ASH 3223: History of the Modern Middle East

Dr. Michelle Campos  
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Office Hours: Weds. 9:30-11:30  
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University of Florida  
Fall 2018  
T Period 4 (10:40-11:30)  
Th Periods 4/5 (10:40-12:35)  
Keene-Flint 105

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys the history, politics, and society of the Middle East from the late 18th century until the immediate post-WWII period. We will think critically about: the transformation of the Middle East from autonomous Islamic empires to colonized mandates to independent states; the development of collective identities such as nationalism; the role of religion and ethnicity in political and social life; the formation and mobilization of new social classes and changing gender relations; the Middle East through the lenses of European colonialism, decolonization and the Cold War, and increased American involvement; revolution, war, and civil strife; and popular culture. This course will prepare you for upper-level, specialized courses in the contemporary Middle East, US-Middle East relations, and other topics. No previous knowledge is required for this course.

COURSE AIMS:

1) To introduce students to the major historical transformations of the modern Middle East over the past 200+ years. Clearly we cannot—nor will we attempt to—cover the region’s history fully; instead, this survey will introduce you to major themes, actors, and problems in the modern history of the region. Geographically, we will focus on the Eastern Mediterranean (Turkey, Egypt, and the Mashriq), with some attention paid to North Africa (the Maghrib) and Iran.

2) To promote historical thinking—the ability to analyze texts as well as conceptual and thematic issues critically, not simply to memorize and regurgitate historical “facts.” We will concern ourselves with asking: a) how historical actors interpreted the world they lived in as well as the changes they lived through and to an extent took part in affecting; b) why and how certain historical developments occurred; c) how and why individuals, social groups, and states construct particular narratives of the past; and d) how professional historians interpret, analyze, and craft histories of the region.

EXPECTATIONS:

1) Attendance and active participation** in all course sessions is mandatory. It is your responsibility to sign in on a daily basis—retroactive attendance will not
be credited. Cumulative absences beyond two “free passes” for reasons other than legitimate, documented illness or emergency will be penalized. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

** See “Assignments” section below for an explanation of what I mean by “active participation.”

The attached Schedule lists the daily topics and reading assignments. Please make sure you are prepared for each day’s discussion by having read the reading assignments closely and critically before each session, since I may call on students at random.

For any given set of readings, consider the following questions as a starting point from which to develop your own thoughts: What kind of text are we reading (newspaper article, eyewitness account, political tract, biography, short story, memoir, scholarly analysis, etc.)? Who wrote it and who was their intended audience? You should identify and evaluate its historical context, the central narrative or argument, the kinds of evidence the author marshals to support it, and the political or cultural stakes at hand.

2) **Website:** https://elearning.ufl.edu/

Students are expected to use the course website regularly to download course materials (syllabus, assignments, weekly discussion questions, occasional texts), upload assignments, and to keep up with any course announcements and calendar changes. By virtue of being registered in the class, you are already registered on the course’s e-learning roster.

If you have any technical questions or difficulties, please see the e-learning FAQ (https://kb.helpdesk.ufl.edu/FAQs/E-Learning) or consult with the folks at Academic Computing!

3) **Office Hours & Email:** Please come see me in my office when you have questions or concerns about course topics, assignments, and grades, or if you are interested in discussing other Middle East-related news. You may also contact me via email for factual questions or clarifications (but consult the syllabus first to make sure the information is not already listed here), and I will respond as soon as I can between 9-5 Monday through Friday. Please note: Email is *not* the best forum for discussing assignments, grades, or problems, and I will simply redirect you to my office hours. I also do not regularly check or respond to email in the evenings or on weekends, so plan accordingly.
4) **Classroom Electronics Policy:** Laptop/Tablet/Smartphone devices are allowed during class-time on a provisional basis; if you are found to be using your device for non-course-related matters, you will not be allowed to use it further. Although you can work off of a PDF of assigned readings, you are encouraged to bring a hard copy of all readings to class and to take notes on the margins of the actual paper or in an old-fashioned spiral notebook. Taking good notes on the readings will work to your advantage since quizzes are open-book.

5) **Extra Credit Opportunities:** I will inform the class of any Middle East-related talks or events taking place on campus; however, given that this is a large campus and many student organizations invite speakers, please let me know if you hear of an event I haven’t mentioned! Students who attend a relevant talk and submit a 1-2 page analysis (not summary) are eligible to earn one extra credit point per talk. Extra credit points factor into the final participation grade. Extra credit talks are important because not only will they possibly make a difference in your grade, but you also will feel more engaged in the intellectual life of the UF community.

