

HIST 1185 Introduction to Middle Eastern History
Fall 2009
Professor Daphne Tsimhoni

Mondays and Thursdays, 11:45-1:25 at 109 Robinson Hall
 Office hours: Thursdays 1:30 -2:30 & by appointment
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Course Description and Objectives:

The course's aim is to allow the student a proper knowledge and understanding of the making of the contemporary Middle East. The course will focus on historical processes evolving political, intellectual and socio-economic aspects from the rise of Islam to World War II. Special attention will be given to major stages in the history of the Middle East: the Pre-Islamic era; Islam and Islamization of the Middle East; the rise and decline of the Ottoman Empire; initial westernization, Ottoman reforms and the Islamic reactions to them; the rise of nationalism; World War I and the peace settlements; European rule and the establishment of the modern states in the Middle East. [The course will further discuss the rise and fall of liberal constitutionalism in the Middle Eastern states, the rise of Pan-Arabism and Muslim fundamentalism and their impact on regional and international politics. A further objective is to develop critical thinking skills on the Middle East processes.

Requirements:

You are required to attend 80 per cent classes at least, read the reading assignments, take notes of class discussions and lectures and watch video clips and documentaries.
 -One map quiz (September 24 in class) 10 per cent of the final grade
 -Two midterm papers (dates due: Oct. 19, Nov. 16) double spaced typed 3-4 pages each, 20 per cent each of the final grade.
 -Final take-home exam double spaced typed 6-8 pages, (due Dec.7) 40 per cent of the final grade
 -Active participation in class: 10 per cent of the final grade.

Textbooks: available at the Northeastern University bookstore. A copy is on reserve at the Snell library.

Cleveland, William, L., *A History of the Modern Middle East*, Bolder: Westview Press, 1994

Goldschmidt, Arthur, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, Boulder: Westview Press, 1991

Hourani, Albert, *A History of the Arab Peoples*, New York: Warner Books, 1992
 All other readings to be posted on the course's blackboard.

Course outline and reading:

I. Introduction:

Th Sept. 10: Political geography of the Middle East and historical background

II. *The Middle East: cradle of civilizations and religions*

M Sept. 14: the Middle East before Islam; The rise of Islam and the Islamization of the Middle East

Required Reading: Cleveland, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-19); Goldschmidt, chaps.1-4 pp. 1-62

Th Sept. 17: Continued

III. *The Middle East Eleventh to the Fifteenth century*

M Sept. 21: Life in the cities and their rulers; Shi'is and Turks Crusaders and Mongols

Reading: Goldschmidt Ch. 7: 78-95 Hourani, History, Chs. 7-8 pp. 109-146

Th Sept. 24: Continued

M Sept. 28: Day of Atonement – No class

IV. *The Rise and Decline of the Ottoman Empire*

Th Oct. 1

Reading: Cleveland, Ch. 3 (pp. 39-56)

V. *The Beginnings of the Era of Transformation*

M Oct. 5

Reading: Cleveland, Ch. 4 (pp.61-78); Goldschmidt, Ch. 10 (pp. 135-144)

Th Oct. 8: Continued

VI. *The Reforms (Tanzimat) in the Ottoman Empire and Egypt*

M Oct. 12 – Columbus Day no class

Th Oct. 15:

Reading: Cleveland, Ch. 5 (pp.79-98); Goldschmidt, Ch. 11 (pp. 146-157)

M Oct. 19: Continued

VII. *Intellectual Reactions to Reform and Westernization*

Th Oct. 22

Reading: A. Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 1798-1939*, London: Oxford University Press, 1970, Ch. 5 (pp. pp.103-160)

Cleveland, Ch. 7 (pp. 113-121)

VIII. *The Emergence of Nationalism*

M Oct. 26:

Reading: Hourani, History, pp. 299-310

Hourani, Arabic Thought, pp. 273-291

Cleveland pp. 121-135; E. Dawn, "From Ottomanism to Arabism, the Origins of an Ideology," in Hourani, Albert, Khoury, Phillip, Wilson, Mary, (eds.) *The Modern Middle East: A Reader*, London: Tauris, 2005, pp. 375-393

Th Oct. 29: Continued

IX. *World War I in the Middle East: British Pledges to the Arabs and the Zionist; the Arab revolt*

M Nov. 2

Required Reading: Cleveland, pp.140-154

Goldschmidt, pp.185-190; M.E. Yapp, *The Making of the Modern Middle East, 1792-1923*, London: Longman, 1993, Ch. 5, (pp. 266-300)

Optional reading: G. Antonius, *The Arab Awakening*, Beirut: LIBRAIRIE DU LIBAN, 1969 Antonius, pp. 126-134, 243-253

Th Nov. 5: Continued

X. *The Peace Settlements and the Mandated States in the Middle East*

Mon Nov. 9

Reading: Cleveland, pp. 154-160; Yapp. Ch. 6, (pp.301-351)

Goldschmidt, pp. 191-195

Th Nov. 12: Continued

XI *The Climax and Decline of European Imperialism in the Middle East*

Mon Nov. 16

Reading: Hourani, *History*, pp. 315-332

XII. The Struggle for Independence

Th. Nov. 19: in Egypt and Iraq

Reading: Cleveland, Ch. 11 (pp. 181-201)

Goldschmidt, Ch. 15 (pp. 213-206)

Mon. Nov. 23: in Syria and Lebanon

Reading: Cleveland, pp. 202-221

Th. Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Recess no class

XIII. *Modernization and the Political Development*

Nov. 30: Reading: J.A Bill and R. Springborg, *Politics in the Middle East*, New York: harper Collins, 1994, Ch. 1 (pp.1-29)

XIV. *The Challenge of Pan Arabism*

Th. Dec. 3:

Reading: Hourani, *History*, ch. 24 (pp.401-415)

XV. *The Return of Islam*

Mon. Dec. 7

Reading: B. Lewis, "The Return of Islam," in Lewis, B., *The Shaping of the Middle East*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1994 ;pp.99-124

Bibliography

Antonius, George, *The Arab Awakening*, Beirut: LIBRAIRIE DU LIBAN, 1969
Bill, J.A and Springborg, R., *Politics in the Middle East*, New York: harper Collins, 1994,

Dawn, Ernest, "From Ottomanism to Arabism, the Origins of an Ideology," in Hourani, Albert, Khoury, Phillip, Wilson, Mary, (eds.,) *The Modern Middle East: A Reader*, London: Tauris, 2005, pp. 375-393

Hourani, Albert, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 1798-1939*, London: Oxford University Press, 1970

Lewis, Bernard, "The Return of Islam," in Lewis, B., *The Shaping of the Middle East*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1994

Yapp, M.E., *The Making of the Modern Middle East, 1792-1923*, London: Longman, 1993