INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Sooyong Kim <skim@ku.edu.tr>
Office: SOS Z08B, x1141
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 15:30-17:30, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines how recent fiction and non-fiction from the region and beyond has explored issues of nation and narration, local identity and historical memory, and representations of self and other. In exploring those issues and others, we will pay particular attention to the discursive frames that surround works from Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Iran, and Turkey. We will also consider the evolving social function of literature within the region and the implications for reception beyond.

TEXTS
The readings comprise novellas, short stories, and two graphic novels, one documentary and the other fictional. All of them were produced post-1980, with the exception of Alifa Rifaat’s “My World of the Unknown,” first published in Arabic in 1974; and most are in translation, with the exception of the Turkish texts (though translations for some are available). We will also view a film adaptation of Shahrnur Parsipur’s Women without Men and an updated documentary on the Arab Spring, The Square. Most of the readings are available as a course pack from the copy center, some can be gotten via the Internet, and Buket Uzuner’s İstanbullular: Çizgi Roman is available for purchase from the bookstore, or can be had as a PDF file.

REQUIREMENTS
Classes will consist of a background lecture and then discussion. You are expected to attend each class and to complete the reading assignments in full beforehand, so that we can have an informed discussion. And before each new work is covered in class, you are also expected to do a little bit of research about it and the author via the Internet. Your attendance and participation grade will be based largely on your active participation.

In addition, you will write three short papers and a longer final paper. Topics will be provided, but you may propose your own. For each short paper (4-5 pages), you will focus on a set of readings. For example, for Paper 1, you will write on one or more of the works from Egypt. For the longer final paper (7-8 pages), you will write on one or more of the works from Turkey, and a comparison must be made to relevant issues explored in other works. Further instructions will be given in due time.

Lastly, you are required to give a group presentation (~15-20 minutes), concerning the issue of nation and narration as it relates to recent events in Turkey. Again, further instructions will be given in due time, and the group presentation will constitute a separate grade.

NOTES
Student and Classroom Codes of Conduct will be enforced. And you are expected to follow the MLA Style guide in your papers. Here is a link to the guide: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/.
### Schedule and Assignments

(Schedule and assignments subject to change)

#### Week 1, Introduction

**Monday, September 15**  
Course overview

**Wednesday, September 17**  
Readings:  
- Homi Bhabha (ed.), introduction, *Nation and Narration* (1990), 1-7  
- Willis and Tony Barnstone (eds.), “Modern Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish, Alexandrian Greek, and Persian Literatures,” *Literatures of the Middle East: From Antiquity to the Present* (2005), 350-54

#### Weeks 2-5, Egypt

**Monday, September 22**  
Reading:  

**Wednesday, September 23**  
Readings:  
- Mahfouz, *The Day the Leader Was Killed*, 54-89  

**Monday, September 29**  
Readings:  
- Dalya Cohen-Mor (ed. and trans.), *Arab Women Writers: An Anthology* (2005), 3-7, 9-10, 12-13, 14-15, 280-84, 302  

**Wednesday, October 1**  
Readings:  
- Salwa Bakr, “International Women’s Day” and “The Beginning,” 194-98, 280-84  
- M. Lynx Qualey, “Egypt’s Female Authors Write History, and Their History,” Egypt Independent (August 3, 2011)  

**Monday, October 6**  
No class

**Wednesday, October 8**  
No class
Monday, October 13
Readings:

Wednesday, October 15
Readings:
• Henrik Juel, “Defining Documentary Film” p.o.v. – A Danish Journal of Film Studies 22 (2006): 5-14
• Irit Neidhart, “Documenting the Middle East,” ibid.: 25-33

In-class documentary screening: The Square (2013)

Weeks 6-9, Israel/Palestine

Monday, October 20
In-class documentary screening: The Square continued

Wednesday, October 22
Readings:
• Savyon Liebrecht, “A Room on the Roof,” New Women’s Writing from Israel, trans. J. Green (1996), 150-76

Monday, October 27
Readings:
• Lewis Gropp, “The Incursion of Politics into the Private Sphere,” Qantara.de (September 7, 2008) http://en.qantara.de/content/etgar-keret-and-samir-el-youssef-the-incursion-of-politics-into-the-private-sphere

Paper 1 due

Wednesday, October 29
No class
### Monday, November 3

**No class**

### Wednesday, November 5

**Reading:**

### Monday, November 10

**Reading:**
- Joe Sacco, *Palestine*, with an introduction by Edward Said (2003), i-vi, 1-40, 81-113

### Wednesday, November 12

**Readings:**
- Sacco, *Palestine*, 145-77, 253-85

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### Weeks 10-12, Iran

### Monday, November 17

**Readings:**

### Wednesday, November 19

**Readings:**

### Monday, November 24

**Readings:**

### Wednesday, November 26

**Readings:**
- Parsipur, *Women Without Men*, 82-131

### Monday, December 1

In-class film screening: *Women without Men* (2009)

**Paper 2 due**
**Wednesday, December 3**
In-class film screening: *Women without Men* continued

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**Weeks 13-15, Turkey**

**Monday, December 8**
Readings:

**Wednesday, December 10**
Readings:

**Monday, December 15**
Readings:
- Buket Uzuner, *İstanbulular* (2007), 1-20
- ———, *İstanbulular: Çizgi Roman* (2010), 3-65

**Paper 3 due**

**Wednesday, December 17**
Readings:
- Uzuner, *İstanbulular*, 66-125
- Serpil Oppermann, “İstanbul is like a Judas Tree: Urban Ecocriticism and Fictions of Istanbul,” *7th International Congress for Turkish Culture, Ankara, 5-10 October 2009* (2012), 2593-98

**Monday, December 22**
Group presentations

**Wednesday, December 23**
Group presentations

**Final paper due by Monday, January 12, 2015, at the latest**
GRADING
The final grade will be calculated based on the following distribution:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Paper 3</td>
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<td>Paper 4</td>
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<table>
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*Please note anything higher than 96 is rare.

Sample final grade:
1) Attendance and participation: 80/100
2) Presentation: 85/100
3) Paper 1: 80/100
4) Paper 2: 90/100
5) Paper 3: 85/100
6) Paper 4: 80/100

Weighted total = 82.75 or B+