ערפאת עמית

**Title:** Methodological Approaches in the Study of Islam and the Middle East

**Course Code:** 38800

**Dates:** סוכות – סוכות (4 כ"ז)

**Time:** יום שני, 10:00-8:30

**Location:** חדר 2207 (מדעי הרוח)

**Instructor:** פרופ’ ראובן עמית

**Email:** reuven.amitai@mail.huji.ac.il

**Phone:** 02-5883607

**Office Hours:** יום שלישי, 16:30-15:30 (חדר 5134)

**Course Description:**

The seminar focuses on theoretical and methodological issues in the study of the Middle East; from the origins of Islam until today. Among the topics to be discussed in the first semester:

- The problematic of the sources;
- The Islamic state and the question of political legitimacy;
- The Muslim and non-Muslim; entering the modern era;
- National and ethnic identities; women’s issues in Middle Eastern studies;
- The question of Orientalism.

In the second semester, we will focus on different practical approaches that are expressed in contemporary Middle East research, including work in libraries and archives, the use of oral evidence, biographies of saints as historical sources, etc.

The course is intended to strengthen the students’ ability to deal with methodological and theoretical issues in their studies and research, now and in the future. The students will be exposed to different approaches in the study of Islam and the Middle Eastern Muslim, from the origins of Islam until today.

It is important to note that the course will not deal with all the questions, issues and topics in the field of methodology, but it will present several insights and approaches that will help students read and analyze better, primary sources and modern scholars.

Additional goal of the course is the presentation of a multidisciplinary and trans-disciplinary picture of the current research situation, and to point out directions for future research.

**Requirements:**

- Attendance: at least 80% of the sessions (24 hours out of 28).
- Reading the articles included in the syllabus each week and preparing for the discussions.
- Submission of a weekly assignment – a summary of the articles discussed that week (about 350 words).
- Final project: will be announced later.

Influence of the course on the grade:

- 40% of the grades will be based on the weekly assignments.
- 40% of the grades will be based on the final project.
- 20% of the grades will be based on participation in class discussions.

**Course Objectives:**

- To enable students to deal with methodological and theoretical issues in their studies and research, now and in the future.
- To present a multidisciplinary and trans-disciplinary picture of the current research situation, and to point out directions for future research.

**Course Format:**

- Seminars
- Discussions
- Assignments
- Final project


TBA: A section from Ibn Khaldun’s *Muqaddima*.

Emanuel Sivan, *Radical Islam: Medieval Theology and Modern Politics* (New Haven, 1985), ch. 4. [BP 163 S63]


Richard W. Bulliet, “Conversion to Islam and the Emergence of a Muslim Society in Iran,” in Levtzion, Conversion to Islam, 30-51. [BP 52 C66]


Monika Wohlrab-Sahr, Symbolizing Distance: Conversion to Islam in Germany and the United States,” in Karin van Nieuwkerk (ed.), Wonder Embracing Islam: Gender and Conversion in the West (Austin, 2006), 71-92.

What’s happening (or might be happening) in Europe today: http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/2015/03/30/being-german-becoming-muslim-how-german-converts-to-islam-balance-their-national-identity-and-their-faith/


Anthony Smith, The Nation in History: Historiographical Debates about Ethnicity and Nationalism (Hanover, NH, 2000), chapter 2.


A “Roundtable” from the *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 48/3 (August 2016):

Beth Baron, “Gendering Middle East History: Introduction,” 551-554.

Sara Pursley, “Gender as a Category of Analysis in Development and Environmental History,” 555-560.


14. אריאונטיליזם ומבקריו (ה谹כדיאן)


סנסטר השניה:

יבוא פיגור בכרות.