

Modern Middle East

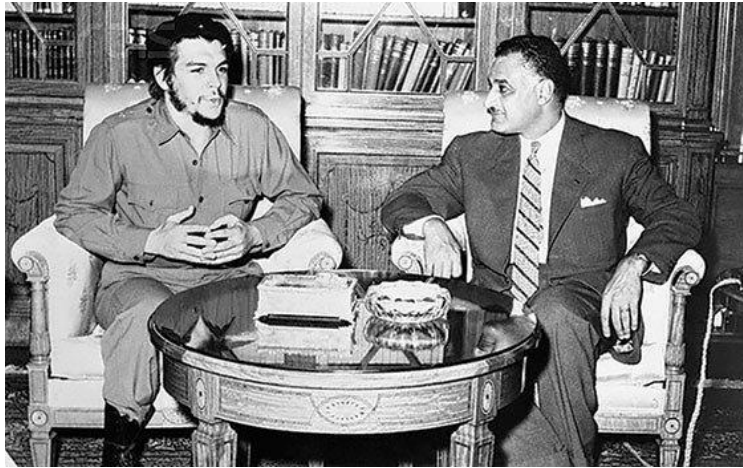
HIST 387/HIST 585

MWF 1:20-4:20 pm

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Course Description

This course treats the Modern Middle East in the twentieth century by focusing on Iran, Turkey, Egypt, the Israel-Palestine conflict, and the Arab Spring. Thought, politics, economy and international relations will be examined from social and cultural perspectives. Major themes include colonialism, the Cold War, modernity, popular culture, religion, ideological currents and political economy. By examining the intricate historical processes and experiences of Middle Eastern peoples the course will seek answers to such widely-debated questions as political Islam, sectarianism, nationalism, development, identity, and gender issues. The course will feature four historical movies for discussion and debate as well as short representative documents on critical events, issues and turning points from the history of the region.

Readings:

William L Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 6th ed. (Boulder: Westview Press, 2016)

The book is available online through the GMU library.

Film Viewing:

Lawrence of Arabia (David Lean, 1962)

The Battle of Algiers (Gillo Pontecorvo, 1965)

Both movies are available on various free outlets online as well as GMU libraries

Grading:

Participation	% 20
Film Reviews	% 10
Term Project	% 20
Midterm	% 20
Final	% 30

Week One: Historical Background

Cleveland, pp. 1-122 (Chapters, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

May 22

Introduction

May 24

Colonial Encounters and Indigenous Responses

- Term Project Handout
- Film Review Handout

May 26

The Eastern Question and the End of the Ottoman Order

Week Two: The Rise of Nation States

Cleveland, pp. 124-182 (Chapters, 8, 9, 10)

Namik Kemal, Extract from the Journal Hurriyet

May 29, Memorial Day

No Classes

May 31

Turkish Republic and Kemalism

June 2

Persian Monarchy and Modernization

Week Three: World Wars

Cleveland, pp. 184-255, 286-348 (Chapters, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17)

Theodore Herzl: A Solution of the Jewish Question

The Balfour Declaration

Speech Delivered by President Gamal Abd al-Nasser

June 5

The Struggle for Independence in the Arab World

- Film discussion: *Lawrence of Arabia*
- Film review 1 due

June 7

Decolonization, The Palestine Mandate, The Birth of Israel

June 9

The Age of Nasser, Arab-Israeli Wars

Week Four: The Cold War

Cleveland, 261-284, 355-455 (Chapters 14, 18, 19, 20, 21)
Ayatollah Khomeini, Islamic Government

June 12

The Military and Democracy in Turkey

- Film discussion: *The Battle of Algiers*
- Film Review 2 due
- Midterm Exam Handout

June 14

Democracy, Monarchy and the Iranian Revolution

June 16

Oil Politics, Political Islam

- Midterm Exam Due

Week Five: Globalization

Cleveland, 447-557 (Chapters, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26)

June 19, Juneteenth Day

No Classes

- Term Project Due
- Final Exam Handout

June 21, Last Day of Classes

Arab Uprisings

- Term Project Presentations

June 23

- Final Exam Due