

**History 151
Fall 2011**

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office hours Mondays 2:30-3:30 pm,
Wednesdays 11 am-12 noon**

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.

Teaching assistants:

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Evaluation:

1500-word essay, based on materials distributed to all students (November 7, 2011) 30%

In-class mid-term examination (October 5, 2011) 25%

Take-home final examination (December 5-7, 2011) 35%

Tutorial participation 10%

Texts (on reserve at library and available through bookstore):

- Eugene Rogan, *The Arabs: A History*, paperback edition (Basic Books, 2011).
- Ilan Pappé, *The Modern Middle East*, second edition (Routledge, 2010).
- Marvin E. Gittleman and Stuart Schaar, eds., *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader* (Grove, 2003).
- Alaa Al Aswany, *On the State of Egypt: What Made the Revolution Inevitable* (Vintage, 2011).
- ‘Revolution Resources’ website [<http://paulsedra.com/Revolution/>].

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 the discussion question(s) for the week, listed in the syllabus below. 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> and
http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/rss/-/1/hi/world/middle_east/default.stm

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 7, 2011: Introduction

Week II

Monday, September 12, 2011: Islam and the Ottoman World

- Rogan, 13-38.

Wednesday, September 14, 2011: Egypt Under Mehmed Ali

- Rogan, 61-84.

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

Week III

Monday, September 19, 2011: The Politics of the Notables

- Rogan, 85-107.
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - Decrees from the Ottoman *Tanzimat*, 80-84

Wednesday, September 21, 2011: The Nature of Colonial Rule

- Rogan, 109-136.
- Pappé:
 - “The fast pace of change,” 63-70
 - “The colonial invasion of rural space,” 71-76

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

Week IV

Monday, September 26, 2011: Islamic Reform

- Rogan, 136-146.
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - The *Quran* and other Islamic Texts, 12-21
 - Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, Plan for Islamic Union, 97-99
- Al Aswany:
 - “Does Mistreating People Invalidate the Ramadan Fast?” 151-154

Wednesday, September 28, 2011: Arabism, Turkism, Zionism

- Rogan, 147-150.
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - Theodor Herzl, Zionism: The Vision of an Eventual Jewish State, 165-167
- Pappé:
 - “The history of the written word,” 187-209

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

Week V

Monday, October 3, 2011: World War I

- Rogan, 150-174.
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - *Sharif* Husayn bin Ali, Desire for Arab Independence, 113-115
 - Sir Henry McMahon, Qualifying British Pledges, 115-116
 - The Sykes-Picot Agreement on Dividing up Arab Lands, 116-118
 - The Balfour Declaration: A Jewish Home in Palestine, 170-171

Wednesday, October 5, 2011: *Mid-term examination*

No tutorials this week

Week VI

Monday, October 10, 2011: The Politics of the Peasantry

- Pappé:
 - “The rural history of the Middle East in the twentieth century,” 77-113

Wednesday, October 12, 2011: Workers and Their World

- Pappé:
 - “Urban history,” 115-154

Discussion: Is history made in the city?

Week VII

Monday, October 17, 2011: The Palestine Mandate

- Rogan, 197-207.
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - Rashid Rida, Pay Attention to Zionist Encroachment, 168
 - “Tiberias,” Warning of Zionist Colonization, 168-169
 - The General Syrian Congress, Our Objections to Zionism and Western Imperialism, 171-173
 - James Ramsay MacDonald, Letter to Chaim Weizmann, 173-174
 - Vladimir Jabotinsky, Let Us Settle Palestine and Transjordan, 174-176
 - Ted Swedenburg, The Palestinian Revolt, 1936-39, 177-182
 - The Arab Response to the Proposed Partition of Palestine, 182-184
 - The British Government’s White Paper on Palestine, 184-186
 - The Biltmore Program, 186-188

Wednesday, October 19, 2011: The Emergence of the State of Israel

- Rogan, 247-276.
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - UN General Assembly, the Partition Plan: Resolution #181, 189-191
 - UN General Assembly, Palestinian Right of Return: Resolution #194, 191-192
 - The Israeli *Knesset*, The Law of Return, 192-193

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

Monday, October 24, 2011: Nasser and Pan-Arabism

- *Essay topic distributed at end of lecture*
- Rogan, 277-291, 296-308, and 331-343. [Recommended: 319-322.]
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - Jamal Abd al-Nasser, Arab Socialism, 289-291
 - [Recommended: The Truman Doctrine, 245-247.]
 - [Recommended: The Eisenhower Doctrine, 247-248.]
- Pappé:
 - "Living under the threat of nationalization," 154-157
- Al Aswany, "Defending Egypt's Flag," 119-122

Wednesday, October 26, 2011: Mass Culture

- Pappé:
 - "Performing arts: on stage and screen," 211-223
 - [Recommended: "Popular culture: music, dance, and poetry," 165-185.]