**Course Assignments:**

1) **Personal Photo:** Please make sure that your elearning profile has a photo of you, with your face clearly visible. This helps me and your fellow classmates learn your name relatively quickly.

2) **Daily active participation: (20%)**
   Your participation grade will be a function of the quantity and quality of your classroom engagement. Just showing up is not enough—doing the readings on a regular basis and participating thoughtfully in class discussions is considered “active participation.”

3) **Reading Quizzes (4): (40%)**
   Approximately every 3-4 weeks, we will have an online reading quiz. The quizzes will be open book/open note, and you will be able to take the quiz at your convenience within a specified window. Quizzes will be short-answer, and will follow the format of our discussions about readings, so paying attention in class is essential.

4) **Primary Source Analysis: (15%) (750-1000 words; 3-4 pages)**
   You will choose one primary source document from Charles Kurzman’s *Modernist Islam* sourcebook (on course reserve) on which to base your analysis. This should offer a brief summary of the document, but the main focus should be on contextualization and analysis. Due October 1.

5) **Online World War I Exhibit: (25%)**
In conjunction with the centennial of the end of World War I, we will be visiting the Harn Museum’s exhibit on WWI postcards. Since the museum exhibition focuses on Europe and North America, your task will be to create an alternative exhibit about WWI in the Middle East. This will be based on selected primary, secondary, photographic, and cartographic sources.

Deadline for submission of exhibit theme and identification of your two main sources is Monday, October 29. Deadline for final submission is Friday, December 7.

ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:

a. Students who need an extension on an assignment must consult the professor prior to the deadline. An extension will be granted only in cases of genuine emergency, so plan accordingly. Turning in an assignment late without an official, documented extension will result in a deduction of 1/3 grade per day (i.e., if your essay is inexplicably 3 days late, your “A” paper will automatically become a “B”, your “B” paper a “C”, and so on).

GRADES:

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Primary Source Analysis</td>
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<td>Online World War I Exhibit</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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NOTE ON GRADES:

Your final grade is directly correlated to the effort you make in the class. Other than in cases of genuine error/miscalculation, I will not consider requests to curve, “forgive,” or otherwise alter the grade you earn. If you need a certain grade to graduate with honors, meet major requirements, get into law school, or make your parents happy, make sure you do the appropriate level of work throughout the semester. If you are concerned about your grade, by all means, come talk to me early on so that we can jointly address ways you might improve your course performance.

Please note the UF grading scale:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

In my course, note the following numeric grading scale:

- A  = 94-100
- A- = 90-93
- B+ = 87-89
- B  = 84-86
- B- = 80-83
- C+ = 77-79
- C  = 74-76
- C- = 70-73
- D+ = 67-69
- D  = 64-66
- D- = 60-63
- E  = below 60
E1 = 0.0 Stopped attending or participating prior to end of class
I (incomplete) = 0.0

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

• **PLAGIARISM**: In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else’s work. Failure to give appropriate credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM. For more information about the university academic honesty and integrity policy, see [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/)
  o All uploaded assignments will first be run through the Turnitin database to check for originality.
  o **ALL CASES OF SUSPECTED PLAGIARISM WILL BE REPORTED TO THE APPROPRIATE UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

• **SPECIAL NEEDS**: Should you have special medical needs, please discuss this with the course instructor at the beginning of the semester. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office ([www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

• **CONFIDENTIALITY**: Student records are confidential. UF views each student, not their parent(s), as the primary contact for all communication. For more information, see: [www.registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html)

• **COURSE EVALUATIONS**: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.

• **HELP**: Should you need special assistance during the semester, please contact:
  o University counseling services and mental health services: 352-392-1575, [http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx)
  o University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

REQUIRED READINGS: The following books are available for purchase at local bookstores or online vendors; the books are also on reserve in Library West, but plan ahead if you intend to rely on the library copies to ensure availability. *(Please note that books must be physically checked out of the library at the Circulation Desk, and are available in 2-hour blocks only. “I couldn’t find the book” and “It was checked out
all day” are *NOT* valid excuses for not having read the assigned reading on a regular basis.)

