Sara Ababneh

Politics of the Middle East, University of Oxford,
St. Anne's College.

Week 5: Gender

Question: Is Islam a hindrance to or a source of women's emancipation in the Middle East?
or
What are the main barriers facing women in the Middle East today and how can they be overcome?
or
Pick a country in the Middle East and analyze the impact the Women's movement had on the women of that country, and its general politics towards women.
or
Has Western involvement in women's rights in the Middle East, helped or hindered the advancement of women's rights? Please give 2 examples.

Required Readings

Abu-Lughod, Lila, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others" American Anthropologist 104:3 (September 2002): 783-90

Ahmed, Leila (1992) Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate, New Haven; London, Yale University Press (pp. 41-101)

Barlas, Asma, (2002) "Believing Women" in Islam: Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an, Austin, TX, University of Texas Press. (pp.31-89)

Eisenstein, Zillah (2004), Against Empire, Feminisms, Racism, and the West (Zed Books), pp. 210-216 (Feminisms in Islam), pp.148-173 (Chapter 7: Feminisms and Afghan Women)

Enloe, Cynthia, Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics (University of California Press, 1989). Chapters 1 ("Gender makes the World Go Round"), 3 ("Nationalism and Masculinity") and 8 ("'Just Like One of the Family': Domestic Servants in World Politics").

Kandiyoti, D. (ed) (1996), Gendering the Middle East (1-27)

Mahmoud, Saba (2005) Politics of piety: the Islamic revival and the feminist subject, Princeton, N.J.; Oxford, Princeton University Press, Chapter 2 (Topography of the Piety Movemnet) and Chaper 5: (Agency, Gender and Embodiment)

Mohanty, Chandra, 1993, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses" in Williams, Patrick, Chrisman, Laura (eds.), Colonial Discourse and Post-colonial Theory, A Reader, (Longman).

Wadud, Amina (1999) Qur'an and Women: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's

Perspective, New York; Oxford, Oxford University Press. Chapter 1 (In the Beginning Man and Women were Equal), Chapter 2 (The Qur'anic View of Woman in this World).

Recommended Reading:

AHMED, L. (1992) Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate, New Haven; London, Yale University Press.

BARLAS, A. (2002) "Believing Women" in Islam: Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an, Austin, TX, University of Texas Press.

Bahramitash, Rokasana, "The War on Terror, Feminist Orientalism and Orientalist Feminism: Case Studies of Two North American Bestsellers" in Critique: Critical Middle Eastern Studies 14:2 (Summer 2005): 221-235.

Blanchard, Eric M., "Gender, International Relations, and the Development of Feminist Security Theory" in Signs 28:4 (Summer 2003): 1289-1312.

Connell, R.W., (1987), Gender and Power (Polity)

HASSAN, R. (1990) An Islamic Perspective. IN BECHER, J. (Ed.) Women, Religion and Sexuality, Studies on the Impact of Religious Teachings on Women. Philadelphia, Trinity Press International.

Hasso, Frances, "Discursive and Political Deployments by/of the 2002 Palestinian Female Suicide Bombers/Martyrs" in Feminist Review31 (2005): 23-51

HOOKS, B. (1982) Ain't I a woman: black women and feminism, London, Pluto Press.

JAD, I. (1990) From Salons to the Popular Committees: Palestinian Women, 1919-1989. IN NASSER, J. A. H., ROGER (Ed.) Intifada: Palestine at the Crossroads. New York, Praeger Publishers.

KALMBACH, H. (2006) Social and Religious Change in Damascus: One Case of Female Islamic Religious Authority. Oriental Studies (Modern Middle Eastern Studies). Oxford, University of Oxford.

Moghadam, V. (1993), Modernizing Women: Gender and social Change in the Middle East (pp.1-27).

MAHMOOD, S. (2005) Politics of piety: the Islamic revival and the feminist subject, Princeton, N.J.; Oxford, Princeton University Press.

MERNISSI, F. (1987) Beyond the Veil: Male-Female Dynamics in Modern Muslim Society, Bloomington and Indianapolis, Indiana University Press.

MOHANTY, C. (1993) Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses. IN WILLIAMS, P. & CHRISMAN, L. (Eds.) Colonial Discourse and Post-colonial Theory, A Reader. Longman.

QÅASIM, A. (1894) Les âEgyptiens: râeponse áa M. le Duc d'Harcourt, Le Caire, J. Barbier.

QASIM, A. (1992) The liberation of women: a document in the history of Egyptian feminism, Cairo, American University in Cairo Press.

ROALD, A. S. (1998) Feminist Reinterpretation of Islamic Sources: Muslim Feminist Theology in the Light of the Christian Tradition of Feminist Thought. IN ASK, K. & TJOMSLAND, M. (Eds.) Women and Islamization: contemporary dimensions of discourse on gender relations. Oxford, Berg.

RODED, R. (1999) Women in Islam and the Middle East: a reader, London, I. B. Tauris. THE QUR'AN.

Sharoni, Simona, "Nationalisms, Gender, and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" in Sharoni, Gender and the Politics of Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Politics of Women's Resistance (Syracuse University Press, 1995)

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty, "Can the Subaltern talk? Speculations of Widow sacrifice" In Wedge 7/8, 120-130

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty, "Subaltern talk: Interview with the editors" In The Spivak Reader, ed. Donna Landry and Gerald MacLean (London: Routledge, 1996)

Talhami, Ghada (ed.), The Impact of War and Revolution on Women in the Arab World – Special Issue of Arab Studies Quarterly 15:2 (Spring 1993).

WADUD, A. (1992) Qur'an and Women, Kuala Lumpur, Penerbit Jajar Bakti SDN BHD.

WADUD, A. (1999) Qur'an and Women: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective, New York; Oxford, Oxford University Press.

WADUD, A. (2006) Inside the Gender Jihad: Women's Reform in Islam, Oxford, Oneworld.

Waller, Marguerite and Jennifer Rycenga (eds.), Frontline Feminisms: Women, War and Resistance (Routledge, 2001).

Islamic Feminists, Muslim Feminists, Islam and Women, WIKIPEDIA. (2006-7).

Young, Robert, Postcolonialism, (pp. 360-383, Women, Gender and Anti-Colonialism)