

HIST 282 – Survey of Middle East History

Spring 2016
TR 10:30-11:45
Lec Hall 3

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Office hrs: T 2-3 pm

This course will examine the events, processes, and issues that have shaped the modern Middle East. As such the course will examine topics in the society, economy, politics and culture of the region as a whole such as nationalism, Islamic fundamentalism, globalization, gender and social change, and the Arab Spring, as well as how these topics affected particular nation-states in the region.

Course requirements will consist of weekly readings from both primary and secondary sources, as well as occasional online resources, film and documentary viewings. In addition, students will be required to take a midterm exam, final exam, and to submit two 5-7 page papers on a selected weekly topic.

By the conclusion of the course, students should have a grasp of the major chronology of modern Middle Eastern history, an ability to demonstrate the changes, continuities, and connections between past and present in this region, and the ability to assess and evaluate the sources, both primary and secondary, textual and other, used in providing explanation and interpretation of the dynamics governing events in the Middle East. Students will be expected to demonstrate these outcomes through participation, essay exams, and papers. This course fulfills both general education and non-western history requirements in the College and relevant majors and minors.

Grade Distribution:

Participation 10%
Midterm 25%
Final 35%
Papers 15% each

Required Readings:

Burke, ed., Struggle and Survival in the Modern Middle East, 2nd ed., California, 2006
Kanafani, Men in the Sun, Lynne Reiner, 1998
Khater, Sources in the Modern Middle East, 2nd Ed., Cengage, 2014
Gelvin, The Modern Middle East, 3rd ed., Oxford, 2011
Prince, Revolution is My Name, AUC Press, 2015

Important Information:

Students are to complete all the assigned readings for each class before that class. Participation is expected and strongly suggested as failure to do so will adversely affect the student's grade. The two exams: a midterm will involve identifications and essays. Dates for both exams are absolutely non-negotiable; so make sure to plan work, study, and vacations around these dates. There will be no exceptions made for these reasons. The two required

papers will be on the texts listed above. Study guides with further instructions for both papers and exams will be provided at the appropriate times.

Additional Issues:

Students are not allowed to eat, text, or use laptops for any purpose other than taking notes during class. Cell phones must be turned off. Walking in late is not only rude and disruptive, but will adversely affect your grade. If a student is not prepared to participate, it is better not to attend, as attendance of warm bodies alone does not qualify as participation.

Additional Requirements:

Academic Integrity

GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

GMU Email Accounts

Students must activate their GMU email accounts to receive important University Information, including messages related to this class.

Office of Disability Services

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

Other Useful Campus Resources:

WRITING CENTER: A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200; <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES "Ask a Librarian" <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): (703) 993-2380;
<http://caps.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university affairs.

Last Day to Add/Drop Classes: 1/26/2016
Selective Withdrawal Period – 1/26-2/19/2016

Tentative Reading and Assignment Schedule:

Week 1 Introduction to the Middle East

T: Introduction to course
R: The Middle East/N. Africa in the Age of Islam; Gelvin, Ch. 1

Why does Islam characterize the modern Middle East?

Week 2 The Modern Era

T: Gelvin, Ch. 2
R: Gelvin, Ch. 3

When did the Middle East become modern?

Week 3 The new world order

T: Gelvin, Ch. 4
R: Gelvin, Ch. 4, Chelebi, Ottoman-French Trade, Chardin documents

What was the "Eastern Question"?

Week 4 The west and the "rest"

T: Gelvin, Ch. 5; Burke, "Assaf: a peasant of Lebanon"
R: Gelvin, Ch. 6; Burke, "The Shaykh and daughter"; Khater, "Egyptian Public Debt", (1876), "Coal Miner's Life in the Ottoman Empire" (1890s)

How did the "rest" respond to the west?

Week 5 Paradigms shift

T: Gelvin, Ch. 8
R: Gelvin, Ch. 9; Khater, Mirza Malkum Khan on the ulama (1880), "Baghdadi Jews" (1908), "Education of Girls in Iran" (1907)

How did people begin to imagine identity in the modern Middle East?

Week 6 Modern States

T: Gelvin, Ch. 10; Khater, "The Modern Citizen" (In the Ottoman Empire, 1870)
R: Gelvin, Ch. 11; Khater, "Women and the Vote in Syria" (1920)

How were states modern in the new Middle East?

Week 7 Nation-States

T: Gelvin, Ch. 12; Khater, "Saudi Constitution" (1992)
R: Gelvin, Ch. 13; Khater, "al-Asima on the 'Nation'" (1919), "Ali abd al-Raziq on Separation of Church and State" (1928)

Paper #1 due.

Review for Midterm

Who were more important in the contemporary Middle East, nationalists or imperialists?

Week 8

SPRING BREAK

Week 9

Nation-State or Colonial State?

T: **MIDTERM EXAM**

R: Gelvin, Ch. 14 and Documents; Burke, "Izz al-Din Qassam"

Is Israel a Jewish or Zionist state? Why?

Week 10

State and Society in the Middle East

T: Gelvin, Ch. 15; Khater, "Women in the Revolution" (1978)

R: Burke, "Migdim", "Hagob"

What role does the state play in the lives of individuals in the Middle East?

Week 11

Oil and Water in the Middle East

T: Gelvin, Ch. 16; Burke, "Talal Rizk"

R: Gelvin, Ch. 17; Burke, "Naji: an Iraqi Country Doctor"

What strategic interest does the US have in the Middle East?

Week 12

Palestine

T: Gelvin, Ch. 18; Kanafani, Men in the Sun

R: Film, "The Wall"; Khater, "Ashrawi on the Intifada" (1989)

Why is there no Palestinian state?

Week 13

Revolution, Part One

T: Gelvin, Ch. 19; Burke, "Khanom Gohary"

R: The Green Revolution online assignment

Was the Islamic Revolution in Iran a Shii revolution? Why?

Week 14

Revolution, Part Two

T: Gelvin, Ch. 20; Burke, "Nasir: Saidi youth"; Khater, "Homosexuality in Egypt (1999), "Veiled Women and their Lovers" (2008)

R: Film: "The Square"

Was the Arab Spring an Islamic Revolution? Why?

Week 15

Conclusions

T: Gelvin, Conclusion, Prince, My Name is Revolution

R: Khater, "Sectarian Conflict" (2008)

Paper #2 Due, Review for Final Exam