

History & Politics of Modern Egypt

NES 2670 / HIST 2672/ GOV 2673

Cornell University

Spring 2019

Lectures: T&TH 11:40AM - 12:55PM

Location: Goldwin Smith Hall G64-Kaufman

Professor Ziad Fahmy

Office: 416 White Hall

Office Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays 2:00-3:00.

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<http://blackboard.cornell.edu> – This course is catalogued in blackboard under NES 2670. You must register on blackboard to get the primary sources and other supplemental readings needed for the course.

Graders/ TAs:

-Ibrahim Gemeah ig263@cornell.edu White Hall B05 / Wed 12-2. [Last names **A-F**]

-Jonathan Lohnes jml549@cornell.edu McGraw B02 / Tue 2-4. [Last name **G-M**]

-Emilio Ocampo eo259@cornell.edu McGraw B21 /Wed 12-2. [Last name **N-Z**]

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This lecture class will explore the socio-cultural history of modern Egypt from the late 18th century to the present. We will explore Egyptian history under the Ottomans and the Mamluks, the unsuccessful French attempt to colonize Egypt, and the British occupation of the country. We will then examine the development of Egyptian nationalism from the end of the 19th century through Nasser's pan-Arabism to the 2011 Egyptian Revolution and beyond. We will accomplish this with the aid of a variety of texts and primary sources. This syllabus is subject to change. Updates, changes and announcements will be posted in a timely fashion on Blackboard.

TEXTBOOKS:

The following books are available at the Campus Store. There will be many additional readings (marked *) that will be made available either on Blackboard, electronic reserve, and/or photocopied and handed out in class.

Arthur Goldschmidt, Modern Egypt: The Formation of a Nation-State

Ziad Fahmy, Ordinary Egyptians

Naguib Mahfouz, Cairo Modern

Optional Reading:

M. W. Daly (Editor), The Cambridge History of Egypt v.2 (*do not purchase*)

[Available electronically at library website & will be linked to blackboard]

Course Requirements

1. Readings and Assignments. Readings and assignments, as outlined below, must be completed by class time on the day for which they are assigned. You should also plan to bring the material you have read with you to class.
2. Attendance and Participation. Attendance and participation are important. If you miss class more than twice without a legitimate excuse your grade will be lowered. There may be times, of course, when you cannot avoid missing class (i.e., for ill health or family emergency). If this happens, please inform me. I reserve the right to raise grades for especially good class participation as well as the right to lower grades if you are frequently unprepared for class. You will be held responsible for material covered in class discussions, readings, and lectures. You should make every effort to be in class on time; repeated lateness is disruptive and will negatively affect your grade.
3. Primary Sources and Class Discussion. When time allows, we will do some group work, and short in-class assignments, especially focusing on the assigned primary sources and the movie and novel that we will read/watch during the semester. To prepare for class discussion, have 1-2 critical questions written down and be prepared to discuss them. Unannounced quizzes on the primary sources are never outside the realm of possibility.

Since we are beyond reading for “facts” at this level, the goal is to actively read and engage with the reading materials. I recommend that you keep a ‘reading notebook’ of your thoughts, comments, and questions, which will help prepare you for the exams and facilitate your participation and active discussion in class.

While reading primary sources, consider the following questions as a starting point from which to develop your own, more specific, questions: What kind of texts are we reading (newspaper articles, eyewitness accounts, scholarly analyses, political tracts, biographies, personal letters, propaganda, etc.) and how do they tie together? Who wrote the piece, and who is their intended audience? For each text, identify and evaluate its central narrative or argument, the kinds of evidence the author marshals to support it, and the historical, political, or cultural stakes at hand. What biases does the author have? Do they have an agenda? Etc.
4. Book/Film Reviews: You are required to write **two** 4 page [double-spaced] reviews for the novel **1) *Cairo Modern*** and the movie **2) *The Yacoubian Building***. In writing your reviews, you should consider: what the film/novel tells us about issues of identity—class, national, gender/sexual, racial, religious, etc. — in modern Egypt. These should be critical reviews, **not** just plot summaries.

(Book Review due: **Thursday 3/28**) (Film Review due: **Thursday 4/25**)

5. Exams:
 - The Midterm exam is on **Tuesday March 5** [in class]. It will consist of one essay question and some short answer IDs.

Grading

Attendance & Participation: 10%
Midterm: 20%
2 Reviews: 30% (15% each)
Final Exam: 40%

Code of Academic Integrity

You are subject to Cornell's Code of Academic Integrity (described in the Policy Notebook for Students, Faculty and Staff and on Cornell's web page). If you violate this code, you will be given a failing grade for the entire course, and your offense will be reported to the Academic Integrity Hearing Board for further discipline.* No excuses (including ignorance of the policy in general or its specific contents) will be accepted if this code is violated. See <http://theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/docs/AI.Acknow.pdf>

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** Failing to cite sources in your papers, or using sources on the Internet without citation of references, is a violation of this policy.*

Week 1 Introduction: Egypt until the Eighteenth Century

Readings: *Khater, "How to Read a Primary Source", 1-6. Goldschmidt, 1-13.

