

The Modern Middle East

The Middle East is frequently described as a “problem region” by journalists and policymakers, where passion prevails over reason, where primordial loyalties are privileged over socio-economic or political coalitions. This course aims to step beyond such generalizations, by way of an overview of the region’s modern history. This overview will provide a context with which students can approach further work in modern Middle Eastern studies. Perhaps more importantly, the course will, in its own right, enable students to adopt an informed, critical perspective on the region’s current conflicts and challenges. Specifically, the course covers Egypt, Turkey, Iran, the Fertile Crescent, and the Arabian Peninsula. After surveying the Ottoman world in the nineteenth century, students will examine the emergence of the principal nation-states of the Middle East in the wake of the First World War. Although political currents are considered in depth, much discussion is devoted to associated social, intellectual, cultural, and economic developments.

Evaluation:

1500-word essay, based on materials distributed to all students 30%

In-class mid-term examination 25%

In-class final examination 35%

Tutorial participation 10%

Texts:

- William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, fourth edition (Westview Press, 2008).
- Camron Michael Amin, Benjamin C. Fortna, and Elizabeth B. Frierson, eds. *The Modern Middle East: A Sourcebook for History*, paperback edition (Oxford University Press, 2007).

Map Quiz: Scheduled for Friday, September 17th, the map quiz will form part of each student’s participation grade. Students will be given an outline map of the region and a list of twenty-five cities and physical landmarks. They will be asked to locate twenty on the map. In preparation for the quiz, students should locate the following:

Aleppo	Alexandria	Amman	Ankara
Baghdad	Bahrain	Beirut	Cairo
Damascus	Dubai	Haifa	Hama
Isfahan	Istanbul	Izmir	Karbala
Mecca	Medina	Nablus	Najaf
Qatar	Qum	Riyadh	Sulaymaniyyah
Tehran	Tel Aviv	Arabian Sea	Black Sea
Euphrates River	Gulf of Aden	Nile River	Persian Gulf
Red Sea	Straits of Tiran	The Bosphorus	Tigris River

Class Discussions/Participation:

1. Repeated absences from lectures or tutorials will lead to a failing participation grade. You must consult the instructor should you have to miss classes for health or family reasons.
2. Discussions in tutorials are based on two components listed in the syllabus below: (a) the primary source reading(s) for the week and (b) the discussion question(s) for the week. Regardless of whether the professor has dealt with the topic of the discussion question in lecture, students are expected to come to their weekly tutorial having completed all readings relevant to the discussion question for the week.
3. Completion of the readings before class and a consistent effort to contribute to class discussions will be rewarded with high participation marks. Lateness and poor preparation for class will be penalized.

News: At the beginning of the term, students must select one Middle Eastern newspaper and one non-Middle Eastern newspaper to consult on a regular basis online during the term. There is a wide range of Middle Eastern newspapers available in English editions on the web, and students may choose whatever newspaper they wish, as long as the newspaper is headquartered in a Middle Eastern country. As for the non-Middle Eastern paper, again the choice is up to the student, as long as the newspaper has a reporter or bureau based in the Middle East. Among the websites I would recommend for consultation are

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/babylonbeyond>

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/rss/-/1/hi/world/middle_east/default.stm

Students are invited to send articles they find particularly interesting or related to course themes to the instructor.

Lecture Recordings: The instructor has agreed to have his lectures recorded and made available to students enrolled in the course through...

http://cgi.sfu.ca/~lectures/pub_html/cgi-bin/index.php and/or

<http://itunesu.sfu.ca/>

Students are *strongly* advised *not* to view listening to these recordings as a substitute for attending lectures. Attendance at lectures is a course requirement. Failure to attend lectures will be noted and will result in a reduction of the participation grade.

Cheating and Plagiarism: I will not tolerate cheating or plagiarism. If you are having trouble with a concept or assignment, meet with the instructor well before the relevant deadlines. Poor, but legitimate, performance in a given assignment is far preferable to jeopardizing your academic career through fraud.

Week I

Wednesday, September 8, 2010: Introduction

Friday, September 10, 2010: Islam and the Ottoman World

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 37-56.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 1.1 "A provincial treasurer reports, c. 1674," p. 3;
- (2) Section 1.2 "An Armenian account of the Ottoman siege of Erevan, 1724," p. 7;
- (3) Section 1.3 "Concord and harmony among Ottoman provincial governors" p. 18;
- (4) Section 1.4 "Negotiating the power of the sultan: Ottoman Deed of Agreement, 1808," p. 22;
- (5) Section 7.1 "A late Ottoman style of architectural poetry: *Tevarih-i manzume*, 1796," p. 466;
- (6) Section 8.1 "The barber of Damascus: chronicle of the year 1749," p. 562;
- (7) Section 8.2 "Six Ottoman documents on the power of guilds in the Balkans, 1760s," p. 569.

Discussion: How centralized was the administration of the Ottoman Empire? What are the advantages to a centralized, uniform administration? What are the disadvantages?