(rec.) Charles Kurzman, Modernist Islam
Halide Edib, House with Wisteria
Naguib Mahfouz, Midaq Alley

USEFUL REFERENCE WORKS:

[R] Akram Khater, Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East
[R] Camron Amin, Benjamin Fortna, Elizabeth Frierson, eds., The Modern Middle East: A Sourcebook for History
Cambridge Encyclopedia of the Middle East and North Africa, Reference (3rd Floor) DS44 .C37 1988
Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East, Reference DS43 .E53 1996
Islamic Desk Reference, Reference DS35.53 .I83 1994

Useful Digital Resources in Middle East history:
http://www.docblog.ottomanhistorypodcast.com
http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/
http://www.midafternoonmap.com/

COURSE CALENDAR:

Key:
R – Hard copy reserve at circulation desk only
ER – electronic reserve; can access pdf link through course reserves website
Suppl. Doc. – supplementary document/primary source

Week 1: Orientations
Th 8/23 Questions of Space, Time, and Politics; Orientalism

In-Class Film and Discussion: “Ottoman Empire: A World of Difference”

Week 2: The World and the Ottoman Empire in 1800
T 8/28 Approaching the Last Islamic Empire

[ER] *Suppl. Doc.*: 2 responsa from Matt Goldish’s *Jewish Questions*

Th 8/30  
**Muslims and Non-Muslims in Daily Life**


**Weeks 3-4: Empire, Modernity and Social Change**

T 9/4  
**Age of Reforms**


Th 9/6  
**Top-Down vs Bottom-Up Reform**


T 9/11  
**Imperial Fragmentation and Expansion of the State: Muhammad ‘Ali’s Egypt**


Th 9/13  
**Seeking Justice**


ONLINE Quiz 1

Week 5: The Colonial Encounter I

T 9/18  France in Algeria

Th 9/20  Britain in Egypt

Week 6: The Fin de siècle (Turn of the Century) in the Middle East

T 9/25  Ottoman Orientalism

Th 9/27  Islamic Modernism

Week 7: Making Collectivities

Primary Source Analysis DUE 10/1

T 10/2  Religion, Politics and the Public Sphere

Th 10/4  Nationalism


Online Quiz 2

**Week 8: New Men and Women**

T 10/9 In-Class Documentary, “The Greedy Heart of Halide Edib”

Th 10/11 Discussion: Halide Edib, *House with Wisteria* (selections)

*Suppl. Doc.*: Michael Talbot, “Hanimefendis just wanna have fun…an Alcoholic Postcard from Late Ottoman Istanbul,” at

**Weeks 9-10: World War I and the Re-Shaping of the Middle East**

T 10/16 Constitutional Revolution


Th 10/18 The March to War


Choose 1 supplementary document below

*Suppl. Doc.*: Chris Gratien, “Fingers for the Sultan?”
Suppl. Doc.: Chris Gratien, “Women and the War Effort”


T 10/23 The Ethnic Break-Up of the Ottoman Empire

Th 10/25 Harn Museum Visit – WWI Exhibit

Online Quiz 3

Weeks 11-13: Constructing and Contesting the ‘Nation’ in the Eastern Mediterranean

T 10/30 Making the Nation I: Language and National Purity
Suppl. Doc.: Nicholas Danforth, “Speak Turkish, or Speak Softly…”
http://www.docblog.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2013/12/speak-turkish-or-speak-softly-pragmatic.html

Th 11/1 Making the Nation II: Colonial Mandates
Suppl. Doc: Khater, 5.6: “Women and the Vote in Syria (1920)"

T 11/6 Making the Nation III: Uprising

Th 11/8 Making the Nation IV: Sectarianism Compared


T 11/13  Interwar Urban Society  
**Discussion:** Neguib Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley*

Th 11/15  Interwar Urban Society  
**Discussion:** Neguib Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley*

T 11/20  In-Class Documentary: “1913: Seeds of Conflict”

**Th 11/22**  *Happy Thanksgiving!*

T 11/27  Zionism, Anti-Zionism, and the Palestine Mandate  
**Suppl. Doc:** *Zionism and Anti-Zionism primary source translations*

Th 11/29  The 1948 War: Between “Liberation” (*shichur*) and “Catastrophe” (*nakba*)  
**Discussion:** [ER] Meron Benvenisti, *Sacred Landscape* (selections)

**Online Quiz 4**

T 12/4  The Middle East in the Post-WWII Era