Seminar will be held on Mondays, 4-8 pm, in Webb 501.
Reception hours: Thursdays, 2-3 pm, or by appointment
Office: Webb 513
Telephone: (03)6405047
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This MA seminar will trace the representation of the "orient" in America and the influence of "the East" on the development of American culture from the time of the early settlement to current US policy in the Middle East. Among topics covered: nationalism and orientalism, 19th-century travelers to the Near East, Arabs and Islam in American literature, Protestant imaginings of the Holy Land, orientalism and visual culture, orientalism, gender and sexuality, Hollywood's early treatment of the Middle East, and more.

REQUIREMENTS

Participation: You are expected to come to class prepared and to participate in class discussion. You are required to bring the relevant texts with you to class. Attendance is mandatory. You are also expected to check announcements and updates in Moodle on a regular basis.

Presentations: In the course of the semester you will be required to give three oral presentation. These presentations will be prepared in pairs. A short written version of each assignment will be posted on Moodle by one student in each pair. Please follow guidelines for each presentation below.

Discussion Questions: For most classes, you will be asked to compose a question for discussion in advance of our meeting. These questions will most often (though not always) relate to the secondary source(s) you will be reading for that day, and will reflect your understanding of the source's main argument and your critical thoughts about any aspect of that argument. The questions will be posted in the discussion forum below by 2 pm on the day of class at the latest.

Referat/Seminar Paper: Each student is required to submit either a referat paper (10-12 pages long) or a seminar paper (20-25 pages long). The papers are expected to conform to the standards required by the English department, including in terms of structure, formatting, and use of secondary sources.
EVALUATION AND COURSE INFORMATION

Participation and discussion questions – 30%
Three presentations - 30% (10% each)
Seminar or referat paper - 40%
SCHEDULE

Part One: Edward Said's Orientalism: Origins, Paradigm, Debate

March 13 - INTRODUCTION

This will be an introductory meeting where the topic, themes, and requirements of the seminar will be presented.
We will then take advantage of the opportunity to hear a guest lecture by Prof. Stacey Margolis.

March 20 - EDWARD SAID'S ORIENTALISM

Required Reading:

- Gramsci, "On Hegemony and Direct Rule."
- Foucault, "Truth and Power."

Assignment:

- Post a discussion question on any part of Said's book in the discussion forum.

March 27 - DEBATING ORIENTALISM

Presentation #1 - Mock panel on Orientalism, with the participation of:


**Required Reading:**


**Additional Reading:**


**Part Two: Muslim Captivity and the Building of the Nation**

**April 3**

**Required Reading:**

• Maria Martin, *History of the Captivity and Suffering* (1807), pp. 41- end.

**Assignment:**

• Post a question on the discussion forum, but this time your question should point to a specific passage in either Tyler or Martin's narrative, one which you would like us to discuss in class. What question did this passage trigger and why?

**Recommended Reading:**
Part Three: Orientalism, Fantasy, Desire

April 24

Required Reading:

- Edgar Allen Poe, "Ligeia" (1838).

Assignment:

- Your question for today's discussion should be on Yegenoglu's chapter. Since this is a theoretically intricate text, your question could be simply "what does she mean by X?" if you come across a particularly baffling part. But all types of thoughtful questions are welcomed!

Recommended Reading:

Part Four: Biblical Orientalism: 19th-c. Travel to the Holy Land

May 8 - HOLY LANDSCAPE

2nd Round of Presentations: Holy Land Paintings

Required Reading:


Suggested Reading:


May 15 - TWAIN AND THE EXHIBITIONARY ORDER

Required Reading:


Assignment:

- Your question for discussion today should focus on Mitchell's article, but can you think of a way to bring Twain's travel narrative into it as well?

Suggested Reading:

May 22 - TWAIN, ARABS & JEWS

Required Reading:

- Twain, *The Innocents Abroad or The New Pilgrims Progress*, chaps 41-end.

Assignment:

- Question on Gilman's article please.

Suggested Reading:


Part Five: Modernity's Orient

May 29 - CAMERA ORIENTALIS

Presentation #3: Reading Photographs from the American Colony Collection.

Required Reading:


June 5 - HOLLYWOOD'S ORIENTALISM
Required Reading:


Required Viewing:

- The Sheik (1921)

Assignment:

- Please write a question about the film. If your question refers to a specific scene, please include the scene's location (hour/minute).

June 12 - BOWLES, BEAT, AND THE EAST

Required Reading:

- Paul Bowles, *The Sheltering Sky* (1949), Parts One and Two.

Assignment:

- Your question should be targeted to a specific passage (scene, paragraph, dialogue, even sentence!) in the novel.

Recommended reading:


June 19 - QUEERING THE EAST

Required Reading:

Assignment:

- You have a choice: your question can refer to either the last part of Sheltering Sky or Boone's chapter (but you need to read both of course!).

**Part Six: Neo-Orientalism? Post-Orientalism?**

**June 26**

**Required Reading:**