The Gulf and Arabian Peninsula: Power, Class, Mobilities

Spring 2024

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Level: Graduate seminar

Course Description

This course offers an interdisciplinary study of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula and its connectivity with the wider West Asian and Indian Ocean geographies. With a view of social, spatial, political, economic, and cultural lineages and linkages, the course offers dynamic readings with diverse theoretical and methodological approaches for a critical and grounded perspective on the region. By starting with the Arabian Peninsula, the course bridges Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian Ocean worlds, and adds texture and new focal points to our study of the region. The peninsula's connections with Persia, South Asia, and East Africa have been just as significant to the histories and present relations of power, class, and mobilities as the Ottoman Empire and Arabic-speaking world have been over time.

The course is organised around a central focus on power, class, and mobilities. Themes in various years may include migration; cultural production; labour, environmental, and/or socio-cultural politics; authoritarianism and surveillance; power politics in the international order; financial and military interventions; logistics and infrastructures; and history(ies) of markets and networks.

Course Objectives

Through this course students will not only become acquainted with research on the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula, but also learn important **academic** and **professional skills** for how to evaluate scholarship (including books), how to prepare research projects, how to participate in a conference, how to organise an academic event, how to present research, and how to conduct peer review.

Learning Objectives & Goals

- Become acquainted with Gulf and Arabian Peninsula studies, and the central approaches, debates, and frameworks.
- Discuss historical and contemporary trends in the Arabian Peninsula, and its interactions with Middle Eastern, Indian Ocean, European, and American geographies and powers.
- Critically identify and assess questions, puzzles, and developments relevant the study of the region, examine these with the scholarly rigor expected at the MA (or ResMA/PhD) level, and formulate research questions and projects around these.
- Develop skills to evaluate and critique research in Gulf studies making use of (a selection of) theoretical, ontological, and methodological positions.

- Learn how to do and present research and conduct peer review.
- Develop and present short feasible research projects.
- Organise and implement an academic conference.

Course Format

This course meets on a weekly basis, and is organised as a seminar.

Course Schedule and Readings

Required Readings:

Articles and book chapters can be found in the library, on the online library catalogue, or online in the public domain. All students must arrive in class having thoughtfully read through the required readings.

Additional / Recommended Readings:

ResMA students should also read the additional readings (a selection of at least two of them if the list includes more). Students responsible for seminar leadership who are preparing a peer teaching exercise are advised to read (a selection of) the recommended readings of that week.

Other:

Each week, I also recommend supplementary material including films, novels, poems, or documentaries.

1. 7 February
An Introduction to Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies & Research

PART A: In this opening session, we will meet each other, learn about the course and expectations, and discuss the literature below.
PART B: We are lucky to welcome Ms. Sahar Al-Khulaidi, the Middle East Studies Subject Librarian at Leiden University Libraries to our course. She will introduce you to the materials, holdings, and archives related to the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula at Leiden University. This will be critical knowledge for your research papers and conference presentations.

REQUIRED

- Peterson, J. (2016). Ch. 4: The Age of Imperialism and Its Impact on the Gulf, in *The Emergence of the Gulf States: Studies in Modern History*. Bloomsbury. 127- 149.
- Bishara, F. and Risso, P. (2016). Ch. 5: The Gulf, the Indian Ocean, and the Arab World, in Peterson, J. *The Emergence of the Gulf States: Studies in Modern History*. Bloomsbury. 159-182.

- Bishara, F., Haykel, B., Hertog, S., Holes, C., and Onley, J. (2016). Ch. 6: The Economic Transformation of the Gulf, in Peterson, J. (ed). *The Emergence of the Gulf States: Studies in Modern History*. Bloomsbury. 187-217.
- Carapico, S. (2004). Arabia Incognita: An Invitation to Arabian Peninsula Studies. In M. Al-Rasheed & R. Vitalis (Eds.), *Counter-Narratives: History, Contemporary Society, and Politics in Saudi Arabia and Yemen* (pp. 11–33). Palgrave Macmillan US. https://doi.org/10.1057/9781403981318_2

LISTEN

- Listen to PODCAST: Nancy Um, *The Story of Coffee*: https://barakat.org/latest-news/new-podcast-the-story-of-coffee-with-nancy-um/#

