ANTH2660: Ethnography of North Africa

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn Ramzy

Term: Winter Term

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Method of Delivery: In-Person Lecture (3 hours per week); not suitable for online students; online students should not register.

Course Description:

In this course, we investigate the religious, classical, and folk music traditions that have propelled and accompanied these transformations known as the "Arab Uprising" beginning in 2011 and the cultural shifts that have followed in the region. We will listen, watch, and analyze how many traditional practices in the region have quickly reconfigured as urban traditions in popular spheres, including an eclectic mix of Algerian rai, Maghrebi electronic hip-hop, Egyptian nationalist pop songs, as well as Palestinian and Israeli rap, among many others.

We will explore issues of identity, globalization, and governance following the Arab Uprisings through the lens of sound studies, anthropology, and ethnomusicology, while asking ourselves: what parallels of Middle Eastern music and culture echo in our own North American soundscapes and experiences?

And how are our music cultures in conversation with one another?

Reading (s)/Textbook (s): Readings can be found at the MacOdrum Library Reserve Desk or are available online through ARES and Brightspace.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

In-Class Participation: 20%

Listening Quiz 1 - January 31: 10 % Listening Quiz 2 - March 13: 10 % Listening Quiz 3 - April 3: 10 % In-Class Midterm - Feb 28: 25%

Final Exam: 25%