

## **ANT 305S: Social Media and the Contemporary Arab World**

**Spring 2012: Mondays 6:45 – 9:15**

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### **Course Description**

This course explores the spectacular changes that have occurred in Arab Nations as a result of the "Arab Spring." The course engages how and to what ends social media networks and new technology platforms are being used to transform political and cultural terrains in predominantly Muslim Arab countries throughout North Africa and the Middle East. During the term students will be given a comprehensive overview of cultures in North Africa and the Middle East and learn about existing and new social structures and technology tools impacting the contemporary Arab World.

### **Course Objectives**

- ☞ Provide students with an anthropological understanding of North African and Middle Eastern Cultures.
- ☞ Enable students to elaborate on contemporary social issues and political transformations shaping the current cultural landscapes of the region.
- ☞ Provide students with an understanding of the role of social media and new technologies in the emergence of a politicized public sphere and the developments of the "Arab Spring."

### **Required Texts** (available at Rollins College Bookstore)

Eickelman, Dale (2002, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed). The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach. ISBN: 0-13-033678-5. Cost: \$78.50

### **GRADED ACTIVITIES:**

Our class has three types of Graded Activities. Please review each so that you fully understand what is expected of you each week of the term:

### **Class Participation:**

Arriving at class on time is a must. It's recommended that you always try to get to class a little early to settle in and get geared up for active class time.

\*\*\*\*Arrive prepared to discuss the week's reading  
and assigned online materials: It is required. \*\*\*\*\*

*Please Do not Miss Class Without A Valid Reason.*

When in class you will receive a participation grade each week. To receive a full grade you must a) take notes, b) contribute to discussions, c) be an active learner. Class participation is 30% of your grade. It is essential that you complete each week's assigned readings in order to actively participate. Readings not found in your required texts will be posted on Blackboard for download. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the Blackboard site so that you are comfortable accessing required reading PDFs throughout the term.

### **Quizzes & Tests:**

You will have quizzes during the term. The purpose is to ensure you've done the reading and engaged *all* content as needed in order to fully benefit from the course.

In addition to quizzes you will have a **Midterm Take-Home Exam**.

### **Assignments:**

Throughout the term you will have assignments that give you an opportunity to develop your abilities in critical thinking, applied research, and digital literacy. At the same time you will expand your understanding of cultures in North Africa and the Middle East and social media. In addition to writing assignments during the term you will be required to hand in a **Final Research Paper**.

### **EVALUATION RUBRIC:**

#### **Grading rubric is as follows:**

Quizzes	=	10%
Class Participation	=	20%
Assignments	=	30%
Midterm Exam:	=	15%
<u>Final Project:</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>25%</u>
Total	=	100%

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90-100	B = 80-89	C = 70-79	D = 60-69	F = 0-59
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**Rollins College & Course Policies**

- All students must adhere to the Rollins Academic Honor Code. It can be viewed in its entirety here: <http://r-net.rollins.edu/academichonorcode>
- A violation of the Honor Code will result in consequences per Rollins guidelines.
- Plagiarism is absolutely forbidden. Any act of plagiarism will result in automatic course failure. If you are uncertain about citations please speak with the professor directly.
- Assistance with writing assignments can be found at the Tutoring and Writing Center. All students (regardless of writing level) are encouraged to take advantage of the helpful editing insights of the Center's staff. (<http://r-net.rollins.edu/twc/>).
- Students in need of special accommodations may visit Disability Services <http://r-net.rollins.edu/tpj/disabilityservices/abtdisabilityservices.html>. If you require disability services please speak with the Instructor: Every measure will be taken to facilitate your equal access to a successful experience in the course.
- All course assignments must be submitted by the date they are due. Late assignments will not be accepted without a valid excuse (Limited to Doctor's Note).
- In the instance that a student misses a quiz or test, the student must provide a valid excuse AND reschedule with the professor to take the exam within two weeks of the original deployment date.
- The deadline for course withdrawal without penalty (WF Deadline) is March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.
- The professor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule/ syllabus provided students are notified of changes within a timely fashion.

**Course Reading Schedule Follows:**

Course Schedule Subject to Change:

	Date	Topic	Assigned Reading	Assignment Due
1	23-Jan	Welcome and Introduction: Anthropology, the Middle East, and Central Asia.	N/A	
2	30-Jan	Overview: Technologies and Networks in North Africa & the Middle East	EA: Introduction. EB: Redefining Publics.	
3	6-Feb	Islam & New Media: Country Focus Yemen	EA: Islam. EB: The Internet & Islam's New Interpreters	Short Essay
4	13-Feb	Tribe	EA: What is a Tribe? BB: DeLong-Bas	
5	20-Feb	Kinship Networks	EA: Personal & Family Relationships. BB: Joseph	
6	27-Feb	Social Networks in the City	EA: Cities in Their Place. BB: J. White	Country Profile Due
7	5-Mar	No Class - Spring Break	Prepare for Midterm Paper & Research Proposal	
8	12-Mar	Infrastructure Building & New Media Technologies: Country Focus Morocco	EB: The Birth of a Media Eco-system. BB: Maroon	Research Proposals Due
9	19-Mar	State Authority and the Wired Public: Country Focus Iran	EA: State Authority & Society. EB :New Media, Civic Pluralism, and the Struggle for Reform	Midterm Paper Due
10	26-Mar	Iran's Green Movement: Roots of the Arab Spring	BB: 1) Amir Ibrahimi. 2) Moeveni 3) Keller	
11	2-Apr	Tools, Networks, and the Politics of Change: Arab spring Overview	BB: 1) Shirky. 2) Gladwell. 3) Samnani & Nur	
12	9-Apr	Reform & Revolution: Country Focus Morocco & Tunisia	BB:1) Beinir. 2) Andersen	Midlength Essay Due
13	16-Apr	Tweeting about the Revolution: Country Focus Egypt	BB: 1) Rushdy. 2) Campbell	
14	23-Apr	Patterns of Resistance: Social Practices in the Egyptian Revolution	BB: 1) Rushdy. 2) Campbell	
15	30-Apr	Thematic Review: Social Networks, New Media, and Socio-Political Transformation	BB: Beinir	
16	7-May	Final Paper Due: 5pm Thursday May 3, 2012	-	Final Papers Due

EA = Eickelman, Dale. 1989. *The Middle East: An Anthropological Approach*, 4th ed. Englewood Cliffs: Simon & Schuster.

EB = Eickelman, Dale and Anderson, Jon. 2003. *New Media in the Muslim World: The Emerging Public Sphere*

BB = Reading is found on Blackboard