ADDITIONAL

- Halliday, F. (1974). Chapter 1: Society and History in the Arabian Peninsula. *Arabia Without Sultans*. Saqi Books.
- Zahlan, Rosemarie Said (1989), "Introduction, Chapter 1, and 2," in *The Making of the Modern Gulf States*. London and New York: Routledge (pages vii – xi and 1-23).
- Onley, J., & Nonneman, G. (2020). The Journal of Arabian Studies and the Development of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies. *Journal of Arabian Studies*, *10*(1), 1–50. https://doi.org/10.1080/21534764.2020.1847245

FICTION RECOMMENDATION

- Begin: Munīf, ʿAbd al-Raḥmān (1988). *Cities of Salt*. Translated by Theroux, Peter.

2. 14 February

Competing Frames on Power, Class, & Mobilities in the Arabian Peninsula

PREREQUISITE

If you've never heard the term "rentier state" or read about the rentier state in the Middle East, you will find it useful to read the following texts:

- Luciani, Giacomo (1987), "Allocation versus Production States: A Theoretical Framework," in Beblawi and Luciani (ed), The Rentier State: pp. 63 – 82
- Luciani, G. (2005 or newer edition), Oil and Political Economy in the International Relations of the Middle East, in Fawcett, L. International Relations of the Middle East. Oxford University Press.

REQUIRED

- Freitag, U., & Oppen, A. V. (2010). Introduction. 'Translocality': An Approach To Connection And Transfer In Area Studies. In *Translocality: The Study of Globalising Processes from a Southern Perspective*. Brill: 1-21. https://brill.com/view/book/edcoll/9789004186057/Bej.9789004181168.i-452_002.xml
- Bishara, F. A. (2020). The Many Voyages of Fateh Al-Khayr: Unfurling the Gulf in the Age of Oceanic History. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 52(3), 397–412. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020743820000367
- Hertog, S. (2010). The Sociology of the Gulf Rentier Systems: Societies of Intermediaries. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *52*(2), 282–318. doi:10.1017/S0010417510000058
- Hanieh, A. (2011). Ch.1: Approaching Class Formation in the Gulf Arab States, in *Capitalism and Class in the Gulf Arab States*. Palgrave Macmillan. 1-28.
- Jafferlot, C. and Louer, L. (2017). Conclusion, in Pan-Islamic Connections: Transnational Networks Between South Asia and the Gulf.

ADDITIONAL

- Ghazal, A. N. (2014). Transcending Area Studies: Piecing Together the Cross-Regional Networks of Ibadi Islam. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, 34(3), 582–589. https://doi.org/10.1215/1089201X-2826145
- Ch. 3: Patterns of Intra-Gulf Relations: (Part A) Fattah, Hala. Iraq and the Gulf Until 1980, and (Part B). Potter, L.G. Ch. 3b: Arabia and Iran, in Peterson, J. (ed). (2016). *The Emergence of the Gulf States: Studies in Modern History*. Bloomsbury. 85-96; and 100-120.
- Okruhlik, G. (1999). Rentier Wealth, Unruly Law, and the Rise of Opposition: The Political Economy of Oil States. *Comparative Politics*, 31(3), 295–315. https://doi.org/10.2307/422341

FICTION RECOMMENDATION

- Watch: Bas ya Bahar (1972). First feature film from Kuwait that documents pre-oil life and pearl diving along the coast. Available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJ-lM7C_pjM
- Continue: Munīf, ʿAbd al-Raḥmān (1988). *Cities of Salt*. Translated by Theroux, Peter.

3. 21 February

Transnational, Transformational Power & Petroleum

REQUIRED

Read one of the following two articles:

- Fuccaro, Nelida (2020), "Oilmen, Petroleum Arabism and OPEC: New Political and Public Cultures of Oil in the Arab World, 1959-1964," in Claes and Garavini (eds), *Routledge Handbook of OPEC and the Global Energy Order: Past, Present, and Future Challenges* (Routledge) pp 15-27
- AlShehabi, O. H. (2023). The Political Commodity: Oil and US–Middle East Relations in the Historiography of Abdulrahman Munif. *Contemporary Arab Affairs* 16, 2, 145-172 https://brill.com/view/journals/jcaa/16/2/article-p145_3.xml

