The Arab Nations - Tensions, Turmoil, Transitions

It seems impossible to pick up a newspaper or tune into a news broadcast without being drawn into a story concerning the Arab world. This lecture series will address a number of significant issues that cross the boundaries of individual Arab nations. Starting with a discussion of early 20th century historic events that laid the foundation for the tumult that now exists, the series will address Muslim law, the Arab Spring, how art has been used by revolutionaries for propaganda purposes, and women’s issues. It will also include a presentation by an eyewitness to the Egyptian revolution that led to the overthrow of Pres. Mubarak, including current and ongoing events.

October 3
THE ARAB SPRING
Juan Cole, Ph.D.
Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History, U of M; Director, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, U of M. He is former editor of Cambridge University’s “The International Journal of Near Eastern Studies,” and former president of the Middle East Studies Association of North America. He is the author of “Engaging the Muslim World.” He received his Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.

The 2011 Arab political upheavals dubbed “The Arab Spring” were a series of youth revolts against governments perceived as brutal, dictatorial and corrupt, as blocking youth aspirations. The lecture will look at the rise of the mafia-like police states that provoked the revolutions and examine the attempts to transition to forms of democracy. It will look at the impact of the upheavals elsewhere in the Arab world, and consider where the region is going.

October 10
ARAB WOMEN: BEYOND ORIENTALISM AND LIBERAL HUMAN RIGHTS
Nadine Naber, Ph.D.
Associate Professor in the Program in American Culture and the Department of Women’s Studies and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology, U of M. She wrote “Arab America: Gender, Cultural Politics and Activism” (NYU Press, 2012) and co-edited with Amany Jamal “From Invisible Citizen to Visible Subject: Arab American Engagements with Race after September 11th” (Syracuse University Press, Fall 2007). She is co-editor with Rabab Abdalhadi and Evelyn Alsultani of “Gender, Nation, and Belonging: Arab and Arab American Feminist Perspectives” (Syracuse University Press, forthcoming). She received her Ph. D. from the University of California, Davis.

The lecture will provide an overview of current challenges facing women in the Arab region as well as future opportunities for women’s liberation. The lecture will focus primarily on Palestine, Iraq, and Egypt and will suggest possibilities of replacing dominant Western understandings of women’s issues in the Arab region with alternative frameworks that are more relevant to the global and local conditions that shape Arab women’s issues and struggles.

October 17
BATTLING IMAGES: THE ARTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST UPRISINGS
Christiane Gruber, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, History of Art, U of M. Her primary academic fields include Islamic book arts and paintings of the Prophet Muhammad and Islamic ascension texts and images, about which she has written books and edited a volume of articles. She is currently writing her next book, “The Praiseworthy One: The Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Texts and Images.” She received her Ph.D. in Islamic Art History from the University of Pennsylvania.

During the recent Middle East uprisings, images were disseminated through countless venues as demonstrators and others turned to using cameras, cell phones, computers, pens and paints to create visual forms of dissent. The presentation will show how such images functioned as instruments of subversion during the uprisings. It will explore the extent to which such battling images helped contest the status quo, build group consensus, and secure both international and local support for the uprisings.
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Michigan presents
The Arab Nations - Tensions, Turmoil, Transitions
September 12 - October 17, 2013

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Location: Clarion Hotel and Conference Center
2900 Jackson Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Fee(s): $30 for the 6-lecture series (or $10 per lecture, payable at the door)
$20 for the Annual Membership Fee
Send registration form and payment to: OLLI at U of M
2401 Plymouth Rd., Suite C, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

If you have questions: Phone: 734-998-9351
Website: www.olll-umich.org
Email: olli.info@umich.edu

This lecture series was planned by Dave Adamson, Muriel Converse, Charles Garvin, Al Gourdji,
Jon Hartman, Claire Murray, Ginny Rezmierski and Dan Converse, Chair.

- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Michigan reserves the right to substitute speakers.
- Lectures are cancelled whenever Ann Arbor Public Schools close due to severe weather.

Call (734) 998-9351 to confirm cancellation of the day’s scheduled lecture.

The Clarion Hotel offers a free shuttle for OLLI lecture attendees from the Maple Village parking lot to the Clarion. The shuttle runs every 15 minutes from 9:15 to 10:00 a.m. It picks up passengers in the corner of the parking lot next to the PNC Bank (near Kmart, northwest of the Jackson and Maple Road intersection). The shuttle will return participants to the parking lot beginning at 11:30 a.m. (or earlier, upon request).

Shuttle passengers get $1 off of coffee or donuts!

Note: This is a Wednesday Lecture

REGISTRATION FORM:
The Arab Nations - Tensions, Turmoil, Transitions

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2013-2014 Annual Membership Fee: $20/person
Thursday Morning Lecture Series #1: $30/person

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September 12
SEEDS OF CONFLICT: THE MAKING OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST
Melanie Tanielian, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of History and International and Comparative Studies, U of M; and affiliated with the Armenian Studies Program and the Center for International and Comparative Studies. Fields of interest include the social and cultural history of the modern Middle East. She received her Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Berkeley.

Professor Tanielian will talk about the 20th Century history of the Middle East up to the formation of the Arab League. She will discuss pivotal events of World War I, as the multi-ethnic Ottoman Empire gave way to artificially delineated nation-states and colonial mandates. She will highlight the various shades of colonialism practiced in the early Twentieth Century and their lasting effects.

September 19
AN ACCOUNT FROM AN EYEWITNESS TO THE REVOLUTION THAT OUSTED EGYPT’S MUBARAK
Hani Fakhouri, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus and former chair, Departments of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice and former chair, Urban Studies Program, U of M-Flint. He received the 1991 Faculty Teaching Excellence Award, U of M-Flint. He has authored “Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East,” “The Tenth of Ramadan: a New Urban Industrial Town in Egypt,” and many other books and articles. He received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

Professor Fakhouri was there when it started in Tahrir Square in Cairo on January 25, 2011. He witnessed the demonstration that started the revolt and subsequent more massive demonstrations that led to the ouster of Egypt’s President Mubarak. In subsequent visits to Egypt in 2012 and 2013 he gathered further insights about the revolt and events that it set off. Drawing upon his experiences and knowledge of Egypt, Professor Fakhouri will discuss the causes of and the course of the revolt, and its impact, now and in the future.

Wednesday September 25
ISLAMIC LAW IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES
Mohammad Hassan Khalil, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Michigan State University; former Assistant Professor of Religion and Visiting Professor of Law, U. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He organized at the U. of Illinois a symposium of leading international Islamic scholars who discussed salvation in Islamic thought and compiled and edited the papers presented at the symposium under the title “Between Heaven and Hell: Islam, Salvation and the Fate of Others” (Oxford U. Press). He received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at the U of M. He is the author of “Islam and the Fate of Others: The Salvation Question.”

Professor Khalil will discuss the origin, history, and nature of Islamic Law as well as contemporary debates over the role that Islamic Law should have in modern nation states.

Next lecture series:
Laugh or Cry, It’s Politics: Politics in the Arts
October 24 - December 5, 2013