

Lebanese Civil War: Histories and Fictions
[Mod Mid East 158. Modern Arabic Literature Seminar]
Spring 2021 ~ Revised DRAFT Syllabus

Catalog Number: 5145
<http://isites.harvard.edu/k17862>

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Half course (fall term) Wednesday ~ 12:45 -2:45 ~ Online

Examines the roots and issues of the Lebanese Civil War (1975-90) and its enormous impact on modern Arabic fiction. The syllabus pairs realistic and romanticized representations of family, sectarian, and gender binaries against the destruction and fantasy of the urban landscape. Themes include nostalgia and memory, exile and return.

Note: Arabic helpful but not required. Open to both undergraduates and graduates.

Office Hours: Tuesday @1:00-3:00 and by appointment

Required Reading:

- Kemal Salibi	<i>A House of Many Mansions</i>	U Cal Press, 1988*
- Etel Adnan.	<i>Sitt Marie Rose</i>	Post-Apollo, 1982*
- Elias Khoury	<i>Little Mountain</i>	U of Minnesota Press, 1989*
- Hanan Al-Shaykh	<i>The Story of Zahra</i>	Quartet, 1991[3]
- Hoda Barakat.	<i>The Tiller of Waters</i>	AUC Press, 2001
- Hasan Daoud.	<i>The House of Mathilde</i>	Granta, 1999*
- Rawi Hage	<i>De Niro's Game</i>	Harper [2006], 2008*
- Rabee Jaber	<i>Confessions</i>	New Directions, 2016*
- Mahmud Darwish.	<i>Memory for Forgetfulness</i>	U Cal Press, 1995*
- Rabih Alameddine.	<i>koolaid</i>	Interlink, 2007*

*in pdf format

Course Requirements:

25%	Attendance, Preparation, and Participation
25%	Response Papers/ Class presentations
50%	Final Paper: (one twenty-page) due on the last day of reading period

Class Weekly Schedule:

- Jan 27: *Introduction to the Course*
- Feb 3: *Lebanon in History and Historiography*
Readings: K. Salibi, *A House of Many Mansions* pp. 1-129
- Feb 10: *Nahda between history and literature*
Readings: *A House of Many Mansions* pp. 130-223
- Feb 17: *Lebanon: 'Libanisme vs. Arabisme': a house divided*
Readings: Sitt Marie Rose; E. Picard, "Pol Econ of Civil War"
- Feb 24: *The Arabic Novel and the Nation*
Readings: *Little Mountain*;
- Mar 3: *War's Other Voices: Writing Woman, Women Writing*
Readings: *The Story of Zahra*
- Mar 10: *Gender and Sexuality in modern Arabic literature*
Readings: *The Tiller of Waters*; Cooke, "Arab Women Arab Wars"
- Mar 17: *Domesticity and the Poetics of 'House'*
Readings: *The House of Mathilde*
- Mar 24: *Beirut as war zone and cosmopolitan [dis]topia*
Readings: *De Niro's Game*
- March 31 - no class -- ~films: **West Beirut; The Insult**
- Apr 7: *The Sociology of Lebanon: histories and fictions*
Readings: S. Khalaf I and II
- Apr 14: *Shifting Identities; Crossing Human Boundaries*
Readings: *Confessions*
- Apr 21: *The Question of Palestine*
Readings: **Memory for Forgetfulness**
- Apr 28: *Narrating War and the diseased body*
Readings: *koolaid*s

Selected Bibliography

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- Cooke, Miriam (1994-5) "Arab Women Arab Wars." *Cultural Critique*, No. 29: 5-29.
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- *War's Other Voices*. Cambridge University Press, 1987 (1988).
- Fawaz, Leila (ed) (1991) *State and Society in Lebanon*. Tufts University: Centre for Lebanese Studies.
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Oz, Amos. (1989) *The Slopes of Lebanon*. New York: Vintage.

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