



HEALTH & THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

3rd year seminar

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Course no. 1662-3205
2018-9 spring semester
4 credits
Mondays & Wednesdays 10 – 12, Dan David 210
Office hours: Gilman Building, 427, by appointment

Course Description

This seminar examines the interactions between human societies and the natural environment in the Muslim Middle East by emphasizing the long-term relationships between epidemics and disease and human experience. We are used to thinking of epidemics as tragedies and dramas. We will examine therefore how disease have generated profound processes in human reality - politics, society, religion and culture. However, we will also examine disease as a constant companion of the humans, and not just an exceptional and occasional drama. In addition to historical cases (such as the plague in the middle of the 14th century), we will deal with contemporary cases (such as the MERS epidemic or Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome of the current decade). We shall move between local events and global processes, and analyze, for instance, how the hygiene in Mecca during the pilgrimage intimately ties the Middle East and India.

Assessment

The main assignment (**50%** of the final grade) is a research paper on a topic related to theme of the seminar. You have the option of writing either a short paper (3,000-3,500 words, including notes) or a long one (6,000–7,000, including notes), per the demands of your program. We will discuss the process of researching and writing throughout the course. A detailed timetable and clear benchmarks are posted on "moodle".

Toward the end of the seminar, all students will be required to present their projects to class and receive group feedback (**5%** of the final grade).

To enter into the spirit of writing, students are asked to submit at least three short response essays to reading materials before discussing them in class (**15%** of the final grade). It is up to you to follow the number of responses submitted throughout the semester. Details can be found on the course "moodle" website.

As this is a seminar, students are expected to be active contributors to class discussions (**30%** of the final grade). Please note the phrase "contribution". If you know you are less

inclined towards class participation, make sure you approach me in advance to suggest other formats and venues of meaningful contribution.

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unexcused absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct

Any instance of academic misconduct is taken seriously, whether plagiarism (submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments) or disrespect to fellow students and the professor. Any of these may result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirement

Since we meet to engage in serious discussions, it is necessary to create a pleasant yet committed atmosphere in the classroom. We will therefore follow the following guidelines:

- * Do not eat during meetings.
- * Mobile phones, tablets or cell phones are used during the lesson only as educational aids (summary of discussions, access to reading material, search for information according to lesson assignments): No texting, emailing, and catching up on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. Believe me: lecturers see when students are fascinated by social media rather than the lesson content. If you are waiting for an urgent message, update me in advance.
- * A late entry to class, an early departure, a trip to the bathroom and / or the cafeteria for coffee during the course of the lesson create un-necessary noise and disturb your fellow students and the lecturer. Respect us all. Again, in case of an urgency, let me know in advance and we will work it out.

Schedule

- * Week 1: Medical History and Environmental History – Intro to themes & methodologies

Green, Monica H. "'History of Medicine' or 'History of Health?'" *Past and Future*, 9 (2011), 7-9. on "moodle"

Ooshtoeck, K. Jan. "What is Environmental History?," *Environmental History Resources* [posted on January 3, 2005]. Online through "moodle"

Bonneuil, Christophe, and Jean-Baptiste **Fressoz**. *The Shock of the Anthropocene: The Earth, History and Us*. London and New York: Verso, 2016. Chp. 1 "Welcome to the Anthropocene," 3-18. on "moodle"

- * Week 2: Nature & Disasters

Ellenblum, Roni. *The Collapse of the Eastern Mediterranean: Climate Change and the Decline of the East, 950-1072*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012. Chp. 1, "Presenting the Events," 3-11; Chapter 11, "Reflections," 249-60. On "moodle"

Borsch, Stuart and Tarek **Sabraa**. "Refugees of the Black Death: Quantifying Rural Migrations for Plague and Other Environmental Disasters," *Annales de démographie historique*, 134 (2017/2), 63-93. **Full text is available through the Central Library**

Green, Monica H. "Climate and Disease in Medieval Eurasia." In David Ludden. Ed. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. **Online through "moodle"**

* Week 3: Leisure & Pleasure

Andrews, Walter G., Najaat **Black**, and Mehmet **Kalpakli**. Eds & trans. *Ottoman Lyric Poetry: An Anthology*. Seattle & London: University of Washington Press, 1997. 31 (Sheyhî, #4) & 33-34 (The *Mejlis*: Gathering of Desire). **Full text is available through the Central Library**

Hamadeh, Shirine. *The City's Pleasures: Istanbul in the Eighteenth Century*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2008. Chp. 4 "Public Spaces and Public Order," 110-38 (267-74). **on "moodle"**

* Week 4: Globalization

Grehan, James. *Everyday Life & Consumer Culture in 18th-century Damascus*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2007. Chp. 1 "City and Environment," 21-55, 247-53 (notes). **Full text is available through the Central Library**

Huber, Valeska. *Channelling Mobilities: Migration and Globalisation in the Suez Canal Region and Beyond, 1869-1914*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. "Chp. 7: Contagious Mobility and the Filtering of Disease," 241-71. **on "moodle"**

