

## Women in the Arab World: Beyond Stereotypes

Dr. Rana Zaher

**Course Number:** 702.XXXX

**Class Time:** TBA

**Class Location:** TBA

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### Course Description

This course brings the case of women in the Arab world to the forefront of the academic discussion, yet from a non-Orientalist angle that defies the overgeneralizations and dichotomizations that usually characterize discussions about Arab women. Arab women may share many issues and challenges in common, ethnographically speaking, but they may also differ in their choice of struggle and resistance to oppression in accordance with the difference in their political, social and cultural context.

The course will expose the students to the different realities of Arab women in different contexts and embarking on different fronts, and will re-define certain classical concepts such as *feminism* and *struggle* to better reflect the dynamics of these women's solution-seeking patterns. The main topics that will be discussed in class include Islamic Feminism vs. Arab secular Feminism, resistance and empowerment from within, the Arab Spring's effect on women, Arab women's political representation, Arab women's portrayal in the media, Arab women's involvement in economy and business.

The course is based on multiple learning resources; academic material, films, and guest speakers when possible.