Read at least three of the following four articles

- Hanieh, A. (2021). Petrochemical Empire. *New Left Review,* 130, 25–51.
- Al-Saleh, D. (2022). Who will man the rigs when we go?" transnational demographic fever dreams between Qatar and Texas. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space.*
- Boodrookas, A., & Keshavarzian, A. (2019). The Forever Frontier of Urbanism: Historicizing Persian Gulf Cities. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *43*(1), 14–29. https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.12664
- Al-Sulayman, Faris (2020). 'Reform dissonance' in the modern rentier state: how are divergent economic agendas affecting state-business relations in Saudi Arabia?, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 47:1, 62-76

ADDITIONAL

- Baumann, H. (2019). The transformation of Saudi Arabia's rentier state and 'the international.' *Globalizations*, 16(7), 1165–1183. https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2019.1573870
- AlShehabi, O. H., & Suroor, S. (2016). Unpacking "Accumulation By Dispossession", "Fictitious Commodification", and "Fictitious Capital Formation": Tracing the Dynamics of Bahrain's Land Reclamation. *Antipode*, *48*(4), 835–856. https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12222

- Buckley, M., & Hanieh, A. (2014). Diversification by Urbanization: Tracing the Property-Finance Nexus in Dubai and the Gulf. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *38*(1), 155–175. https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.12084
- Mitchell, Timothy (2009). "Carbon Democracy," *Economy and Society*, 8/3: 399-432.

FICTION RECOMMENDATION

- Finish: Munīf, ʿAbd al-Raḥmān (1988). *Cities of Salt*. Translated by Theroux, Peter.

4. 28 February

Kafāla and the Governance of Migration in the Gulf

REQUIRED

Read at least four of the following articles:

- AlShehabi, O. (2021). Policing labour in empire: The modern origins of the Kafala sponsorship system in the Gulf Arab States. *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *48*(2), 291–310. https://doi.org/10.1080/13530194.2019.1580183
- Blarel, N., & Ennis, C. A. (2022). Contested Governance and Sovereignty in the Kerala-Dubai Migration Corridor. In C. A. Ennis & N. Blarel (Eds.), The South Asia to Gulf Migration Governance Complex (pp. 147–172). *Bristol University Press.* https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/view/book/9781529221510/ch007.xml
- Hamadah, F. (2022). Kafala and Social Reproduction: Migration Governance Regimes and Labour Relations in the Gulf. In C. A. Ennis & N. Blarel (Eds.), *The South Asia to Gulf Migration Governance Complex* (pp. 173–189). Bristol University Press. https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/view/book/9781529221510/ch008.xml
- Parrenas, Rhacel Salazar (2022), "Introduction: What is Unfree Labour," in *Unfree: Migrant Domestic Work in Arab States*. Standford University Press. pp 1-24.
- Buckley, M. (2013). Locating Neoliberalism in Dubai: Migrant Workers and Class Struggle in the Autocratic City. *Antipode*, 45(2), 256–274. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8330.2012.01002.x

ADDITIONAL

- Lori, N. (2019). Ch. 4: Permanently Deportable: The Formal and Informal Institutions of the Kafala System, *Offshore Citizens: Permanent Temporary Status in the Gulf*. Cambridge University Press.
- Any selection of chapters from Khalaf, A., AlShehabi, O., & Hanieh, A. (Eds.). (2015). *Transit States: Labour, Migration & Citizenship in the Gulf*. Pluto Press.
- Ennis, C.A. (2022). Networking through Kafala: Skilled Workers and Transnational Networks in the Governance of Health Care Migration in the Gulf. In M. Walton-Roberts (Ed.), Global Migration, Gender and Professional Credentials (pp. 145–166). University of Toronto Press.
- Blarel, N., & Ennis, C. A. (2022). Mapping and Theorizing Migration Governance: Insights from the South-to-West Asian Migration Corridor. In C. A. Ennis & N. Blarel (Eds.), The South Asia to Gulf Migration Governance Complex (pp. 3–32). *Bristol University Press.* https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/view/book/9781529221510/ch001.xml

FICTION RECOMMENDATION

- Benyamin (2012). *Goat Days*.

