

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

**FALL 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."

### **GRADED ACTIVITIES:**

Please review each type of graded activity 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 & assigned online materials\***

*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 pop 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 Paper**.

### 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	=	30%
Assignments	=	25%
Midterm Paper:	=	15%
Final Research Paper:	=	20%
Total	=	100%

#### Grading Scale:

A = 95-100	A- = 94 - 90	
B+ = 87-89	B = 84-86	B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79	C = 74-76	C- = 70-73
D+ = 67-69	D = 64-66	D- = 60-63
	F = 0-59	

## 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. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.
- 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 October 26<sup>th</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 Schedule Follows:

Course Schedule as of 8/20/12 (Schedule is Subject to Change):

Week	Date	Topic	Assigned Reading - Due the Same Week Assigned	Assignment Due
1	20-Aug	Welcome and Introduction: Social Media and the Contemporary Arab World	N/A	
2	27-Aug	Overview: Technologies and Networks in North Africa & the Middle East	EA: Preface and Redefining Publics; BB: DeLong-Bas	n/a
3	3-Sep	No Class	EA: The Internet & Islam's New Interpreters; BB: "MENA Fundamentals"	n/a
4	10-Sep	Understanding Islam: Social Practice and Social Systems	BB: Eickelman, "Islam"	Short Essay Due
5	17-Sep	Networks of Sociality	BB: Finding Sadam; BB: Joseph, "Gender & Relationality"	Country Choices Due
6	24-Sep	Social Networks in the City	BE: Singerman; BB: White, "Money Makes Us Relatives"	Research Proposal Draft Due
7	1-Oct	Infrastructure Building & New Media Technologies: Country Focus Morocco	EA: The Birth of a Media Eco-system. BB: Maroon	Country Profile Due
8	8-Oct	No Class - Spring Break	BE: Part V Early, Armbrust, Dwyer (all 3 chapters) Prepare for Midterm Paper & Country Profile	n/a
9	15-Oct	Iran's Green Movement: Roots of the Arab Spring	Lynch, Chpt 2 & 3; BB: "Iran Readings"	Midterm: Research Paper Part I Due
10	22-Oct	Arab Spring: Call to Revolution Comparison of Tunisia & Bahrain	BB: "Arab Spring Readings"; Lynch Chpts 4 & 5; BB: Sontag - Print out and Bring to Class the Sontag Reading	Revised Research Proposal Due
11	29-Oct	Tools, Networks, and the Politics of Change: The Egyptian Revolution	Khalil - Review all; BB: "Egypt Readings"	
12	5-Nov	Thematic Review: Social Networks, New Media, and Socio-Political Transformation: Libya, Syria, Yemen, Jordan, Morocco	Lynch, Chpts 6 & 7; BB "MENA Uprisings Overview Readings"	Research Paper Part II Due
13	12-Nov	Thematic Review: Social Networks, New Media, and Socio-Political Transformation: Continued	EA: New Media & Civic Pluralism; "BB MENA Uprisings II"	
14	19-Nov	Research in Practice I	BE: Selected Chapters	Research Presentation Due Group A
15	26-Nov	Research in Practice II	BE: Selected Chapters	Research Presentation Due Group B
16	3-Dec	Final Paper Due: 6 pm - NO EXCEPTIONS	-	Final Research Paper Due

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

BE = Bowen, Donna and Early, Evelyn. 2002. Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East

BB = Reading is found on Blackboard

**Texts****Everyday Life in Muslim Middle East**

Author: Bowen

Edition: 2nd

Buy Used [In-Stock]

\$18.00

**New Media in the Muslim World: Emerging Public Sphere**

Author: Eickelman

Edition: 2nd

Buy New [In-Stock]

\$22.00

**Messages from Tahrir**

Author: Khalil

Buy New [In-Stock]

\$19.95

**Arab Uprising**

Author: Lynch

Buy New [In-Stock]

\$26.99