Henri Lauzière  
History 392-0-22  
**INEQUALITIES IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA**  
Day/Time: W 6:00-8:50  
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Maximum Enrollment: 15

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Following an expedition to the Arabian Peninsula in the mid-18th century, Danish scientist Carsten Niebuhr described a social order of equal precariousness and said of the Bedouins that they “always rated liberty above ease and wealth.” 250 years later, this old cliché no longer holds, for the Arabian Peninsula is now home to some of the richest and most complex states of the Middle East. Not only has the rugged lifestyle of Bedouin nomads virtually disappeared, but liberty appears to be the possession of a few. In the past hundred years, various forms of inequalities have indeed become salient in the region: between the haves and the have-nots, between rulers and ruled, between men and women, between natives and foreigners, between individuals of higher and lesser tribal “nobility,” as well as between people of different religious identities. This seminar aims at examining some of these chasms and inequalities from a historical perspective. Under what circumstances did they emerge? Are they unique to the Arabian Peninsula? Are they new or do they constitute extensions of older inequalities? Have any efforts been made to change or subvert existing power relations? Among the themes to be treated throughout the quarter are: slavery, nasab (genealogy), communist opposition movements, urbanization (and its unintended consequences), sectarianism, the kafâla system for temporary workers, and other uses of state legislation to include and exclude.

**AREA OF CONCENTRATION:** Asia/Middle East

**TEACHING METHOD:** Seminar, some lecture

**EVALUATION METHOD:** Two short papers (5 pages each)—30% combined, one final paper or book review (10 pages)—40%, class participation—30%

**GRADING BASIS:** ANC

**INSTRUCTOR PROFILE:** Henri Lauzière is a professor of modern Middle Eastern history (Ph.D. Georgetown 2008) who specializes in Islamic thought. Before joining the faculty at Northwestern University in 2009, he taught at Princeton University and Georgetown University, and lived in Morocco and Qatar.