

# **HIS 266-01**

## *Modern History of the Middle East and North Africa*

---

**Instructor:** Adey Almohsen, PhD

**Location:** Humanities and Social Studies Center N3110

**Meetings:** Tue. 10:00 am – 11:50 am

**Important dates:**

Sep. 7	Map quiz
Sep. 21	Primary source exercise I (Report due: Sep. 22, 10 pm)
Oct. 14	Primary source exercise II (Report due: Oct. 15, 10 pm)
Oct. 28	First manifesto due (10 pm)
Nov. 18	Second manifesto due (10 pm)
Dec. 9	Third manifesto due (10 pm)
Dec. 17	Reflection essay due (10 pm)

**Readings and texts:**

Weekly course readings range between 50-90 pages. You are expected to prepare all readings before class (**highlighted in yellow**). Suggested readings are not mandatory, however, they will be discussed and analyzed during the lecture component of the class. The course requires only one textbook (Rogan, 2017) to cut down student costs. All assigned readings and primary sources will be available on-line in the course's OneDrive.

**Primary source collections:**

**Map quiz (5%):**

It is crucial to know where the different countries and capitals mentioned in this course are located geographically. Familiarize yourself with the map of the Middle East and North Africa and be sure to

organize and revise whole drafts, rewrite sentences and paragraphs, plan presentations, and more. Instructors do not proofread papers, but they can teach you how to edit your own work effectively. For a link to the schedule and appointment system, search for "Writing Center" on grinnell.edu or Grinnell Share.

**Week I: Syllabus and Introductions**

---

**Thu. Aug. 26, 2021**

**Week IV: Modernities**

---

*Here, our historical survey resumes, picking up around the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, where we will explore how different parts of the MENA region responded to the challenges posed by European modernity.*

- Kaiser, "Grinnell's Connection to the Armenian Genocide," *Grinnell Stories*

**Week IX: NO CLASSES, FALL BREAK**

---

**Tue. Oct 19, 2021**

**Thu. Oct. 21, 2021**

**Week X: The Second World War and Its Intellectual Upshots**

---

*The Second World War and the establishment of Israel in 1948 unleashed a wave of intellectual reassessments that sought to break with the Arab past*

**Tue. Nov. 9, 2021**

- al-Rashoud, "From Muscat to the Maghreb: Pan-Arab Networks, Anti-Colonial Groups, and Kuwait's Arab Scholarships 1953-61," *Arabian Humanities* (2019): 1-20.
- Takriti, "Colonial Coups and the War on Popular Sovereignty," *American Historical Review* 124: 878-909.

**Thu. Nov. 11, 2021**

- Giacaman, "Political Representation and Armed Struggle." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 43 (2013): 24-40.
- Matar, "PLO Cultural Activism: Mediating Liberation Aesthetics in Revolutionary (olu)l32.4 0 Tw (. )rTw 1.8

**Thu. Dec. 02, 2021**

- Selections from the writings of Sayyed Qutb (1906–66) [primary source].
- Hegghammer, *The Caravan: Abdullah Azzam and the Rise of Global Jihad* (Cambridge University Press, 2020): 288–327.

**Preparation for third manifesto**

**Week XVI: A New Middle East?**

---

*We will conclude our historical survey, looking at the late 20th century, 9/11, 2003 US occupation of Iraq, and the ongoing Arab Spring.*

**Tue. Dec. 07, 2021**

- Rogan: 439–82, 483–512.

**Thu. Dec. 09, 2021**

- Film viewing: el-Said, h N K H U *Ma'adin* [On the Last Days of the City]. Egypt: Zero Production, 2016.

**Third manifesto (10%) due by Thu. Dec. 9, 2021 (10 pm latest)**

**Reflection essay (30%) due by Fri. Dec. 17, 2021 (10 pm latest)**