5. **6 March**

Interventions and Circulations: War, Foreign Policy, & IR

REQUIRED

Read at least four of the five article below

- Al Sayed, Wafa (2022), "Beyond Instrumentalism: Arab Nationalism and the Foreign Policy of Kuwait in the 1960s and 1970s," *The Middle East Journal* (Volume 76, Number 2, Summer 2022), pp. 199-221(23) DOI**:** https://doi.org/10.3751/76.2.13
- Lai, Hsinyen (2020) The 'Juffair dilemma': Arab nationalism, alignment and 'national-popular collective will' in Bahrain, *Third World Quarterly*, 41:11, 1828-1842, DOI: 10.1080/01436597.2020.1788386
- Khalili, L. (2020). Ch. 8: The Bounties of War, in *Sinews of War and Trade: Shipping and Capitalism in the Arabian Peninsula*, Verso. pp 243-265.
- El Kurd, Dana (2023), "The Paradox of Peace: The Impact of Normalization with Israel on the Arab World," *Global Studies Quarterly*, Volume 3, Issue 3, https://doi.org/10.1093/isagsq/ksad042
- Lackner, Helen (2017), "Yemen and the World: From Isolation to Integration in Regional and World Geopolitics," in *Yemen in Crisis: Autocracy, Neoliberalism, and the Disintegration of a State* (London: SAQI)

Short:

- Alwan, Samar (2023). "From Oil Weapon to Boycott, Mobilizing Support of Palestine in the Gulf. Middle East Report (MERIP Issue 309). https://merip.org/2024/01/the-gulf-from-the-oil-weapon-to-popular-boycott/
- Yadav, Stacey Philbrick (2023), "The Houthis' 'Sovereign Solidarity' with Palestine," Middle East Report (MERIP Issue 309) https://merip.org/2024/01/the-houthis-sovereign-solidarity-with-palestine-2/
- Mundy, J. (2020, June 9). The Oil for Security Myth and Middle East Insecurity. *Middle East Report Online*, *294*. https://merip.org/2020/06/the-oil-for-security-myth-and-middle-east-insecurity/

ADDITIONAL

- Takriti, Abdel Razzaq (2019). Colonial Coups and the War on Popular Sovereignty. *The American Historical Review*, *124*(3), 878–909. https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhz459
- Ziadah, R. (2019), Circulating Power: Humanitarian Logistics, Militarism, and the United Arab Emirates. *Antipode*, 51: 1684-1702. https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12547
- Jones, T. C. (2012). America, Oil, and War in the Middle East. *The Journal of American History*, *99*(1), 208–218.
- Lai, Hsinyen (2023) Combination beyond ideational diffusion: origins and vectors of Bahrain's Arab nationalism through uneven and combined development, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, DOI: 10.1080/09557571.2023.2275612
- Lackner, Helen (2022), "International Relations," in *Yemen: Poverty and Crisis* (Routledge)
- Um, Nancy (2021) "Yemeni Manuscripts Online: Digitization in an Age of War and Loss," *Manuscript Studies*: Vol. 5: Iss. 1, Article 1. https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1078&context=mss_sims
- Vitalis, R. (2002). Black Gold, White Crude: An Essay on American Exceptionalism, Hierarchy, and Hegemony in the Gulf. *Diplomatic History*, *26*(2), 185–213. https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-7709.00307

- Tetreault, M. A. (1991). Autonomy, necessity, and the small state: Ruling Kuwait in the twentieth century. *International Organization*, 45(4), 565–591. https://doi.org/10.1017/S002081830003321X

WATCH

- Secrets & Deals: How Britain Left the Middle East https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2iQ52qNyvE

6. 13 March
Citizenship and Belonging

REQUIRED

- Read at least four of the eight short contributions in the "Citizenship and Belonging in the Arabian Peninsula Roundtable (2020), *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 52(4): 721-770. https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-journal-of-middle-east-studies/issue/61BBCEE5B95088F3BA6335E8B383C7E8
- Kanna, A. (2010). Flexible Citizenship in Dubai: Neoliberal Subjectivity in the Emerging 'City-Corporation'. *Cultural Anthropology*, 25(1), 100–129.
- Babar, Z. (2017). The 'Enemy Within': Citizenship-Stripping in the Post–Arab Spring GCC. *The Middle East Journal*, 71(4), 525–543. https://doi.org/10.3751/71.4.11
- Wedeen, L. (2009). Ch.4: Practicing Piety, Summoning Groups, in *Peripheral Visions: Publics, Power, and Performance in Yemen*. University of Chicago Press.

