

PLSC 400V-003-12193

Gender and Politics in the Middle East

TuTh 2:00-3:15 pm, MEMH 318

Dr. Shirin Saeidi

This course introduces students to the complexities of women's political lives in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

It does so by studying how gender roles, relations and identities are constructed, negotiated and experienced during different political moments.

You will have a strong understanding of how gender and political dynamics in the Middle East impact, and are simultaneously transformed by, women's political participation.

You will be comfortable with conducting comparative analyses:

- How have revolutions in the region influenced the status of women?
- What are the different ways in which religion operates in relation to women's rights?
- To what extent do women share similar socio-political experiences because of violent conflict?

New Course!

Ways in which women's roles change during large scale political upheavals, including revolutions, colonialism, and war.

Women's participation in the 1979 Iranian revolution, to the role of women in the 2011 Egyptian revolution.

How Muslim and Jewish women's re-reading of religious texts with a "womanist" edge has challenged traditional centers of religious studies in the region.

How young women in Saudi Arabia and Yemen use their bodies, emotions, and the spatial architecture which surrounds them to push through the boundaries of non-democratic and patriarchal structures.



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J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences
Political Science