

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

APPROVED FEB 23 2011

Undergraduate Council 40

New Course  Course Change

Core Category: Humanities Effective Fall 2011

or

**Graduate/Professional Studies Council**

New Course  Course Change

Effective Fall 2011

1. Department: MCL College: CLASS

2. Faculty Contact Person: Hosam Aboul-Ela Telephone: 713 743 3012 Email: hosam.aboul-ela@mail.uh.edu

3. Course Information on New/Revised course:

- Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:  
WCL / 3377 / The Modern Middle East: Literature, Politics, and Ideas
- Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)  
WCL / 3377 / MODERN MIDDLE EAST
- SCH: 3.00 Level: JR CIP Code: 16.0104.00.01 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0

RECEIVED OCT 15 2010

4. Justification for adding/changing course: To provide for important discipline area

5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course?  Yes  No  
If Yes, please complete:

- Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:  
\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_
- Course ID: \_\_\_\_ Effective Date (currently active row): \_\_\_\_

6. Authorized Degree Program(s): Minor WCL

- Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department?  Yes  No
- Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments?  Yes  No
- Can the course be repeated for credit?  Yes  No (if yes, include in course description)

7. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: lecture ONLY (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)

8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title  
\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

- Course ID: \_\_\_\_ Effective Date (currently active row): \_\_\_\_

9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)

Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: ENGL 1304. Description (30 words max.): Survey of major landmarks in the literature and thought of the Middle East after 1798, examining them in the context of the region's political history. Taught in English.

10. Dean's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 10/2/10  
Print/Type Name: \_\_\_\_\_

U N I V E R S I T Y   o f   H O U S T O N  
CORE CURRICULUM REQUEST FOR COURSES NEW TO THE CORE

Originating Department/College: Modern and Classical Languages/ CLASS

Person making request: Hosam Aboul-Ela Telephone: 713-743 3012

E-mail: Hosam.Aboul-Ela@mail.uh.edu

Dean's signature:  Date: 10/12/10

**I. General Information:**

**Course number and title:** WCL 3377: The Modern Middle East: Literature, Politics, and Ideas

**Catalog description** must be included on completed CBM 003 form and attached to this document.

This course surveys major landmarks in the literature and thought of the Middle East after 1798, examining them in the context of the region's political history.

**Category of Core** for which course is being proposed (mark only one):

- Communication
- Mathematics
- Mathematics/Reasoning (IDO)
- American History
- Government
- Humanities
- Visual/Performing Arts Critical
- Visual/Performing Arts Experiential
- Natural Sciences
- Social/Behavioral Sciences
- Writing in the Disciplines (IDO)

**II. Objectives and Evaluation (respond on one or more separate sheets):**

**Call ext. 3-0919 for a copy of "Guidelines for Requesting and Evaluating Core Courses" or visit the website at [www.uh.edu/academics/corecurriculum](http://www.uh.edu/academics/corecurriculum)**

- A. How does the proposed course meet the appropriate Exemplary Educational Objectives (see **Guidelines**). Attach a syllabus and supporting materials for the objectives the syllabus does not make clear. SEE ATTACHED SYLLABUS
- B. Specify the processes and procedures for evaluating course effectiveness in regard to its goals.

*Students will receive detailed feedback on their progress prior to submitting the final paper and taking the final exam. The instructor will identify the strengths and weaknesses of each student's writing abilities, track the progress of each student's*

*written work, and, if necessary, refer students to the writing center and /or subject librarians for additional assistance.*

C. Delineate how these evaluation results will be used to improve the course.

*Student feedback as well as effectiveness of current assignments and support provided will be taken into consideration when the course is offered in subsequent semesters. Adjustments will me made if necessary to provide more effective instruction. Evaluation results will also be used to determine future sub-topics on the modern Middle East to be explored in the course.*

**SVP. Effective 8/23/10. Replaces all previous forms, which may no longer be used.**

OK SF  
10/12/10

WCL 3377  
**The Modern Middle East:  
Literature, Politics, and Ideas**

**Prof. Hosam Aboul-Ela**

**Office: RG Cullen 227A**  
**Tel. ext.: 33012**  
**E-mail: Hosam.Aboul-Ela@mail.uh.edu**

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**Course Description:** This course will introduce students to major developments in modern Middle Eastern cultural history through literature, film, and essay. The secondary goals are to improve the students critical thinking and writing skills and provide a basic cultural literacy regarding the region. The course seeks to encourage students to think about the region critically as a way of going beyond the clichés and culturalist interpretations that plague our view of it. Specific themes pursued include women and gender in Middle Eastern society, the legacy of colonialism and the conflict with Israel, the legacy of the current series of American military interventions, the place of tradition in contemporary Middle Eastern society, the development of the novel in the region, Arabic Poetics, Arab economic unequal development, and Middle Eastern cosmopolitanism. By the end, the student will be able to discuss the culture, history and politics of the region at an acceptable level for an informed citizen of the United States.

**Educational Objectives:**

- To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
  - To respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
  - To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.
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**Required Texts:**

Adonis, *An Introduction to Arabic Poetics*  
Ahmad, Jalal Al-e, *Occidentosis: A Plague from the West*  
Al-Jabarti, *Al Jabarti's Chronicle of Napoleon in Egypt*  
Darwish, *Memory of Forgetfulness*  
Kanafani, Ghassan. *Men in the Sun and Other Stories.*  
Khedari, Betool. *A Sky So Close.*  
Mahfouz, Naguib, *Midaq Alley.*

Mernissi, Fatima, *Scheherezade Goes West*  
Pax, Salam, *Salam Pax: The Clandestine Diary*  
Salih, Tayeb, *Season of Migration to the North*.  
Film: Lawrence of Arabia; Battle of Algiers; Baran

**Grades:** Paper 1 and the midterm are each worth 20%. Papers 2 and the final are each worth 25%. Attendance and participation count 10%.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing sources without acknowledgement, submitting work produced either wholly by someone else or with the unauthorized assistance of someone else, and copying from another person. Any student who engages in such activity will be dropped from the course with a final grade of F.

**Schedule:**

**Unit 1 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Colonization, Twilight of the Ottomans, the Arab Nahda**

Week 1: Napoleon's invasion—Al Jabarti's Chronicle

Week 2: Adonis, *An Introduction to Arabic Poetics*; Laila Ahmed, from *Women and Gender in Islam*; Timothy Mitchell, from *Colonising Egypt*

**Unit 2 20<sup>th</sup> century: The end of Ottoman rule and the rise of nationalism**

Week 3: *Lawrence of Arabia*

Week 4: Naguib Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley*

Week 5: *Battle of Algiers*

**Unit 3 The Nakba**

Week 6: from Benny Morris, *1948: A History*, Kanafani, *Men in the Sun*

Week 7: from Tom Segev, *1967: Israel, the War, and the Year*

Week 8: Ahmad, *Occidentosis*; Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*

**Unit 4 The Postcolonial Middle East**

Week 9: Darwish, *Memory of Forgetfulness*

Week 10: Mernissi, *Scheherezade Goes West*; Baran

Week 11: Khedairi, *A Sky So Close*

Week 12: Salam Pax, *Salam Pax: The Clandestine Diary*