

History of the Middle East II

Professor Tom Ewing

Office hours: Tuesday 2:00-4:00; Thursday 9:00-11:00, and by appointment

Major Williams 439. Email: etewing@vt.edu. Phone: 231-8366

History 2346

Spring 2009

McBryde 126

CRN 16640

This course covers the history of the Middle East from the late eighteenth century to the present. The emphasis of the course is on the people, events, and processes that shaped the history of this region. Class sessions and assignments will develop skills of primary source analysis and synthetic understanding of causal relationships. Throughout the semester, attention will be devoted to the contemporary significance of historical perspectives.

Required Texts:

Akram Khater, *Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East* (2003) 0395980674

Juan Cole, *Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East* (2007) 0230606032

Rashid Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire* (2005) 0807002356

James L. Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A History* (2007) 0195327594

Alternative text: William Ochsenswald and Syndey Fisher, [O&F] *The Middle East: A History* (2003)

Assignment	Date	Share of Semester Grade
Exams	February 24, April 21	40%
Papers (2 @ 4 pages each)	February 5, March 24	30%
Final essay (8 pages)	May 1, 2009	20%
Writing exercises	10+ during semester	10%

This course is designed to encourage active learning, in which students' engagement with the material, with the instructor, and with each other is essential to the process of learning. Most of the course will be taught in a lecture format, but with ample time for questions and occasional periods of discussion. In order to understand the lectures, ask questions, and participate in the discussions, students should do the reading ahead of time, following the schedule outlined below. Students are encouraged to ask questions during class, either to clarify lectures and readings or to explore connections between class materials and contemporary events. Students are also welcome to ask questions and pursue further discussion with the instructor during office hours or via email. Questions on the exams will be taken from readings, lectures (including examples, illustrations, and topics not necessarily included in readings), discussions, and films. The final essay is a cumulative interpretation of the history of the modern Middle East and will be based entirely on assigned readings, lectures, and other assignments. Students are strongly encouraged to reflect on the final essay throughout the semester. Writing exercises may be announced ahead of time and due in a designated class session, or may be conducted during the class. Writing exercises will not be given an individual letter grade, but some take-home assignments may be graded on a point scale. Make up writing exercises must be turned in by the next class meeting. A cumulative grade for writing exercises will be used to calculate the final grade. All work must conform to the Virginia Tech Honor Code. The History 2346 page on Blackboard will include the following materials: syllabus, writing exercises, paper and final essay assignments, lecture outlines, and supplemental texts. Materials will be made available on the website following each class. The syllabus and paper assignment are also available from the instructor's website: www.history.vt.edu/ewing. Whenever possible, changes in schedules and assignments will be made in class. Graded work will be returned in class. Students needing any kind of accommodations should contact the instructor.

Date	Topics	Assignments
January 20	Introduction	
January 22	Middle Eastern overview	Gelvin, pp. 9-26
January 27	Empires	Gelvin, pp. 27-60; Cole, pp. 1-84; [O&F, pp. 202-230]
January 29	Islam and modernity	Khater, pp. 10-65; Cole, pp. 85-160
February 3	Imperial transformations	Khater, pp. 66-108; Cole, pp. 161-248
February 5	Nationalist ideologies	Paper due Gelvin, pp. 73-99, 123-146; [O&F, pp. 294-360]
February 10	World War I in the Near East	Gelvin, pp. 175-197; [O&F, pp. 361-389]
February 12	Paris Peace Conference	Khater, pp. 109-145
February 17	Mandate system	Khater, pp. 145-181; Gelvin, pp. 197-205
February 19	Quest for self-determination	Khater, pp. 182-246; [O&F, pp. 393-461]
February 24		Exam
February 26	Establishment of Israel	Gelvin, pp. 206-215; [O&F, pp. 533-555]
March 3	Suez crisis	Gelvin, pp. 231-246
March 5	Nationalism in power	Khater, pp. 252-275, 286-288; [O&F, pp. 499-512]
SPRING BREAK		
March 17	Oil and the economy	Gelvin, pp. 247-257; Khalidi, pp. 74-117; [O&F, pp. 696-717]
March 19	Middle East in the Cold War	Gelvin, pp. 257-270
March 24	1973 War	Paper due Gelvin, pp. 271-281; [O&F, pp. 556-625]
March 26	The search for peace	Khalidi, pp. 37-73
March 31	Iranian revolution	Khater, pp. 298-302; Gelvin, pp. 282-293; [O&F, pp. 513-532]
April 2	Cultural transformations	Khater, pp. 276-282, 331-359
April 7	Islamic political movements	Gelvin, pp. 294-303; [O&F, pp. 626-666]
April 9	Civil and regional conflicts	Khater, pp. 289-298, 302-309
April 14	Social changes	Khater, pp. 309-314
April 16	Iraq war I	Khalidi, pp. 118-151
April 21		Exam
April 23	September 11 and after	Khater, pp. 359-371; Gelvin, pp.1-8
April 28	Human rights and security	Khater, pp. 372-416
April 30	Iraq war II	Khalidi, p. v-xvi; 1-36, 152-176
		Final essay due May 1
May 5	Middle East today	