Kozma, Liat. *Global Women, Colonial Ports: Prostitution in the Interwar Middle East*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2017. Chp. 4 "The Medical Outlook on Regulation," 103-32. **Full text is available through the Central Library**

* Weeks 5 & 6: Religion, Nature & Health

Tagliacozzo, Eric. "Hajj in the Time of Cholera: Pilgrim Ships and Contagion from Southeast Asia to the Red Sea." In James L. Gelvin and Nile Green. Eds. *Global Muslims in the Age of Steam and Print*. Berkeley: California University Press, 2014. 103-20. **on "moodle"**

Almutairi M.M., W.S. **Alsalem**, M. **Hassanain**, and P.J. **Hotez**. "Hajj, Umrah, and the Neglected Tropical Diseases," *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, 12:8 (2018): e0006539. **Online through "moodle"**

Elshakry, Marwa. *Reading Darwin in Arabic, 1860-1950*. Chicago & London: Chicago University Press, 2013. "Introduction," 1-23 (319-27); "Afterward," 307-17 (notes 387-89). **Full text is available through the Central Library**

Nasr, Seyyed Hossein. "Islam, the Contemporary Islamic World, and the Environmental Crisis." In Richard C. Foltz, Frederick M. Denny and Azizan Baharuddin. Eds. *Islam and Ecology: A Bestowed Trust*. Cambridge, Mass., 2003. 85-105. **on "moodle"**

* Weeks 7 & 8: Progress, Colonialism, Internationalism & Transnationalism

Barak, On. "Outsourcing: Energy and Empire in the Age of Coal, 1820-1911," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 47 (2015): 425-45. **Full text is available through the Central Library**

Norris, Jacob. *Land of Progress, Palestine in the Age of Colonial Development, 1905-1948.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. "Introduction," 1-25 and Chp. 1 "Ottoman Colonial Development," 26-62. on "moodle"

Davidovitch, Nadav and Rakefet Zalashik. "Pasteur in Palestine: The Politics of the Laboratory," *Science in Context*, 23 (2010): 401-25. Full text is available through the Central Library

Özen, İlhan Can. "Early Riser, Late Bloomer: Contextualizing Turkish Health Achievements in the Last 50 years vis-à-vis China and the Global Picture of Development," *New Perspectives on Turkey*, 58 (2018): 35-92. Full text is available through the Central Library

* Week 9: Water

Hughes, J. Donald. *The Mediterranean: An Environmental History.* Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2005. "Case Study C: The Aswan Dams and Their Environmental Results," 213-31. on "moodle"

Susskind, Lawrence and Yasmin Zaepoor. "Water in the Middle East: Making Room for Informal Problem Solving," *Bustan: The Middle East Book Review*, 8 (2017): 132-50. on "moodle"

* Weeks 10 & 11: The Animal Turn

Tlili, Sarra. *Animals in the Qur'an.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012. "Introduction," 3-12; "Conclusion," 253-56. on "moodle"

White, Sam. "A Model Disaster: From the Great Ottoman Panzootic to the Cattle Plagues of Early Modern Europe." In Nükhet Varlık. Ed. *Plague and Contagion in the Islamic Mediterranean.* Kalamazoo; Bradford: ARC Humanities Press, 2017. 91-116. on "moodle"

Alan, Mikhail. *The Animal in Ottoman Egypt.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. Chp. 1 "Early-Modern Human and Animal," 19-37 (199-211 notes). on "moodle"

Jacob, Allan. "Animal Rights Activism Growing in the Middle East," *Khaleej Times*, July 29, 2010. on "moodle"

"No Place for Animals: The Sad State of Egypt's Zoos," *The Economist*, May 11, 2017. on "moodle"

Finn, Tom. "Hunting Houbara: Royal Kidnap Casts Spotlight on Gulf 'Sport of Kings'," *Reuters*, February 10, 2016. on "moodle"

* Week 12: Borders -- Internal and External

Evered, Kyle T. and Emine Ö. Evered. "Governing Population, Public Health, and Malaria in the Early Turkish Republic," *Journal of Historical Geography*, 37 (2011): 470-82. Full text is available through the Central Library

Sufian, Sandy. "Arab Health Care during the British Mandate, 1920-1947." In Tamara Barnea and Rafiq Hussein. Eds. *Separate and Cooperate, Cooperate and Separate: The Disengagement of the Palestinian Health Care System from Israel and its Emergence as an Independent System.* Westport, CT: Praeger, 2002. 9-30. on "moodle"

Lobel, Ron. "Eyewitness Account: Life within a Professional Bubble in Gaza." In Tamara Barnea and Rafiq Hussein. Eds. *Separate and Cooperate, Cooperate and Separate: The Disengagement of the Palestinian Health Care System from Israel and its Emergence as an Independent System.* Westport, CT: Praeger, 2002. 117-24. on "moodle"

* Week 13: Presentations

=> This schedule is tentative and may change as the course progresses.