

## PASSHE SUMMER HONORS 2010

## SPECIAL TOPICS:

**DIGITAL MAPPING OF PLACE AND SPACE IN ISLAMIC CAIRO**GEOG300/HON230 (3Cr) - May 9<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2010**Dr. Yasser Ayad**

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The objective of this course is two-fold. First, to explore the wide variety of monuments of Islamic Cairo - a historical time that is usually overlooked but has shaped modern Cairo to a great extent. And, second, to document those monuments and the historical events/themes associated with their geographic places using tools of geospatial technologies and databases. This will help understanding the relationship between the contemporary use of space and place and its historical significance. A study of the historical successions of different Islamic dynasties through the existing monuments, such as mosques, houses, wikalas, sabeels and others will be carried out. This would be mainly accomplished through the documentation of each space/place and its associated main historical character(s) and key historical events using mapping tools and geospatial technologies.

**Tentative Course Outline**

		<b>Notes</b>
1. May 9-12	+ Egyptian Arabic/Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Alphabets</li> <li>o Essentials</li> </ul> + General Egyptian History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Introduction to Islamic Cairo</li> <li>+ Digital Mapping Tools</li> </ul>	Pre-Travel Preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Introduction to the Arabic language in general and the Egyptian dialect in specific</li> <li>• Main highlights of different cultural issues to be taken into consideration while in Egypt</li> <li>• Introducing the wide historical backgrounds of Egypt; including the old dynasties, Greco-Roman and Christian eras</li> <li>• Highlighting the different Islamic dynasties in Cairo's history</li> <li>• Introduction to the tools used for digital mapping and documentation of historical spatial records</li> </ul>
2. May 14-16	+ Old Egyptian History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Islamic Cairo               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Century – Early Islamic</li> <li>o 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century – Ottoman</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Concentration on two periods where Islamic monuments started to rise in Cairo's landscape: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Islamic at the beginning of the Arab conquest of Egypt (Khulafa Rashidun)</li> <li>• Rise and Fall of the Ottoman Empire</li> </ul>
3. May 17	+ Projects: Digital Mapping of Historical Monuments/Events	Begin on data compilation. Data will be collected from every field visit in the form of photos, facts, observations and/or videos.

4. May 18-20	+ Islamic Cairo (continued) o 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Century - Fatimid o 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> Century - Mamuluks	Continue the data collection in the field. Concentration of the Al-Mu'iz Le Deen'illah Street and the wide variety of Fatimid and Mamluk's monuments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect current space use with its historical perspective</li> <li>• Document the streetscape and building uses</li> <li>• Document different architectural elements and identify their historical and current practical use</li> </ul>
5. May 21-23	+ Sinai: a bridge to the east o Monuments/Place and Event Documentation	Work on observing a contrasting environment, other than the city life. Document the historical importance of Sinai in shaping Egypt's history.
6. May 24-25	+ Alexandria: Port to Europe	Experience the varied historical phases that passed through the city and link them to the contemporary lifestyle of Alexandrians. Document important factors, Architectural elements and monuments.
7. May 25-27	+ Project Presentations	Project presentations. Final results of data compilation and interpretation. Discussion groups.

Note that this tentative outline of topics is to be covered during the class. Some topics may be deleted and others added. The order of the topics listed above may not be precisely followed.