Week II

Wednesday, September 15, 2010: Egypt Under Mehmed Ali

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 64-74.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 1.5 "Creating new institutions: organization of Egypt's medical establishment," p. 31;
- (2) Section 1.6 "Observing Muhammad 'Ali and his administration at work, 1843-1846," p. 39;
- (3) Section 6.3 "The Journals of an Ottoman student in England, July 1829 to January 1830," p. 401;
- (4) Section 8.3 "Economic change: Muhammad 'Ali's development schemes in Egypt and Syria, 1834 and 1837," p. 575.

Discussion: Was Mehmed Ali the 'founder of modern Egypt'? If not, how should one view him and his legacy?

Friday, September 17, 2010: Map quiz

Week III

Wednesday, September 22, 2010: The Politics of the Notables

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 81-92.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 1.8 "Discipline in a late Ottoman provincial secondary school, 1903," p. 48;
- (2) Section 5.1 "On justice towards peasants: from Tahtawi's *Paths of Egyptian Minds*," p. 305;
- (3) Section 5.2 "An official report on efforts to re-establish Ottoman control over Kuwait," p. 311;
- (4) Section 7.2 "Imams in the army of Mahmud II: regulations from Ottoman archives," p. 471.

Friday, September 24, 2010: The Nature of Colonial Rule

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 92-109.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 6.6 "The battle for British opinion on Turkey and the Eastern Question," p. 416;

- (2) Section 7.6 "Three poems on British involvement in Yemen, 1937," p. 492;
(3) Section 8.4 "Financial imperialism and development: the Public Debt Administration," p. 584.

Discussion: Should one hold the notables responsible for the advent of colonial rule in the Middle East? If not the notables, whom?

Week IV

Wednesday, September 29, 2010: Islamic Reform

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 119-128.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 4.1 "An intellectual biography of a religious scholar in Ottoman Damascus," p. 226;
(2) Section 7.3 "Science in religious education: a fatwa from Cairo, 1888," p. 477.

Friday, October 1, 2010: Turks and Arabs in the Late Ottoman Empire

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 128-143.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 2.4 "The aftermath of revolution in the Ottoman cartoon space, 1909-1910," p. 108;
(2) Section 5.3 "Nationalism, Ottomanism, pluralism, humanism: Sufi writing," p. 314;
(3) Section 5.4 "Excerpts from 'Three Kinds of Politics' by Akçuraoglu Yusuf, 1911," p. 320;
(4) Section 5.5 "Pan-Asianism in the late Ottoman Empire, 1905-1912," p. 331;
(5) Section 5.6 "Armenian and Iranian collaboration in the constitutional revolution, 1908," p. 339;
(6) Section 5.7 "Excerpts from Ahmet Agaoglu's *The Turkish World*, 1912-1913," p. 344;
(7) Section 6.4 "The young Ottoman: Namik Kemal's 'Progress,' 1872," p. 406;
(8) Section 6.8 "Conceptualizing modernity in late Ottoman times: Japan as a model," p. 432.

Discussion: Were Islamic modernists entirely hostile to the spread of Western influence in the Middle East?

Week V

Wednesday, October 6, 2010: Zionism

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 239-244.

Sourcebook: Section 5.8 "Sephardic Zionism in the Ottoman Empire: 'The Time is Here'," p. 350.

Friday, October 8, 2010: World War I

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 149-170.

Sourcebook: Section 6.9 "The Ottoman home front, a German correspondent's remarks," p. 441.

Web readings: "The Husayn-McMahon Correspondence," "Tripartite (Sykes-Picot) Agreement for the Partition of the Ottoman Empire: Britain, France and Russia," and "The British (Balfour) Declarations of Sympathy with Zionist Aspirations"

<http://bss.sfsu.edu/nfwatts/Husayn-McMahonCorrespondence.doc>

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/sykes.asp
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/balfour.asp

Discussion: In what ways is Zionism a secular movement?

Week VI [No tutorial this week: Review for mid-term exam]

Wednesday, October 13, 2010: Kemalism

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 175-185.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 2.7 "Cartoon from the Turkish comic *LeMan* entitled 'A So-Called Short Story,'" p. 127;
- (2) Section 3.5 "The Turkish 'Modern Woman': two press articles, 1924 and 1926," p. 191;
- (3) Section 4.3 "Kemal Atatürk on the abolition of the Ottoman caliphate, 3 March 1924," p. 233;
- (4) Section 7.4 "A memorial to a young Assyrian refugee, 1922," p. 482.

Friday, October 15, 2010: *Mid-term examination*

Week VII

Wednesday, October 20, 2010: The Palestine Mandate

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 244-261.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 1.12 "A protest of the Jewish women workers of Palestine against the ordinance," p. 65;
- (2) Section 3.3 "Two Ottoman officials on gender and class in Nablus, 1916," p. 178;
- (3) Section 3.7 "Interview of the Arab Women's Committee in Jerusalem, 1938," p. 205.

Friday, October 22, 2010: The Emergence of the State of Israel

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 261-271.

Sourcebook: Section 4.9 "Israel at fifty: cultural war in the pages of *Ha'aretz*, 1998," p. 284.

Web reading: Avi Shlaim, "The Debate About 1948," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 27 (1995), 287-304

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/176252>

Discussion: What were the guiding principles behind British policy in Palestine during the Mandate? Were these consistent through the period? Were there guiding principles at all?

