ideas and Movements:

(In this module, the long feminist tradition of the region, the human rights and civil society debates from the 1980s onwards, and intellectual responses to the neoliberal transformation of the Arab world would be discussed. All of these debates address democratisation from different vantage points. The writings and activism of Qasim

Amin, Huda Sharawi, Doria Shafiq, Nawal al-Saadawi, Fatima Mernissi, Saad Eddin Ibrahim and others would be discussed in this module)

A. Feminisms:

Egyptian Feminism; Palestinian Women's Movement: Feminism and Nationalism; Women and Citizenship in the Gulf; Islamic Feminism; Debates on Sexuality

b. Civil Society, Democracy and Human Rights:

Civil Society and New Social Movement Debates
Human Rights Discourses
Intellectual Responses to Neoliberal Globalization

Readings:

Ahmad, Leila (1992), *Women and Gender in Islam*, New Haven: Yale University Press.

Amin, Qasim (2000), *The Liberation of Women and The New Woman: Documents in the History of Egyptian Feminism*, Cairo: American University in Cairo Press. Originally published in 1899/1900.

Badran, Margot (1995), *Feminists, Islam and the Nation*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Browsers, Michaelle L. (2006), *Democracy and Civil Society in Arab Political Thought: Transcultural Possibilities*, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press.

Dwyer, Kevin (1991), *Arab Voices: The Human Rights Debate in the Middle East*, London: Routledge.

Guazzone, Laura and Daniela Pioppi, eds. (2009), *The Arab State and Neo-liberal Globalization*, London: Ithaca Press.

Ibrahim, Saad Eddin and Nicholas Hopkins, eds. (1986), *Arab Society: Social Science Perspectives*, Cairo: American University in Cairo Press.

Massad, Joseph Andoni (2008), *Desiring Arabs*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Saadawi, Nawal (1980), *The Hidden Face of Eve*, London: Zed Books.

Shaarawi, Huda (1986), *Harem Years: The Memoirs of an Egyptian Feminist, 1879-1924*, New York: The Feminist Press.

Sadiki, Larbi (2004), *The Search for Arab Democracy: Discourses and Counter-Discourses*, New York: Columbia University Press.

Additional Reading List:

Abdel-Malek, Anouar (1984), *Contemporary Arab Political Thought*, London: Zed Books.

Abu-Rabi, Ibrahim M. (2003), *Contemporary Arab Thought: Studies in Post-1967 Arab Intellectual History*, London: Pluto Press.

Abu-Rabi, Ibrahim M., ed. (2006), *The Blackwell Companion to Contemporary Islamic Thought*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Ahmed, Akbar S. (2005), "Ibn Khaldun and Anthropology: The Failure of Methodology in the Post 9/11 World", *Contemporary Sociology*, 34 (6): 591-6.

Ajami, Fouad (1992), *The Arab Predicament: Arab Political Thought and Practice since 1967*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Al-Azmeh, Aziz (1990), *Ibn Khaldun: An Essay in Reinterpretation*, London: Routledge.

Ali, Shaukat (1993), *Intellectual Foundations of Muslim Civilization*, Delhi: Al-Amin Publications

Ali, Sheikh Jameil (2002), *Sayyid Jamal al-Din Al-Afghani and the West*, New Delhi: Adam Publishers and Distributers.

Antonius, George (2001), *The Arab Awakening*, London: Routledge. Originally published in 1938.

Darwish, Mahmoud (1995), *Memory for Forgetfulness*, Berkeley: University of California Press.

Fanon, Frantz (1967), *Black Skin, White Masks*, New York: Grove Press.

Hanafi, Hasan (1995), *Islam in the Modern World*, Cairo: Anglo-Egyptian Bookshop.

Huntington, Samuel P. (1996), *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, New York: Simon and Schuster.

Hussein, Taha (1997), *The Days*, Cairo: American University in Cairo Press.

Keddie, Nikki R. (2007), *Women in the Middle East: Past and Present*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Krause, Wanda (2009), *Women in Civil Society: The State, Islamism, and Networks in the UAE*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Mayer, Ann Elizabeth (2006), *Islam and Human Rights*, Colorado: Westview Press.

Mernissi, Fatima (1993), *Women and Islam*, New Delhi: Kali for Women.

Moaddel, Mansoor (2005), *Islamic Modernism, Nationalism and Fundamentalism: Episode and Discourse*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Moazzam, Anwar (1984), *Jamal al-Din al-Afghani: A Muslim Intellectual*, New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company.

Nasser, Gamal Abdel (1959), *The Philosophy of the Revolution*, New York: Smith, Keyenes & Marshall.

Nelson, Cynthia (1996), *Doria Shafik, Egyptian Feminist*, Cairo: American University in Cairo.

Rosen, Lawrence (2005), "Theorizing from Within: Ibn Khaldun and His Political Culture", *Contemporary Sociology*, 34 (6): 596-99.

Sabri, Tarik (2010), *Cultural Encounters in the Arab World*, London: I.B.Tauris.

Sadiki, Larbi (2000), "Popular Uprising and Arab Democratization", *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 32 (1): 71-95.

Sharabi, Hisham (1992), *Neopatriarchy: A Theory of Distorted Change in Arab Society*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Soroush, Abdolkarim (2000), *Reason, Freedom and Democracy in Islam*, translated, edited and introduced by Mahmoud Sadri and Ahmad Sadri, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Thompson, Michael J., ed. (2003), *Islam and the West: Critical Perspectives on Modernity*, London: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Zakariyya, Fouad (2005), *Myth and Reality in the Contemporary Islamist Movement*, London: Pluto Press.

Zizek, Slavoj (2004), *Iraq: The Borrowed Kettle*, London: Verso.

Zubaida, Sami (1993), *Islam, the People, and the State*, London: I.B.Tauris.

Zubaida, Sami (2011), *Beyond Islam: A New Understanding of the Middle East*, London: I.B.Tauris.