

PROGRAM IN MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES (MENA)
MENA 301 Seminar in Middle East and North African Studies Sequence

Fall 2015

MENA 301-1/REL 359: "Islamic Law"

Professor Brannon Ingram

Islamic law – the sacred law of Islam grounded in the Qur'an, the practice of the Prophet Muhammad, and the writings of Muslim scholars and jurists – stretches back nearly 1400 years. This course offers, first, an overview of the origins and evolution of Islamic law from the life of Muhammad to end of the classical era. We then seek, secondly, to understand how colonialism and the modern nation-state affected the conceptualization and implementation of Islamic law in the modern period. To this end, we look in-depth at one specific area of law – marriage and divorce – in the contexts of the Ottoman Empire and contemporary Iran.

Winter 2016

MENA 301-2/Anthropology 330: "Ethnography of North Africa"

Professor Katherine Hoffman

While the region of North Africa is often considered an extension of the Middle East, several factors make it distinct, including most notably the impact of French colonialism, the indigenous Amazigh (Berber) population, and the proximity to Saharan and sub-Saharan Africa. This course is organized around anthropological writings on North Africa in English (although most scholarship on the region is in French and Arabic). Key themes include ethnicity, gender, colonialism, migration, and popular culture. Films and music will supplement the readings.

Spring 2016

MENA 301-3/History 393: "Nations and Nation-States in the Middle East"

Professor Ipek Yosgmaoglu

This course will explore the period of the Ottoman Empire's collapse and the formation of nation-states in the Middle East. We will first learn about the conceptual categories "nation" and "nationalism," and then apply this knowledge to critically evaluate several case studies about transitions to nationhood in the region.