Short reflections (essays/popular media):

- Kareem, M. (2021, October 25). Mapping Exile: A Writer's Story of Growing Up Stateless in Post-Gulf War Kuwait. *The Common*. https://www.thecommononline.org/mapping-exile-a-writers-story-of-growing-up-stateless-in-post-gulf-war-kuwait/
- Unnikrishnan, D. (2017, December 13). Abu Dhabi: The city where citizenship is not an option. *The Guardian*. https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2017/dec/13/abu-dhabi-citizenship-uae-foreigner-visa-india

ADDITIONAL

- Al-Qasimi, N. (2020). Queerer Than Queer: Anti-Ancestry, Disavowal, and the Emirati Post-Oil Generation. *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, 26(1), 63–101. https://doi.org/10.1215/10642684-7929111
- Goffman, L. F. (2021). Waiting for AIDS in Kuwait. *Radical History Review*, *2021*(140), 21–48. https://doi.org/10.1215/01636545-8841670
- Bhalloo, Z. (2016). Construction et gestion identitaire chez les Lawatiya du Sultanat d'Oman, de Multân à Masqaṭ. *Journal Asiatique*, *304*(2), 217–230.
- Khalaf, S. (2000). Poetics and Politics of Newly Invented Traditions in the Gulf: Camel Racing in the United Arab Emirates. *Ethnology*, *39*(3), 243–261. https://doi.org/10.2307/3774109
- Binte-Farid, I. (2018). 'True' Sons of Oman: National Narratives, Genealogical Purity and Transnational Connections in Modern Oman. In M. O. Jones, R. Porter, & M. Valeri (Eds.), *Gulfization of the Arab World* (pp. 41–56). Gerlach Press.
- Vora, N. (2011). From Golden Frontier to Global City: Shifting Forms of Belonging, "Freedom," and Governance among Indian Businessmen in Dubai. *American Anthropologist*, 113(2), 306–318. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1548-1433.2011.01332.x

FICTION RECOMMENDATION

- Unnikrishnan, Deepak (2017). *Temporary People*. Winner of the Restless Books Prize for New Immigrant Writing.

7. 20 March

Revolutions and Resistance Yesterday

The class will be opened by watching a part of The Hour of Liberation has Arrived (1974) by Heiny Srour.

REQUIRED

- Chalcraft, J. (2011). Migration and Popular Protest in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf in the 1950s and 1960s. *International Labor and Working-Class History*, 79, 28–47.
- Vitalis, R. (2004). Aramco World: Business and Culture on the Arabian Oil Frontier. In M. Al-Rasheed & R. Vitalis (Eds.), *Counter-Narratives: History, Contemporary Society, and Politics in Saudi Arabia and Yemen* (pp. 151–173). Palgrave Macmillan US.
- Takriti, A. R. (2013). Ch. 4: Crises and Constellational Shifts in *Monsoon Revolution: Republicans, Sultans, and Empires in Oman, 1965-1976*. Oxford University Press.
- Khalili, L. (2020). Circulation of Revolt, in *Sinews of War and Trade: Shipping and Capitalism in the Arabian Peninsula*, Verso. pp 231-233.
- Goffman, L. F. (2018). Sa`id Ahmad Al-Jinahi's I was in Dhufar: Gendered militarization and modern space in revolutionary Oman. *Women's History Review*, *27*(5), 819–836.

ADDITIONAL

- Takriti, A. R. (2013). Chapter 5 in *Monsoon Revolution: Republicans, Sultans, and Empires in Oman, 1965-1976*. Oxford University Press.
- The Editors (Feb 1985). "The Arabian Peninsula Opposition Movements," Middle East Report 130. https://merip.org/1985/02/the-arabian-peninsula-opposition-movements/

FICTION RECOMMENDATION

- Ibrahim, Sonallah. *Warda*. Arabic (2000), English (2021) translated by Hosam Aboul-Ela.