T 1/22 Class Intro

R 1/24 Ottoman Egypt and the Mamluks (1517-1798)

Week 2 Napoleon & Mohamed Ali

Readings: Goldschmidt, 15-24. *"Napoleon's Letter to the Egyptian People";

*"Napoleon's Letter to his Troops"; "French Officer Describes Situation in Egypt"

Optional: Daly, 87-138.

T 1/29 Napoleon in Egypt (1798-1801)

R 1/31 Muhammad Ali Consolidating his Rule

Week 3 Muhammad Ali Dynasty & State Centralization

Readings: Goldschmidt, 24-34; Fahmy, ch2. **“Muhammad Ali's Tax Inspectors”*

Optional: Daly, 113-165;

T 2/5 Expansion and modernization

R 2/7 State Centralization

Week 4 Ismail's Reign: Debt & Economic Imperialism

Readings: Goldschmidt, 34-46; Fahmy, Ch. 3.

* *“The Story of the Suez Canal;”* **“Khedival Decree: On the Public Debt commission;”*

**“General Loring on Urabi”*

T 2/12 Ismail's Reign: Debt & Economic Imperialism

R 2/14 The Urabi Revolt

Week 5 The Urabi Revolt and the British Occupation

Readings: Goldschmidt, 46-52; Fahmy, Ch. 3 (finish chapter).

**“Cromer: Why Britain Acquired Egypt in 1882;”* **“Qasim Amin: The Emancipation of Women”*

T 2/19 The British Occupation

R 2/21 Social Transformations (1870-1914)

Week 6 Nationalism on the Rise

Readings: Goldschmidt, 52-63; Fahmy, Ch. 4.

* *“The 1904 Entente Cordial;”*

T 2/26 *** **February Break***** No Class

R 2/28 Mustafa Kamil & Dinshaway

Week 7 Egypt During WWI

Readings: Goldschmidt, 63-66; Fahmy, Ch. 5.

T 3/5 ****Midterm Exam****

R 3/7 Egypt during WWI

Week 8 The 1919 Revolution & the Wafd during the “Liberal” Age

Readings: Goldschmidt, 65-78; Fahmy, Ch. 6. * “Street song of the 1919 Revolution”, * “Wilson’s 14 Points” & * “Ali Abd al-Raziq: Separation of Church & State”; *Optional:* Daly, 285-308.

T 3/12 The 1919 Revolution

R 3/14 The Wafd (Constitutional Crisis)

Week 9 Economy and Culture in Inter-War Egypt

Readings: Goldschmidt, 79-102; * “Taha Husayn on the Future of Culture in Egypt;” * “Hassan al-Banna on the Basis of an Islamic State;” * “Faruq: Times Magazine Article, 1951” & * “King Farouk Appoints New Premier.” *Optional:* Daly, 309-333.

T 3/19 Economy and Culture in Inter-War Egypt

R 3/21 King Faruq: Squandering Legitimacy

Week 10 From Faruq to Nasser

Readings: Goldschmidt, 103-116; *Optional:* Daly, 334-344.

T 3/26 The 1952 Coup and Nasser

R 3/28 Class Discussions of Naguib Mahfouz’s *Cairo Modern* (*book review is due)

** For Thursday’s discussion: [Last names **A-F** in **G64-Kaufman**]

[Last name **G-M** in **Rockefeller 112**]

[Last name **N-Z** in **White Hall 110**]

Week 11 * Spring Break *****

T 4/2 *** Spring Break ***

R 4/4 *** Spring Break ***

Week 12 Nasserism and the Arab State System

Readings: Goldschmidt, 116-156; * “Nasser’s Speech on Canal;” * “Nasser’s Arab Socialism Speech” * “Nizar Qabbani’s Poem on 1967 Defeat;” *Optional:* Daly, 344-358.

T 4/9 Nasserism and Arab Socialism

R 4/11 The 1967 War and Its Legacy

Week 13 Sadat: War and Peace

Readings: Goldschmidt, 157-184; * “Sadat’s speech to the Knesset, 1977” * “Sadat’s *Infatih* Speech;” *Optional:* Daly, 359-373.

T 4/16 Sadat in Search of Legitimacy

R 4/18 Camp David and the “Death of Pharaoh”

Week 14 The Mubarak Regime

Readings: Goldschmidt, 185-200; *‘‘Mubarak’s October Speech,’’ *‘‘Farag Foda Critiques Islamic Movements in Egypt,’’ *Optional*: Daly, 373-393.

T 4/23 The Mubarak Regime and the Road to Revolution

R 4/25 Class discussion of *Yacoubian Building* (**Film review is due**)

**** For Thursday’s discussion:** [Last names **A-F** in **G64-Kaufman**]

[Last name **G-M** in **Rockefeller 112**]

[Last name **N-Z** in **White Hall 110**]

Week 15 Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Egypt

T 4/30 The ongoing Egyptian Revolution?

R 5/2 The Square -part 1 (documentary)

Week 16 Review & Documentary

T 5/7 The Square-part 2 (documentary)

FINAL EXAM: Final Exam (date/location to be determined)