

HIST 282 – Survey of Middle East History

Spring 2017
TR 10:30-11:45
DK 2053

Prof. S. Hamdani
RB 347, 3-1250
shamdani@gmu.edu
Office hrs: R 12:30-1:30 pm

This course will examine the events, processes, and issues that have shaped the contemporary 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 3-5 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 a Mason Core requirement. It will complement students' chosen field of study, serve as a means of discovery, provide a foundation for learning and connecting to new areas of interest, and equip students with qualities toward graduating with a George Mason degree. These qualities are identified as: striving to be critical and creative scholars, self-reflective learners, ethical and inquiry-based citizens, and thinkers and problem-solvers. In addition, this course can fulfill requirements for relevant majors and minors such as those in Middle East, Islamic Studies, and Global Affairs.

Grade Distribution:

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

Required Readings:

Burke, E. ed. Struggle and Survival in the Modern Middle East, 2nd ed. California, 2005
Gelvin, J. The Modern Middle East, 4th ed. Oxford, 2015
Kanafani, G. Men in the Sun. Lynne Reiner, 1998
Matar, H. In the Country of Men. Random House 2008
Prince, M. Revolution is My Name. AUC Press, 2015
Satrapi, M. The Complete Persepolis. Knopf, 2007

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 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.

Students are not allowed to eat, text, or use gadgets for any purpose other than taking notes during class. Cell phones must be turned off. Walking in late is rude and disruptive, as are bathroom breaks. 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: 1/30/2017

Selective Withdrawal Period – 1/30-2/24/2017

Tentative Reading and Assignment Schedule:

Week 1 Introduction to the Middle East

T: Introduction to course
R: 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 and documents.
R: Gelvin, Ch. 5; Burke, "Textile Weavers in Damascus", "Ahmad: A Kuwaiti Pearl Diver", "Bibi Maryam"

Why was the "East" a question?

Week 4 The west and the "rest"

T: Gelvin, Ch. 6; Burke, "Izz al-Din al-Qassam", "The Shaykh and his daughter"
R: Gelvin, Ch. 7; Burke, "Abu Ali al-Kilawi", "Shemsigul"

How did the "rest" respond to the west?

Week 5 Paradigms shift

T: Gelvin, Ch. 8 and Shaarawi
R: Gelvin, Ch. 9 and Namik Kemal

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

Week 6 Modern States

T: Gelvin, Ch. 10 and Law of 1907
R: Gelvin, Ch. 11; Burke, "Naji: an Iraqi Country Doctor"

How were states modern in the new Middle East?

Week 7 Nation-States

T: Gelvin, Ch. 12 and Gamal Abd al-Nasser
R: Gelvin, Ch. 13; Burke, "M'hamed Ali: Tunisian Labor Organizer"

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; Kanafani, Men in the Sun.

Is Israel a Jewish or Zionist state? Why?

Week 10

State and Society in the Middle East

T: Gelvin, Ch. 15

R: Burke, "Migdim"; Mattar, In the Country of Men.

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, "Nasir"

Which is more strategic, oil or water?

Week 12

Resistance

T: Gelvin, Ch. 18; "Khanom Gohary"

R: Satrapi, Persepolis.

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

Week 13

Revolution?

T: Gelvin, Ch. 19

R: Gelvin, "Statement of the April 6th movement", "The International Monetary Fund"

Were the uprisings of the Arab Spring about policy or identity?

Week 14

After Spring comes....

T: Prince, Revolution is My Name.

R: Online assignment

Was the Arab Spring an Islamic Revolution? Why?

Week 15

Conclusions

T: Gelvin, Conclusion

R: **Paper #2 Due, Review for Final Exam**