27 March MIDTERM WEEK 1

3 April MIDTERM WEEK 2

8. 10 April

Networks, Mobilities, and (Un)Freedoms across time

REQUIRED

Read four of the five articles below:

- Al-Rashoud, T. (2019). From Muscat to the Maghreb: Pan-Arab Networks, Anti-colonial Groups, and Kuwait's Arab Scholarships (1953–1961). *Arabian Humanities,* 12, Article 12. https://doi.org/10.4000/cy.5004
- Mathew, J. (2016). Trafficking Labor, in *Margins of the Market: Trafficking and Capitalism Across the Arabian Sea*. University of California Press, 52-81.

- Bishara, F. A. (2021). The Diver's New Papers: Wealth, People, and Property in a Persian Gulf Bazaar. *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 64(5–6), 513–540. https://doi.org/10.1163/15685209-12341545
- Ho, Enseng (2006). Pages 63-67 of Ch. 3: A Resolute Localism, and Ch. 4: Ecumenical Islam in an Oceanic World (pages 97-115), in *The Graves of Tarim: genealogy and mobility across the Indian Ocean*. University of California Press.
- Mahdavi, P. (2019). The personal politics of private life in the United Arab Emirates (UAE): Sexualities, space, migration and identity politics in motion. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, *21*(12), 1381–1393. https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2018.1564938

Also read this short reflection*:*

- Alsayed, W. (2020). Sawt al-Bahrain: A Window onto the Gulf's Social and Political History. London School of Economics, https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2020/07/01/sawt-al-bahrain-a-window-onto-the-gulfs-social-and-political-history/

ADDITIONAL

- Freitag, U. (2002). Arab Merchants in Singapore: Attempt of a Collective Biography. In H. de Jonge & N. Kaptein (Eds.), *Transcending Borders: Arabs, Politics, Trade and Islam in Southeast Asia* (pp. 109–137). Brill. https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004488045_008
- Ghazal, A. N. (2010). The Other Frontiers of Arab Nationalism: Ibadis, Berbers, and the Arabist-Salafi Press in the Interwar Period. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 42(1), 105–122. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020743809990559
- Um, N. (2015), Chairs, Writing Tables, and Chests: Indian Ocean Furniture and the Postures of Commercial Documentation in Coastal Yemen, 1700–40. *Art History*, 38: 718-731. https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8365.12177

WATCH:

- Two-minute documentary on the first Arab Emissary to the United States, or a short documentary film (20 minutes), Sultanah 1840 by Khalid Al Zadjali.

9. 17 April
Revolutions and Resistance Today

REQUIRED

Read at least four of the five articles:

- Menoret, P. (2014). Ch. 5: Street Terrorism, in *Joyriding in Riyadh: Oil, Urbanism, and Road Revolt*. Cambridge University Press: 133-173.
- Jones, M. O. (2017). Satire, social media and revolutionary cultural production in the Bahrain uprising: From utopian fiction to political satire: *Communication and the Public.* https://doi.org/10.1177/2057047317706372
- Al-Zidjaly, N. (2017). Memes as reasonably hostile laments: A discourse analysis of political dissent in Oman. *Discourse & Society*, *28*(6), 573–594. https://doi.org/10.1177/0957926517721083
- Moritz, Jessie (2021). Bahrain's transnational Arab Spring: repression, oil and human rights activism, *International Affairs*, Volume 97, Issue 4, July 2021, Pages 965–983, https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iiab088
- Yadav, Stacey Philbrick (2022), "Ch. 4: The Shadow of Transition," in *Yemen in the Shadow of Transition: Pursuing Justice Amid War* (Hurst/Oxford). [If you have time also read Ch. 3: "The Shadow of Past Sovereignties: Extrapartisan Mobilization and Justice Demands Through 2010"].

