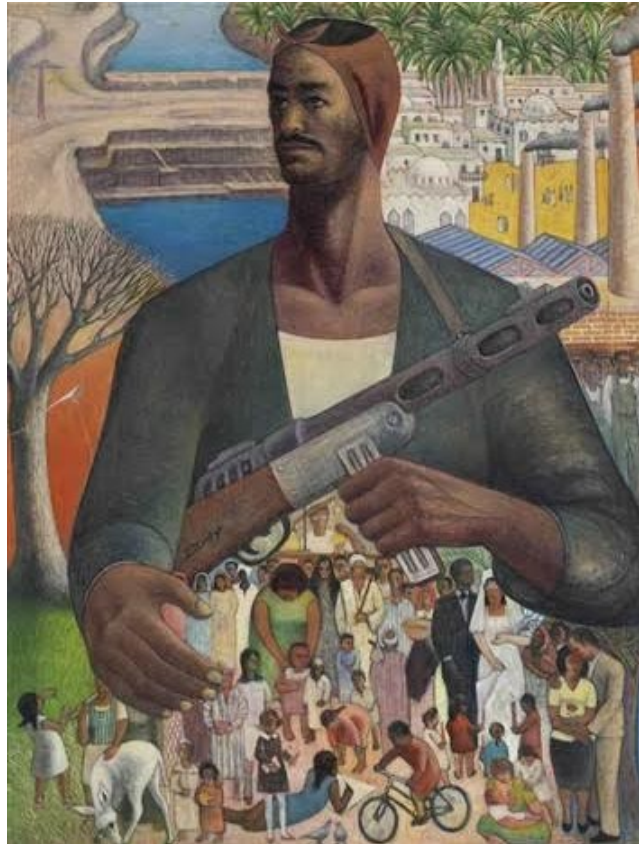


History 449.001—Winter 2016

Instructor: Murat Yildiz

Thursdays, 1:00-4:00, 5521 Haven Hall



“The Body and Gender in the Making of the Modern Middle East” offers an interdisciplinary approach to examining how the supervision, objectification, and disciplining of the body were integrally connected to the creation of modern modes of governance, masculinity and femininity, new conceptions of the self and sexuality, novel political and social imaginaries, and subject formation in urban centers of the Middle East. Course readings and discussions will encourage students to consider how modern institutions like schools, the army, voluntary associations, orphanages, and the hospital played a transformative role in creating, inculcating, and spreading radically reconfigured understandings of the body and gender throughout the region.

This course is rooted in a comparative approach to thinking about the Middle East by exploring the following questions: What are the major historical processes that facilitated the reshaping of normative understandings of the body, sexuality and gender in the modern Middle East? What was the historical relationship between discursive and institutional transformations? In what sense did these transformations in major cities like Istanbul, Cairo, and Tehran during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries compare to that of transformations in other regions? This course encourages students to develop their own reading of complex historical transformations in the Middle East and express their views in class discussions and presentations, as well as in writing historiographical essays, short research assignments, and reading response papers.