

HISTORY OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

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OFFICE HOURS: MON & WED, 10-12

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course charts the emergence of the modern Middle East during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The political history of the states that constitute the Middle East is an essential part of this story. But the story of the modern Middle East is about much more than that. It is about the transformation of frameworks through which individuals and communities experience and make sense of the world around them. For our purposes, this includes history, conceptions of community, economic activity, and religion. We will guide our exploration of these broad themes with a set of more pointed questions: How did the nation (and national citizenship) become an organizing principle for collective life? How did capitalism take root? How and why did secularism become a question of urgent concern? How and for whom did modernity itself become an issue of very self-conscious concern? In answering these questions, we will explore the contestations, negotiations, and exclusions that characterize the emergence of modern forms of government in the Middle East, thus gaining insight into many of the most pressing issues in the region today.

COURSE TEXTS AND LEARNING GOALS:

Elliott Colla, *Conflicted Antiquities*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.

James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Robert Tignor and Shmuel Moreh, *Al-Jabarti's Chronicle of the French Occupation*. New York: Marcus Wiener, 2005.

Keith Watenpugh, *Being Modern in the Middle East: Revolution, Nationalism, Colonialism, and the Arab Middle Class*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006.

These texts form the backbone of our course, but throughout the semester we will be working with relevant primary documents whenever possible. The Al-

Can you identify a sentence or sentences that constitute the thesis statement?

Can you state the author's thesis – even regarding a single chapter or article – succinctly in your own words?

If part of a larger work, how does a particular chapter fit into the bigger picture? If a stand-alone piece, can you relate this reading to another that we have completed in the course?

Can you identify at least two examples the author uses to support their argument?

How is the author defining (implicitly or explicitly) “modern?” How does this affect the author's argument and analysis?

As you read the primary documents with which we will work, please keep the following questions in mind:

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Participation: 20%

As the weighty percentage indicates, I consider your participation in this course to be an essential component of its success. Participation includes regular attendance. In this vein, anything beyond two unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your participation grade. (I realize that things come up – the key to managing your various responsibilities is open communication.) Chronic tardiness will not help your cause, either. However, participation includes much more than attendance. Your participation grade is a reflection of your **engagement** with the course. I understand that not everyone chooses to speak in each class, but there are lots of other ways to show engagement: Make eye contact during lecture. When I request that you post to the course site, do so thoughtfully and punctually. Come by office hours now and then – even if you don't have a particular agenda. Be sure to proof-



Primary Document Exercise: 10%

Scheduled for mid-November, this assignment will require you to select three primary documents about a given matter from the same archival material you will use in your map/chronology assignment. Once you have selected particular documents, you will write three pages in which you discuss the documents and explain their relevance/importance in our course.

Annotated Bibliography: 10%

The annotated bibliography constitutes an essential component of your preparation for your final projects. You will be working with Catherine Rod, the consulting librarian for history, on assembling sources for your bibliography. I will provide more details about the annotated bibliography in due time.

Map and Chronology Assignments: 15%

You will be responsible for creating and maintaining a map and chronology that measures change over time in various ways. If you update your maps and chronologies regularly, then this assignment will not be a burden. In fact, steady work will be a way to review as we move along in the course. If you leave these assignments until the last minute before the two deadlines, you will find yourself frustrated and will submit shoddy work. Beyond its value as an important tool for keeping little details straight within a bigger picture, this assignment challenges you to manage your time.

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I will accept *only* hard copies of written work (unless otherwise noted). All work is due in class. I do not want to hear excuses about printing problems. You are responsible for planning your time in such a way that you can turn your work in on time.

Know that I am pre-disposed to saying no to requests for extensions. I provide plenty of notice for each of the assignments – it is your responsibility to plan your time accordingly. That said, please do not be shy about approaching me for an extension if you have extenuating circumstances. I



“Draft Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the Ottoman Empire and France, February 1535,” Gelvin, pp. 60-61.

September 1: Reading community in *Al-Jabarti's Chronicle*

Al-Jabarti, Intro and 1-61.

Class exercise: What do we do when we read primary sources?

September 6: Al-Jabarti continued

Al-Jabarti, 62-118.

Class exercise: Mapping the Emergence of the Modern Middle East.

BECOMING MODERN? CLASS, ECONOMY, AND NATIONALISM

September 8: Becoming Modern?

James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 69-99.

“Hatt-i Sharif (1839)” and “Islahat Fermani (1856),” pp. 148-153.

Lord Cromer, *Modern Egypt* (selections on pweb).

September 13: Becoming Modern (cont.)?

Al-Jabarti treatment due.

James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 111-131.

August Comte, *Introduction to Positive Philosophy*, pp. vii-xii and 1-35 (pweb).

September 15: Economy and Class

Timothy Mitchell, *Rule of Experts*, pp. 1-18, 54-79.

Amin, “Economic Change under Muhammad ‘Ali” (pweb).

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September 20: Economy and Class (cont.)

Zachary Lockman, "Imagining the Working Class" (R).

Amin, "Tahtawi and Justice" (pweb).

September 23: Economy and Class (cont.)

Keith Watenpaugh, *Being Modern in the Middle East*, pp. 1-54.

"Commercial Convention," Gelvin, pp. 147-148.

September 27: Economy and Class (cont.)

Keith Watenpaugh, *Being Modern in the Middle East*, pp. 55-94.

"Young Turk Proclamation, 1908" (pweb).

September 29: Economy and Class (cont.)

Keith Watenpaugh, *Being Modern in the Middle East*, pp. 95-120.

October 4: Emergent Nationalism

Elliot Colla, *Conflicted Antiquities*, pp. 1-15, 72-115.

October 6: Emergent Nationalism (cont.)

Elliot Colla, *Conflicted Antiquities*, pp. 121-171.

Lord Cromer's Farewell Speech (pweb).

Distribute mid-term assignment prompt: Mustafa Kamil, "What the National Party Wants" (pweb).

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Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen, *Defining Islam for the Egyptian State* (R).

Muhammad Abduh, *Theology of Unity*, in Gelvin, pp. 161-162.

Muhammad Abduh, "Necessity of Religious Reform" (R).

November 8: Religion and National Life (cont.)

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November 22: Religion and National Life

James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 294-303.

Elliott Colla, *Conflicted Antiquities*, pp. 260-277.

Sayyid Qutb, *Milestones* and *In the Shade of the Qur'an* (pweb).

November 29: Religion and National Life (cont.)

James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 282-293.

Khomeini, Introduction to “Islamic Government” (R).

Ayatollah Montazari’s Fatwa on Legitimacy of Supreme Leader (pweb).

December 1: The Middle East and Global Capitalism

James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 247-256.

Timothy Mitchell, “McJihad” (R).

December 6: Iraq in **Contexts**

Final maps and chronology due

James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 257-270.

Walker, “The Making of Modern Iraq” (R).

Visser, “Other People’s Maps” (R).

December 8: Wrap-Up