

## Five key historical events that shaped the discourse of the Levant

April 10, 5:30 PM

Presenter: M. Safa Saraçoğlu  
Associate Professor of History, Bloomsburg University.

## Citizenship, identity and the Modern Arab state

April 17, 5:30 PM

Presenter: Mohammed Bamyeh  
Professor of sociology, University of Pittsburgh.

## Palestinian aspirations and realities

May 1, 5:30 PM

Presenter: Robert Ross  
Assistant Professor of Global Cultural Studies, Point Park University

## Syrian civil war and the impact on its neighbors

May 8, 5:30 PM

Presenter: Faten Ghosn, Associate Professor, International Relations,  
School of Government & Public Policy and Faculty of the School of Middle  
Eastern & North African Studies, University of Arizona  
Discussant: Mais Haddad, - Syrian human rights lawyer, working in the field  
of women rights and civil society.

## Telling the Levant experience. Lure, Longing, and Love

May 22, 5:30 PM

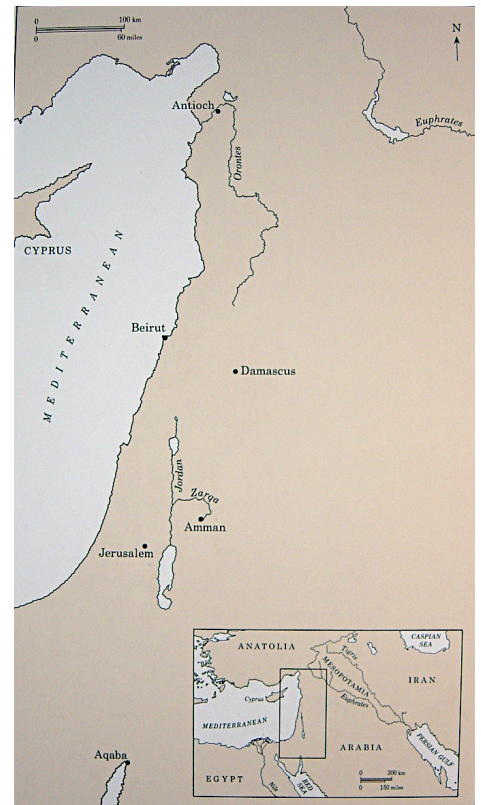
Presenter: Julie Hakim Azzam teaches literature at the University of  
Pittsburgh, and is a book reviewer for the Pittsburgh Post Gazette

# *Breaking Down the Headlines:* Understanding the Levant

A series of five workshops for educators.

*You may attend in person or participate via the Internet. Registration is required. The series will include reading materials, presentations, and engagement. A light dinner will be served prior to each session.*

<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/outreach/levant>



The countries at the crossroads of western Asia, the eastern Mediterranean and northeast Africa are known as Bilad Al Sham in Arabic or the Levant, a term used by the French to describe Asia in the Middle Ages. The Levant has served as a land bridge throughout the millennia to connect Asia, Africa and Europe. This geographic and cultural region stretches from the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea, to the Taurus Mountains, the Euphrates River and the Arabian Desert to its south. Today, the Levant includes the states of Cyprus, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey's southern Hatay Province. This crossroads has witnessed unique cultural interactions and confrontations fracturing its people into local subcultures with multi-layered identities.

The *Breaking Down the Headlines* series begins with a historical overview of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; a time period which witnessed the demise of the Ottoman Empire, colonial land grabs, the rise of nation states and their struggles for power. With over one-third of the population now living as refugees, our readings and presentations will cover conflicts, power grabs, identity and citizenship. The series concludes with a literary perspective. Historical and current prose and poetry, written in the hand of people seeking a voice during times of shifts in power, we will learn through the lens of a citizen or refugee, king or peasant, young or old, woman or man

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**Location:**  
**University of Pittsburgh**  
**4217 Posvar Hall**  
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**Pittsburgh, PA 1526**