Course Description:

In this course, we will read a variety of texts that imagine or represent the Arab experience of exile to and diaspora within the United States, focusing on the ways that these texts re-construct and imagine the key dialectic of home/diasporic space, specifically within the framework of the complicated and dynamic relationship between the Arab world and the United States. Throughout the quarter, the readings would enable us to engage with several key concepts related to the Arab (and broader) immigrant experience in the US, including race, memory and nostalgia, language, and second-generational post-memory, as well as the role of the immigrant community in forming the 'homeland’s' vision of itself. We would begin with a historical overview of emigration from the Arabic-speaking world, beginning with the vast emigration of Lebanese and Syrians from Mount Lebanon and Syria in the mid-nineteenth century, but will pay particular attention to moments in which this identity has been or become particularly fraught, for example, following such events as the 1967 war, the 9/11 attacks, or the recent Executive Order by the Trump Administration (1/2017).
Readings:

Alameddine, Rabih, *I, The Divine*
Al-Tahawy, Miral, *Brooklyn Heights*
Barakat, Halim, *The Crane*
El-Rassi, Toufic, *Arab in America*
Hage, Rawi, *Cockroach*
Jarrar, Randa, *A Map of Home*
Kahf, Mohja, *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*
Orfalea, Gregory, *The Arab Americans: A History*

All books for this course are available at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore
All secondary readings are available on the course website on Canvas; All films are available for streaming on Canvas

Course Assignments and Grade Breakdown:

**Active Participation (including forum questions): 40%**

Active participation includes coming to class on time and prepared, handing in homework assignments on time, and participating in classroom discussion, which is the bulk of our in-class work.

Participation also includes posting *forum questions*. Forum questions are due by **midnight on the night before** each class. I will divide you up into 5 groups of 6 based on alphabetical order. When it is your group’s turn, you will post **one** question about the next day’s assignment that you would like us to discuss in class on the forum on our class’s *canvas* site. Questions can point us to a passage that you want to discuss, a concept that you are struggling with or that you find compelling, or a topic connecting that week’s reading with other material.

We will all have a total of 6 discussion questions to read before each class. Everyone will be responsible for reading and thinking about questions before coming to class.

**Response Papers (3 pages): 30%**

This class has two response paper assignments:

1. **Arab Chicago:**

   This assignment requires you to spend some time learning more about Chicago’s Arab community, broadly defined. Your response can take many forms: you can choose to do a historical paper, an oral history (an interview with a member of that community), or an observation paper based on spending time in a business, place of worship, or neighborhood.
2. Close Reading:

This response paper should be a close reading of (one of) the text(s) that you are writing about for your final paper. You will integrate some (or all) of this paper into your final paper, along with the comments you have received on it.

Final Paper (8-10 pages): 40%

Your final paper can be on the topic of your choosing as long as it relates to our course and discussions. A description of your proposed topic is due via e-mail by the end of week 5, and we will arrange a brief meeting during week 6 to discuss your plans for your paper. Your second response paper, a segment of the final paper, is due in week 8. Final papers are due on Monday, June 4.

*All Written Assignments should be uploaded to Canvas*

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Class Schedule

Below is a tentative class schedule for our course; the material by the date is the material you are expected to have read for that day’s class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SR: secondary reading; not optional unless noted</th>
<th>C: Chapter</th>
<th>p: pages</th>
<th>F: Film</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Week 1: Historical Overview and First Generation

March 27: Introductions
March 29: “Shorty”, Mikhail Naimy
   **SR**: Orfalea, p. 43-107
   : “Introduction”, Sarah Gualtieri
   : “Lynching”, Gualtieri C. 4 (optional)

Week 2: Shadows of 1967

Apr 3: *The Crane*, p. 3-60
   **SR**: Orfalea, C. 4
   : Cleveland, “Israel and the Palestinians” (optional)

Apr 5: *The Crane*, p. 61-end

Week 3:

   **SR**: Orfalea, C. 8
Apr 12: *I, The Divine*, 140-end  
**SR:** Said, “Reflections on Exile”

**Week 4: From Invisibility to Visibility**

Apr 17: *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*, p. 1-145  
**SR:** Shyrock, “The Moral Analogies of Race”  
**Fourlas,** “Being a Target” *(optional)*

Apr 19: *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*, 146-285  
**SR:** Ahmad, Leila, “Discourses of the Veil”, focusing on Sections 2 and 3  
Ahmad, Dohra “Not Yet Beyond the Veil”

* First response paper due by Friday *

**Week 5:**

Apr 24: *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*, 286-end

Apr 26: *A Map of Home*, part I, p. 1-143  
**SR:** Abdurrahim, “Whiteness and the Arab Immigrant Experience”

* Final paper topics due via e-mail by Friday *

**Week 6:**

May 1: *A Map of Home*, part II, p. 147-end;  
**F:** Driving Through Zigzigland

May 3: Prof. Hayek away; *meetings to discuss final papers* with Chelsie

**Week 7:**

May 8: El-Rassi, *Arab in America*  
**F:** Detroit Unleaded  
**SR:** Shaheen, *Reel Bad Arabs*, Introduction

May 10: Selections, Bayoumi, *How does it feel to be a problem?*  
**SR:** Bayoumi, “Being Young, Muslim and American in Brooklyn”  
: Hammad, “First Writing Since”

**Week 8: Being Arab in America**

May 15: *Brooklyn Heights*, 1-84  
**SR:** Abu Lughod, “Do Muslim Women Need Saving?”
May 17: *Brooklyn Heights*, 85-end
F: Amreeka, dir. Cherien Dabeis

* Second response paper due by Friday *

**Week 9: The View from Canada**

May 22: *Cockroach*, p. 3-161

May 24: *Cockroach*, p. 165-end

**Week 10:**

May 29: Wrap-up: Homeland Insecurity

* Final papers are due on **Monday, June 4th** *