

URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY: CITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(BEIRUT, TEHRAN, CAIRO, DUBAI)

Spring 2014

Instructor: Shahram Khosravi

This course proposes an anthropological analysis of urban life with focus on the Middle Eastern cities. Through exploring cities in this region this course deals with social processes, such as mobility, gender, generational conflicts, citizenship, and social movements. Through case studies of major cities in the region this course will explore the impacts they have on individuals and on social relationships. Offering a critical approach to the Orientalist images of the Middle East, the main purpose of this course is to deepen students' understandings of social processes in this region.

The key topics in the course are:

- Urban poverty and marginalization
- Street politics
- The main effects of globalization
- Migration and influx of refugees into cities
- Emergence of 'Hyper-Global cities' in the Persian Gulf
- The impact of neo-liberal economic policies and emergence of mass-consumption societies

SCHEDULE

20.2.2014

10-12, B-600

ANTHROPOLOGY OF CITIES

James Holston and Arjun Appadurai (1996) *Cities and Citizenship*, *Public Culture* 8: 187-204.

Simmel, Georg. 2000. "The Metropolis and Mental Life." Pp. 149-157 in *Readings in Social Theory: The Classic Tradition to Post-Modernism*, 3d ed., edited by James Farganis. New York: McGraw Hill.

Setha M. Low, (1996) *The Anthropology of Cities: Imagining and Theorizing the City*, *Annual Review of Anthropology*, (Page 383-409)

25.2.2014

09-11, B-600

YOUTH CULTURE

Book:

Khosravi, Shahram (2008) *Young and Defiant in Tehran*, University of Pennsylvania Press (240 p).

11-12

Film

28.2.2014
10-12, B-600

SEMINAR I

4.3.2014
09-11, B-600

CITIES IN TRANSITION

Book:

Lara Deeb and Mona Harb (2013) *Leisurely Islam: Negotiating Geography and Morality in Shi'ite South Beirut*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, (304 p)

11-12

Film

7.3.2014
10-12, B-600

SEMINAR II

11.3.2014
9-11, B-600

STREET POLITICS

Book:

Ismail, Salwa (2006) *Political Life in Cairo's New Quarters: Encountering the Everyday State*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

11-12

Film

14.3.2014
10-12, B-600

SEMINAR III

18.3.2014
9-11, B-600

URBAN MARGINALITY

Book:

Kanna, Ahmed (2011) *Dubai, the City as Corporation*, University Of Minnesota Press (296 pages)

11-12

Film

21.3.2014

10-12, B-600

SEMINAR IV & WRAP UP

Course Requirements

1. Take part in **ALL** lectures and seminars
2. Do all the weekly readings, and be active participants in the seminars.
3. You may co-lead one or more class discussions during the course
4. Turn in weekly reaction papers that address the texts assigned for that week in the form of informed commentary and critical questions. The aim of the reaction paper is to engage in critical comparison and contrast all the readings for the week. The reaction papers must be ca 500 words. (total : 4 reactions papers)