

Middle East: Adjustment and Change in Modern Times

Instructor: Dr. Ahmad Agbaria

Course Number: MES 301

Class Time: MWF 9-10:00

Classroom: RLP 1.104

Office Hours: Monday after class and by appointment

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Course Statement

What is the modern Middle East? This course sets out to explore what constitutes the modern Middle East as it has developed from late 18th century to the present. The geographical scope includes the territories of the Ottoman Empire, Iran, and North Africa. We will discuss the emergence of Imperialism, Colonialism, Nationalism, Secularism, Postcolonialism, Religious Modernism, and Fundamentalism. We will identify the place of the Ottoman Legacy and the Arab-Israeli Conflict in shaping the modern Middle East. Other themes will revolve around the significance of the oil economy, Iran and the Middle East, and the "Arab Spring."

Grading

- I. Three commentary essays (each essay runs up to 500 words and accounts for 10%): 30%
- II. Class participation (in-class activity) and attendance: 20%
- III. Midterm: 20%
- IV. Final: 30%

The grade scale is: 100-94%=A; 93-90%=A-; 89-87%=B+; 86-84%=B; 83-80%=B-; 79-77%=C+; 76-74%=C; 73-70%=C-; 69-67%=D+; 66-64%=D; 63-60%=D-; below 60%=F

Part I: What is the Middle East?

Week I: Jan 9

Keddie, N. (1973). Is There A Middle East? *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 4(3), 255-271. doi:10.1017/S0020743800031457

Week 2: Jan 16

Hodgson, M. (1970). The Role of Islam in World History. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 1(2), 99-123. doi:10.1017/S0020743800023990

Week III: Jan 23

Eugene Rogan. *The Arabs: A History*. Basic Books, 2011. Read chapter I: From Cairo to Istanbul. Pp13-38

Extra Reading: White, S. (2010). Rethinking Disease in Ottoman History. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 42(4), 549-567. doi:10.1017/S0020743810000814

Part II: Imperialism and Colonialism

Week IV: Jan 30.

Makdisi, U. (2002). After 1860: Debating Religion, Reform, and Nationalism in the Ottoman Empire. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 34(4), 601-617. doi:10.1017/S0020743802004014

Extra Reading: Mikhail, A. (2010). An Irrigated Empire: The View From Ottoman Fayyum. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 42(4), 569-590. doi:10.1017/S0020743810000826

Week V: Feb 6.

Hournai. *A History of the Arab Peoples*. NY, Warner Books 1991. Chapter 18: The Culture of Imperialism and Reform. Pp. 299-315

Extra Reading: Fortna, B. (2000). Islamic Morality in Late Ottoman “Secular” Schools. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 32(3), 369-393. doi:10.1017/S0020743800021140

Part II: Arab Nationalism

Week VI: Feb 13

Eugene Rogan. *The Arabs: A History*. Basic Books, 2011. Read chapter 6: Divide and Rule: World War I and the Postwar Settlement. Pp. 149-174

Dawn, C. (1988). The Formation of Pan-Arab Ideology in the Interwar Years. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 20(1), 67-91. doi:10.1017/S0020743800057512

Week VII: Feb 20

Miller, J. (1977). The Syrian Revolt of 1925. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 8(4), 545-563. doi:10.1017/S0020743800026118

Khoury, P. (1984). Syrian Urban Politics in Transition: The Quarters of Damascus During the French Mandate. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 16(4), 507-540. doi:10.1017/S0020743800028543

Extra Reading: Khoury, P. (1981). Factionalism Among Syrian Nationalists During the French Mandate. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 13(4), 441-469.
doi:10.1017/S0020743800055859

Part III: Post-Colonial Societies

Week VIII: Feb. 27

Eugene Rogan. *The Arabs: A History*. Chapter 9 “The Palestine Disaster and Its Consequences.”

Week IX: Mar. 6

Albert Hourani. *A History of the Arab Peoples*. NY, Warner Books 1991. Chapter 21: The Age of Nation-States. Pp. 353-373; “The Climax of Arabism (1950s-1960s) 401-416

Week X: Mar. 20

Schayegh, C. (2013). 1958 Reconsidered: State Formation and the Cold War in the Early Postcolonial Arab Middle East. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 45(3), 421-443.
doi:10.1017/S002074381300041X

Citino, N. (2008). The Ottoman Legacy in Cold War Modernization. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 40(4), 579-597. doi:10.1017/S0020743808081506

Part IV: Arab Discontent and Islamic Movements

Week XI: Mar. 27

James Galvin. *The Modern Middle East: A History*. Oxford, 2011. Chapter 19: ‘The Iranian Revolution’ Chapter 20: “Political Islam”.

Rahman, F. (1970). Islamic Modernism: Its Scope, Method and Alternatives. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 1(4), 317-333. doi:10.1017/S0020743800000714

Week XII: April 3

Kurzman, C. (2012). The Arab Spring: Ideals of the Iranian Green Movement, Methods of the Iranian Revolution. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 44(1), 162-165.
doi:10.1017/S0020743811001346

Juan Cole. *The New Arabs: How the Millennial Generation is Changing the Middle East*. NY, Simon & Schuster 2014. Read Chapter I: The Arab Millennials. Pp.1-27

