Founded in 2007, the Institute for Middle East Studies (IMES) at the George Washington University aims to foster research, dialogue and the creation of an intellectual community focused on the modern Middle East, geographically defined as the Arab world, Turkey, Israel, and Iran. To this end, IMES encourages intellectual collaboration among members of the GW community interested in the Middle East, between GW research institutes, and with other organizations in the Washington area.

Funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Title VI National Resources Center, the IMES Outreach Program provides K-12 educators throughout the Washington, DC, Northern Virginia, Maryland, and wider region with access to resources, scholars, and teaching tools on the Middle East. We assist educators in teaching about this important region by moving beyond the headlines to provide an in-depth and interdisciplinary look at the Middle East.

Our summer 2017 teacher workshop, “The Middle East in Middle America,” is a two-day series of presentations on topics in contemporary Middle East studies led by our faculty experts. It is through this workshop that we hope to support teachers who are committed to learning more about contemporary issues in Middle East studies and to answer the increased demand to teach about the region in American classrooms.

We recognize that Middle East studies can be a contentious subject to teach. Topics like sharia, jihad, media representations of Muslims, and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict are debated in popular media and academia alike. In addition to increasing literacy about the region, we want to equip teachers with content and pedagogies that foster critical thinking about the Middle East. As a research institution, we are committed to education that advances sustained study and persistent inquiry.

The workshop consists of a range of topics and resources that complicate representations of the Middle East and the people who live there. In 2009, the Nigerian writer and MacArthur Fellow, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, gave a TED talk in which she describes her experience as an immigrant Nigerian woman in the United States. Through a description of the assumptions people make about her based on her identity, she argues that if we do not study a multiplicity of stories about the world and the people who live in it, we risk critical misunderstandings that have real consequences. Adichie titled her talk, “The danger of a single story.” The faculty presenters in our workshop seek to present multiple perspectives on the Middle East that provide teachers with information that complicates any single story.

Video: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: The danger of a single story | TED Talk | TED.com.
Resources
The following list includes learning and teaching resources associated with each of the workshop presentations. The resources are available on a memory stick provided to all workshop participants (unless otherwise noted). Resources include a variety of primary and secondary source material, academic and popular texts, music and documentaries. If you have additional questions about resources, please let us know at: imesnrc@gwu.edu

Muslims and Islam in American Media & Culture
Melani McAlister
Monday/session 1 (9:30-10:45)

Articles


Book

***A copy of this book will be provided to all workshop participants.

Syllabus
The Islamophobia is racism syllabus
https://islamophobiaisracism.wordpress.com/

Videos
Shaheen, Jack, “Reel Bad Arabs” documentary film.

Israel and Palestine: A Brief History
Shira Robinson
Monday/session 2 (11:00-12:15)

Articles

--On Truman’s reluctant decision to recognize Israel in 1948.

--An analysis of each administration’s approach spanning from Wilson to Reagan.

--On US policy since the mid-1990s, but especially under the Obama administration.


Primer on Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict | Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP)
A Primer on Islam & Sharia Law
Nathan Brown
Monday/session 3 (1:00-2:15)

A Dozen Questions about the Islamic Sharia: Some Things You Wanted to Know about Islamic Law but Were Too Embarrassed to Ask.” Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS). 2017.


Music and Political Expression in the Middle East
Will Youmans
Monday/session 4 (2:30-3:45)
Articles


Documentaries & News Videos


Books


Music Videos
Lowkey. “*Cradle of Civilization*.” 2010.


DAM. "*Born Here*." 2006.

Mashrou3 Leila. “*Fasateen*.” 2012.


“*First song of the Syrian Revolution Ya Haif (Oh Shame)*.” 2014.

--corresponding article: Harkin, James. “*The Incredible Story Behind the Syrian Protest Singer Everyone Thought Was Dead*.” Pulitzer Center. December 8, 2016.

Fayrouz. “*Sa’alouni Al Nas* (The People Asked Me).”

Faiirouz. “*Eddaysh Kan Fi Nas*.”

Marcel Khalife. “*Rita*.”

Marcel Khalife. “*Passport*.”

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**Film and discussion**

**Amanda Steinberg**

Monday/session 5 (4-5:30)

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A Bottle in the Gaza Sea

Amreeka

Persepolis

The Syrian Bride

Wadjda

What does it mean to be poor? Mapping poverty in the Middle East
Mona Atia
Tuesday/session 5 (9:30-10:45)

Articles


Learning opportunities for teachers and students
Youth mappers
http://www.youthmappers.org/

Teach Open Street Map
http://teachosm.org/en/cases/gwu/

PowerPoint
Articles and chapters


--a resource for the history of the Crusades through Muslim eyes.

Syllabus
Jihad: Love and War in Islamic History

Prezi (Mac and Windows link to google drive)

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**Panel discussion: contemporary religious practices of young Muslims**

moderated by Younus Mirza

Tuesday/session 7 (12:15-1:30)

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Articles


Video

[Unmosqued](#)

UnMosqued is a documentary film which aims to highlight the growing need for reform in many of the mosques found in America. The purpose of the documentary is to engage a group of people who have been disconnected from their local mosque and explore the various reasons that have led to this sentiment.

***There is a fee to stream this film.***