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

Week IX

Monday, October 31, 2011: The Legacy of Oil Wealth in the Arabian Peninsula

- Rogan, 177-183 and 355-363.
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - OPEC: Getting Our Share, 262-263
 - Crown Prince Fahd ibn Abd al-Aziz, Oil and the World Economy, 263-265
- Al Aswany, "The Art of Pleasing the President," 11-14.

Wednesday, November 2, 2011: Defining Development

- Pappé:
 - “Theories of modernization,” 2-9
 - “Alternative views,” 9-14
 - “The economic background,” 42-59

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

Monday, November 7, 2011: Sectarianism: The Lebanese Case

- *Essays due at the beginning of lecture*
- Rogan, 379-386, 410-423, and 456-463.
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - The Taif Agreement: Syrian Influence over Lebanon, 293-296

Wednesday, November 9, 2011: The Politics of the Family

- Pappé, “Histories of Middle Eastern women,” 225-269
- Al Aswany:
 - “The Party of the Great Collapse,” 73-78
 - “Why Do Egyptians Harass Women?” 79-82
 - “The Sorrows of Miss Laurence,” 107-110
 - “Why Are Religious Fanatics Obsessed with Women’s Bodies?” 111-114

Discussion: Are you in agreement with Alaa al Aswany about the origins of sexual harassment in Egypt? Why, or why not?

Week XI

Monday, November 14, 2011: Islamism in Theory

- Rogan, 397-405.
- Pappé:
 - “Political Islam as an intellectual discourse,” 272-284
 - “The personal space of Islamic traditions,” 284-288
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - Anwar Sadat, *Infitah: Opening to the West*, 291-293
 - Sayyid Qutb, *Corruptions of the Western World*, 303-306
 - Saad Eddin Ibrahim, *Egypt’s Islamic Militants*, 307-309
 - [Recommended: Hasan al-Banna, *Overcome Western Materialism*, 300-303.]
 - [Recommended: *Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders: The 1998 Fatwa*, 325-327.]

- Al Aswany:
 - “The *Niqab* and Flawed Religiosity,” 87-90
 - “Piety in Front of the Camera,” 91-94
 - “Are Egyptians Really Religious?” 103-106
 - “Before We Damn Switzerland,” 169-172

Wednesday, November 16, 2011: Islamism in Practice: The Iranian Case

- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - Muhammad Mossadeq, Nationalizing Iranian Oil, 254-255
 - Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini, Iran in Imperialism’s Clutches, 255-257
 - Ervand Abrahamian, Democracy or Theocracy: Iran’s Islamic Republic, 257-261
- Pappé:
 - “Iran: the exception or the rule?” 288-290

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

Week XII

Monday, November 21, 2011: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict to 1967

- Rogan, 343-354.
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - Nizar Qabbani, The Catastrophe of Arab Defeat, 194-198
 - Palestinian National Council, The National Charter, 198-201
 - UN Resolution #242: Withdrawal from Occupied Territory, 201-203
 - UN Resolution #338: End the Fighting, 203

Wednesday, November 23, 2011: From 1967 to Oslo

- Rogan, 364-379, 386-392, and 429-438.
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - Yasir Arafat, We Recognize Israel, 204-205
 - Hanan Mikhail-Ashrawi, The Meaning of the *Intifada*, 205-207
 - Charter of the Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine (*Hamas*), 207-211
- Al Aswany:
 - “Should Gaza Pay the Price for Hereditary Succession in Egypt?” 19-22
 - “The Importance of Being Human,” 123-126

Discussion: What impact has the domestic politics of Arab states had upon the Arab-Israeli conflict? Will the Arab revolutions of this year hasten or delay a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Week XIII

Monday, November 28, 2011: Authoritarianism

- Rogan, 405-410 and 439-447.
- Gettleman and Schaar:
 - Michel Aflaq, Purifying the National Ideal: *Baath* Ideology, 132-135
- Al Aswany:
 - "Introduction," vii-x
 - "Why Are We Falling Behind as the World Progresses?" 23-26
 - "When Will President Mubarak Grasp This Truth?" 35-38
 - "A Story for Children and Adults," 47-50
 - "Why Don't Egyptians Take Part in Elections?" 61-64
 - "Does Subservience Protect Us from Injustice?" 147-150
 - "A Discussion with a State Security Officer," 161-164
 - "Four Videos to Entertain President Mubarak," 165-168
 - "An Unfortunate Incident Befalls a State Security Officer," 173-176

Wednesday, November 30, 2011: No lecture today (study for take-home exam)

Discussion: Is the Middle East an "exceptional" region, or is it subject to the same social and political forces as any other? [review for take-home exam in tutorial this week]

Week XIV

Monday, December 5, 2011: Revolution 2011

- *take-home exam distributed at end of lecture*
- Pappé:
 - "The media revolution," 293-302
- Al Aswany:
 - select eight (8) essays not already listed above to read for this session
- 'Revolution Resources' website [<http://paulsedra.com/Revolution/>]
 - browse the site as thoroughly as possible, and read at least five (5) of the essays in the 'Analysis and Reflection' section

Wednesday, December 7, 2011: students must return take-home exams in person and in paper format at 11:45 am in AQ 6226