Week VIII

Wednesday, October 27, 2010: Nasser and Pan-Arabism

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 301-322.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 1.14 "Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir (Gamal Abd al-Nasser): from *Egypt's Liberation*, 1953," p. 73;
- (2) Section 2.2 "Nationalist imagery in Egypt's presses: drawing from the *Papagallo*," p. 101;
- (3) Section 2.5 "*Seruan Azhar*: a paper published by Southeast Asian students in Cairo," p. 112;
- (4) Section 2.6 "Journalism in Egypt in the 1920s and 1930s: *Education of Salama Musa*," p. 116;
- (5) Section 7.7 "Taha Husayn: revolt against tradition, from *Al-Ayyam (The Days)*, 1939," p. 501.

Friday, October 29, 2010: The Roots of Civil War in Lebanon

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 332-337.

Sourcebook: Section 6.11 "The Lebanese community of Dearborn, Michigan, 1975-2000," p. 456.

Discussion: What was the most significant legacy of Nasser's rule (1) for Egypt and (2) for the Arab world?

Week IX

Wednesday, November 3, 2010: The Legacy of Oil Wealth in the Arabian Peninsula

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 451-472.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 1.10 "Wahhabi *ulama* and the state in Saudi Arabia, 1927," p. 57;
- (2) Section 4.7 "The Committee for Public Morality in Saudi Arabia, 1957," p. 268;
- (3) Section 4.10 "Osama bin Laden's use of history: an audiotape released in early 2004," p. 292.

Friday, November 5, 2010: Case Studies of Authoritarianism

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 397-421.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 1.15 "The Program of the *Ba'th* (Arab Socialist Resurrection) Party, 1963," p. 85;
- (2) Section 6.10 "Muslim state participation in UN human rights debates, 1946-1966," p. 444.

Discussion: Was oil a blessing or a curse for the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula, and of the Middle East as a whole?

Week X

Wednesday, November 10, 2010: Prelude to Revolution in Iran

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 288-299.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 5.10 "Iran and the National Front, a speech by Muhammad Mosaddeq, 1951," p. 360;
- (2) Section 8.5 "Development concessions, the D'Arcy Concession for Iranian oil, 1901," p. 594;
- (3) Section 8.7 "The population as national economic resource: an Iranian press article," p. 623;
- (4) Section 8.8 "Diplomatic and court perspectives on the 'White Revolution' in Iran," p. 627.

Friday, November 12, 2010: Iran Since the Revolution

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 423-440.

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 2.8 "From Internet magazine, *The Iranian*: debate on Persepolis celebrations," p. 132;
- (2) Section 4.8 "Twelver Shi'ism and revolutionary Islam in Iran: from 'Ali Shari'ati, 1968," p. 273;
- (3) Section 7.5 "The Brigadier and the Imam: two poems from Iran, 1923 and 1989," p. 485.

Discussion: How 'Islamic' was the 'Islamic Revolution'? How 'republican' (i.e., pluralist, democratic) is the 'Islamic Republic'?

Week XI

Wednesday, November 17, 2010: Islamism in Theory and Practice

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 440-448.

Sourcebook: Section 1.13 "The program of Hasan al-Banna and the Muslim Brotherhood," p. 68.

Web readings: Sayyid Qutb, "The Characteristics of the Islamic Community and the Correct Method of Its Formation" and "A Muslim's Nationality and Belief," *Milestones*

http://web.youngmuslims.ca/online_library/books/milestones/hold/chapter_3.htm and

http://web.youngmuslims.ca/online_library/books/milestones/hold/chapter_9.htm

[There are countless translations of this text available online and in print. The links above are drawn from only one of these, and you may consult whatever translation(s) you wish.]

Friday, November 19, 2010: Gender

Sourcebook:

- (1) Section 3.2 "'Should a woman demand all the rights of a man?' From *Al-Hilal*, 1894," p. 174;
- (2) Section 3.4 "Excerpts from Antun al-Gamayyil's *The Young Woman and the Home*," p. 184;
- (3) Section 3.8 "Two views of women fighters during the Algerian War of Liberation, 1957," p. 214;
- (4) Section 6.2 "Ottoman-Iranian marriage and the Ottoman legal code, 1822-1926," p. 395.

Discussion: Are Islamists, on the whole, "anti-modern"?

Week XII

Wednesday, November 24, 2010: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict to Oslo

Textbook: Cleveland and Bunton, pp. 345-367 and pp. 499-510.

Sourcebook: Section 5.11 "Anwar al-Sadat's speech to the Israeli Knesset, 1977," p. 368.

Friday, November 26, 2010: Looking to the Future

Web readings: UNDP *Arab Human Development Reports*

<http://www.arab-hdr.org/reports/regionalarab.aspx>

Discussion: Is the Middle East an “exceptional” region, or is it subject to the same social and political forces as any other?

Week XIII [In tutorial this week, submit essays, review for final exam]

Wednesday, December 1, 2010: Preparing for the Exam I – Identifications

Friday, December 3, 2010: Preparing for the Exam II – Essays