Short reflection:

- Kanna, A. (2011, May 31). The Arab World's Forgotten Rebellions: Foreign Workers and Biopolitics in the Gulf. *South Asian Magazine for Action and Reflection (SAMAR*). http://samarmagazine.org/archive/articles/357

ADDITIONAL

- Alsayed, W. (2014). The Impatience of Youth: Political Activism in the Gulf. *Survival*, *56*(4), 91–106. https://doi.org/10.1080/00396338.2014.941572
- Al-Hashimi, S. S. (2011). The Omani Spring: Towards the Break of a New Dawn? (No. 52; Arab Reform Brief, pp. 1–9). Arab Reform Initiative. https://www.arab-reform.net/publication/the-omani-spring-towards-the-break-of-a-new-dawn/
- Tétreault, M. A. (2011). The Winter of the Arab Spring in the Gulf Monarchies. *Globalizations*, *8*(5), 629–637. https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2011.621658
- Al-Jamali, R. Z. (2011, November 7). Oman, kind of not quiet? *Foreign Policy*. http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/11/07/kind_of_not_quiet
- Kanna, A. (2012). A Politics of Non-Recognition? Biopolitics of Arab Gulf Worker Protests in the Year of Uprisings. *Interface*, *4*(1), 146–164.
- Wedeen, L. (2007). The politics of deliberation: Qat chews as public spheres in Yemen. *Journal of Popular Culture*, 19(1), 59–84. https://doi.org/10.1215/08992363-2006-025

WATCH

- Bahrain: Shouting in the Dark, Al-Jazeera Feature Documentary

10. 24 April

Cultural Production in Transnational/Translocal Spaces

REQUIRED

- Yunis, A., & Hudson, D. (2021). Introduction: Film and Visual Media in the Gulf. *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*, *14*(1–2), 5–22. https://doi.org/10.1163/18739865-01401006
- Al-Rasheed, M. (2013). Ch. 6: Celebrity Women Novelists and the Cosmopolitan Fantasy in *A Most Masculine State: Gender, Politics and Religion in Saudi Arabia*. Cambridge University Press.
- Menon, B. (2021). Migrant Images: Lateral Agency and Affective Citizenship in Dubai. *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*, 14(1–2), 225–249. https://doi.org/10.1163/18739865-01401015
- Promodh, I. A. (2021). FM radio and the Malayali diaspora in Qatar: At home overseas. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 47(9), 1957–1975. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2020.1838268

Short reflections:

- Naga, N. (2021, October 25). Who Writes the Arabian Gulf? The Common. https://www.thecommononline.org/who-writes-the-arabian-gulf/
- Kareem, M. (2021). Bidoon: A Cause and Its Literature Are Born. http://monakareem.blogspot.com/2021/06/bidoon-cause-and-its-literature-are-born.html

ADDITIONAL

- Alshammari, S., & Alshammari, A. (2021). Female Representation in the Golden Age of Kuwaiti Television: Stigma, Subversion and Agency. *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication,* 14(1–2), 68–80. https://doi.org/10.1163/18739865-01401003

- Hudson, D. (2020). UAE Filmmaking beyond Arabization, Cosmopolitanism, and Exceptionalism. *Arabian Humanities. 14*, Article 14. https://doi.org/10.4000/cy.6297
- Dakkak, N. (2021). Contesting Narratives of Victimization in Migration to the Arab Gulf States: A Reading of Mia Alvar's In the Country. *Journal of Arabian Studies*, *11*(1), 118–136. https://doi.org/10.1080/21534764.2021.1917800
- Al-Rasheed, M. (2013). Ch. 5: Women in Search of Themselves, in *A Most Masculine State: Gender, Politics and Religion in Saudi Arabia*. Cambridge University Press.
- Kaposi, I., & Al-Shammari, S. (2021). Serial Readers United: Independent Bookstore Cultures in Kuwait. *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*, *14*(3), 328–349. https://doi.org/10.1163/18739865-20219102

WATCH:

- Songs of the Gulf (2022). Documentary by Aljazeera. https://www.aljazeera.com/program/al-jazeera-world/2022/5/4/songs-of-the-gulf

FILM RECOMMENDATION

- Watch these Shorts by Saudi Filmmakers: Six Windows in the Desert https://about.netflix.com/en/news/netflix-draws-curtains-on-six-windows-in-the-desert

11. 1 May

The Transnational Scales of Securing Climate & Food Futures

REQUIRED

Read at least four of the following articles:

- Mundy, Martha, Amin Al-Hakimi, and Frédéric Pelat (2014), 'Neither Security Nor Sovereignty the Political Economy of Food in Yemen', in Zahra Babar, and Suzi Mirgani (eds), *Food Security in the Middle East* (Oxford) https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199361786.003.0006
- Henderson, C. (2022). The power of food security. *Globalizations*, 1–13. https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2022.2075616
- Koch, N. (2021). Food as a weapon? The geopolitics of food and the Qatar–Gulf rift. *Security Dialogue*, *52*(2), 118–134. https://doi.org/10.1177/0967010620912353
- Koch, N. (2021). The desert as laboratory: Science, state-making, and empire in the drylands. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, *46*(2), 495–509. https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12414
- Günel, G. (2016). The Infinity of Water: Climate Change Adaptation in the Arabian Peninsula. *Public Culture*, 28(2 (79)), 291–315.

