This course will explore works of fiction, memoirs and graphic novels in translation written by women authors of Middle Eastern and North African origin, and contextualize these works in the historical time period they are set. We will explore works written by women authors from Egypt, Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Oman, as well as narratives of immigration and change. Through this exploration, we will analyze the realities of the lives of women, children and disenfranchised minorities in the Middle East and North Africa in the 20th and 21st centuries. We will contextualize the texts in the historical periods they appeared in, and analyze themes such as gender, race, religion, modernity and tradition as we probe beyond the translated texts and explore the unique voices of Arab, Turkish and Iranian women authors.

Readings:

The course readings posted for the week should have been completed before the start of class that day.

**Week 1 (September 27):**

**Introduction, The Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Languages, History, Cultures**


Mona Eltahawy, ‘Feminism is not a 9 to 5 Job’

Hamid Dabashi, ‘How Iranian Women’s Bodies Became an Ideological Battleground’

**Week 2 (October 4):**

**Iran & Turkey: Graphic Memoirs and Coming of Age**

- Ozge Samanci – Dare to Disappoint – **ISBN-13**: 978-0374316983
Week 3 (October 11):

**Egypt: Feminism and the Patriarchy**

Nawal al-Saadawi – Woman at Point Zero - **ISBN-13:** 978-1783605941

Week 4 (October 18):

**Oman: The Village and the Household**

Jokha Al-Kharthi – Celestial Bodies - **ISBN-13:** 978-1948226943

Week 5 (October 25):

**Saudi Arabia: The Public and the Private**

Rajaa Al-Sanea – Girls of Riyadh - **ISBN-13:** 978-0143113478

Week 6 (November 1):

**Middle Eastern Women in the West (North America)**

Miral al-Tahawy – Brooklyn Heights - **ISBN-13:** 978-9774166594

Week 7 (November 15):

**Middle Eastern Women in the West (Europe)**

Jokha Alharthi – Bitter Orange Tree - **ISBN-13:** 978-1646220038

Week 8 (November 22):

**Modern Day Turkey: Between Tradition and Modernity**

**Accessing remote courses**

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the “Get Started” button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts. Once you’ve created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: https://canvas.uchicago.edu.

**Accessibility information**

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class session at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.

**UChicago CARES Statement:**

The University and its faculty are committed to creating a safer and more inclusive learning environment for all students. At the University, all faculty, staff, graduate student instructors, and teaching assistants are considered “Individuals with Reporting Responsibilities” and are required to let the University’s Title IX Coordinator know about any disclosures they receive from students about experiences of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment). This includes disclosures of experiences that happened before their time at the University. This is to ensure that all students who have experienced sexual misconduct receive support, options, and information about their rights and resources. Students are not obligated to respond to this outreach, and this will not generate a report to law enforcement.

For more information, please see this handout for students as well as the University’s Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct and Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment. You can also reach out directly for services and support from the Office for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Support by emailing titleix@uchicago.edu. If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP. Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zme1@uchicago.edu.