

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 North Africa (the Maghreb) is often considered an appendage of the Muslim Middle East, this Mediterranean region merits study on its own given its French colonial past and its connections to both sub-Saharan Africa and Europe. This course introduces students to the Maghreb through text and expressive culture (film and music). Required readings will include one book or its equivalent in articles per week, drawing from anthropology, creative fiction and non-fiction, and history. Course themes include multilingualism, gender, law, rural-urban relations, ethnicity, religion, and French colonialism. In-depth study of Amazigh ('Berber') and rural populations will complement the study of Arab and urban populations in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. Assessments will be based on weekly response papers, seminar participation, discussion facilitation, and a final research paper.

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.