ADDITIONAL

- Nally, D. (2015). Governing precarious lives: Land grabs, geopolitics, and 'food security'. *The Geographical Journal*, 181(4), 340–349. https://doi.org/10.1111/geoj.12063
- Henderson, C. (2022). The rise of Arab Gulf agro-capital: Continuity and change in the corporate food regime. *The Journal of Peasant Studies,* 49(5), 1079–1100. https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2021.1888723
- Toth, A. B. (2012). Control and Allegiance at the Dawn of the Oil Age: Bedouin, Zakat and Struggles for Sovereignty in Arabia, 1916–1955. *Middle East Critique*, *21*(1), 57–79. https://doi.org/10.1080/19436149.2012.658667
- Ajl, M. (2021). Does the Arab region have an agrarian question? *The Journal of Peasant Studies,* 48(5), 955–983. https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2020.1753706

- Woertz, E. (2013). The Governance of Gulf Agro-Investments. *Globalizations*, 10(1), 87–104. https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2013.760932

12. 8 May
Class, Race, and Social Control

REQUIRED

- Kanna, A. (2020). Class Struggle and De-Exceptionalizing the Gulf. In A. Kanna, A. L. Renard, & N. Vora, *Beyond Exception: New Interpretations of the Arabian Peninsula,* Cornell University Press: pp. 100–122.
- Ziadah, R. (2021). Surveillance, race, and social sorting in the United Arab Emirates. *Politics*. Pp 1-13. https://doi.org/10.1177/02633957211009719
- Babar, Z. and Vora, N. (2022), The 2022 World Cup and Migrants' Rights in Qatar: Racialised Labour Hierarchies and the Influence of Racial Capitalism. *The Political Quarterly*, 93: 498-507. https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-923X.13154
- Jones, M. O. (2020). Ch. 2: The Repression Playbook, in *Political Repression in Bahrain*. Cambridge University Press. 30-53. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108558822
- Jones, C. W. (2015). Seeing Like an Autocrat: Liberal Social Engineering in an Illiberal State. *Perspectives on Politics*, *13*(1), 24–41. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592714003119

ADDITIONAL

- Menoret, P. (2014). Ch. 2: Repression and Fieldwork, in *Joyriding in Riyadh: Oil, Urbanism, and Road Revolt*. Cambridge University Press: 21-60.
- Wedeen, L. (2003). Seeing like a Citizen, Acting like a State: Exemplary Events in Unified Yemen. Comparative Studies in Society and History, 45(4), 680–713. https://doi.org/10.1017/S001041750300032X
- Jones, M. O. (2020). Disinformation superspreaders: The weaponisation of COVID-19 fake news in the Persian Gulf and beyond. *Global Discourse*, 10(4), 431–437. https://doi.org/10.1332/204378920X16020074088784

FICTION RECOMMENDATION

- Al-Harthi, Jokha (2010 Arabic, 2018 English tr). Sayyidat al-Qamar / Celestial Bodies. (Winner of the 2019 Man Booker International Prize)

13. 15 May
CONFERENCE TIME

Research Resources

Association for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies (AGAPS)
A scholarly association for the study of the region aimed at promoting "high standards of scholarship and instruction, to facilitate collaboration among scholars and academic institutions, to encourage fieldwork and to mentor graduate students." They have an annual graduate paper prize to which you can submit your research paper.

Gulf Centre for Development Policies
Features research and publications from scholars across the region.

Qatar Digital Library
An archive on the modern history and culture of the Gulf and wider region, including many digitized India Office records on the Gulf.

Arabian Gulf Digital Archives
UAE national archive with a selection of primary source documents on the region.