ANTH 308: Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East

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The Middle East and North Africa has long attracted travelers, journalists, scholars, students, development organizations, and industry. This fascination has produced a great deal of academic and popular literature on the region and its cultures, politics, economics, and religions. Most often, attention to the region is on national and international conflicts and negative stereotypes. Less often are we introduced to the complexities of everyday life at the individual and community levels. We will explore some of the key themes that have emerged in the work on the region, including: history, gender, politics, health, religion, conflict, migration, and displacement. By reading anthropological writing we will focus on how people’s experiences are connected with broader national and global processes. In light of recent events, we will pay attention to how the region has been represented in Western accounts and highlight some of the scholarly concepts and paradigms that have developed in conjunction with anthropological research. Open to undergraduates in all disciplines and programs.

SPRING 2017  T/R 1:30-2:45PM
Satisfies Global Understanding for Mason Core and CHSS Non-Western Requirement