

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 Wednesday, September 16th, 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 | Dubai | Nablus | Black Sea |
| Alexandria | Haifa | Najaf | Euphrates River |
| Amman | Hama | Qatar | Gulf of Aden |
| Ankara | Isfahan | Qum | Nile River |
| Baghdad | Istanbul | Riyadh | Persian Gulf |
| Bahrain | Izmir | Sulaymaniyah | Red Sea |
| Beirut | Karbala | Tehran | Straits of Tiran |
| Cairo | Mecca | Tel Aviv | The Bosphorus |
| Damascus | Medina | Arabian Sea | 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. The instructor will post a selection of articles to Twitter at... <https://twitter.com/sedgate>. If a student's article is selected for posting, he/she will receive a participation bonus.

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 9th: Introduction

Discussion: What is 'modern'? How can one date 'modernity'? What is 'the Middle East'? Why view 'the Middle East' as a unit of analysis?

Friday, September 11th: Islam and the Ottoman World

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 4th ed., pp. 37-56.

Page 3

1.1 A provincial treasurer reports, c.1674
Mark L. Stein

Page 7

1.2 An Armenian account of the Ottoman siege of Erevan, 1724
George Bournoutian

Page 18

1.3 Concord and harmony among Ottoman provincial governors: a grand vizier's advice and warning: Abdullah Paba, 1749
From the Islamfiche project

Page 22

1.4 Negotiating the power of the sultan: the Ottoman Sened-i Ittifak (Deed of Agreement), 1808
Ali Akyildiz and M. Bükrü Hanioclu

Page 466

7.1 A late Ottoman style of architectural poetry: Tevarih-i manzume, 1796
Shirine Hamadeh

Page 562

8.1 The barber of Damascus: Ahmad Budayri al-Hallaq's chronicle of the year 1749
Steve Tamari

Page 569

8.2 Six Ottoman documents on the power of guilds in the Balkans, 1760s
Frederick Anscombe

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 16th: Map Quiz

Friday, September 18th: Egypt Under Mehmed Ali

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 4th ed., pp. 64-74.

Page 31

1.5 Creating new institutions: Clot Bey's organization of Egypt's first modern medical establishment, 1827-1837
Robert G. Landen

Page 39

1.6 Observing Muhammad cAli Pasha and his administration at work, 1843-1846
Paul Sedra

Page 401

6.3 The Journals of an Ottoman student in England, July 1829 to January 1830
Paul Sedra

Page 575

8.3 Economic change: Muhammad 'Ali's development schemes in Egypt and Syria, 1834 and 1837
Robert G. Landen

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

Week III

Wednesday, September 23rd: The Politics of the Notables

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 4th ed., pp. 81-92.

Page 48

1.8 Discipline in a late Ottoman provincial secondary school, 1903
Benjamin C. Fortna

Page 305

5.1 On justice towards peasants: from Rifaa al-Tahtawi's *Paths of Egyptian Minds in the Delights of Modern Culture*, 1869
Juan R. I. Cole

Page 311

5.2 An official report on efforts to re-establish Ottoman control over Kuwait, 1870
Frederick Anscombe

Page 471

7.2 Imams in the reformed army of Mahmud II: uniform regulations from Ottoman military archives, c.1827
Halil Erbay

Friday, September 25th: The Nature of Colonial Rule

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 4th ed., pp. 92-109.

Page 416

6.6 The battle for British public opinion on Turkey and the Eastern Question: two documents, 1876 and 1904
Nazan Çiçek

Page 492

7.6 Three poems on British involvement in Yemen, from the Yemeni press, 1937
Flagg Miller and Ulrike Freitag

Page 586

8.4 Financial imperialism and its relationship to development; the Ottoman Public Debt Administration, 1881-1925
Robert G. Landen

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 30th: Islamic Reform

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 4th ed., pp. 119-128.

Page 226

4.1 An intellectual biography of a religious scholar in Ottoman Damascus: from Ismail al-Ajluni's (d. 1749) 'The Finest and Most Perfect of Men who are Connected by Chains of Transmission to all other Fine Men'
Steve Tamari

Page 477

7.3 Science in religious education: a fatwa from nineteenth-century Cairo
Indira Falk Gesink

Friday, October 2nd: Turks and Arabs in the Late Ottoman Empire

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 4th ed., pp. 128-143.

Page 108

2.4 The aftermath of revolution in the Ottoman cartoon space, 1909-1910

Palmira Brummett

Page 314

5.3 Nationalism, Ottomanism, pluralism, humanism: extracts from the Sufi writing of Abu 'l-Huda al-Sayyadi, 1903

Thomas Eich

Page 320

5.4 Pan-asianism in the late Ottoman Empire, 1905-1912

Renée Worringer

Page 328

5.5 Armenian and Iranian collaboration in the constitutional revolution: the agreement between Dashnakists and Majlis delegates, 1908

Houri Berberian

Page 333

5.6 Excerpts from Üç Tarz-i Siyaset ('Three Kinds of Politics') by Akçuraoclu Yusuf, 1911

Barak Salmoni

Page 344

5.7 Excerpts from Ahmet Acaoclu's *The Turkish World*, 1912-1913

A. Holly Shissler

Page 406

6.4 The young Ottoman: Namik Kemal's 'Progress', 1872

Robert G. Landen

Page 432

6.8 Conceptualizing modernity in late Ottoman times: Japan as a model nation, 1902-1913

Renée Worringer

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

Week V

Wednesday, October 7th: Zionism

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 4th ed., pp. 239-244.

Page 350

5.8 Sephardic Zionism in the Ottoman Empire: 'The Time is Here', Ha-Herut, 1 April 1914
Abigail Jacobson

Friday, October 9th: World War I

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 4th ed., pp. 149-170.

** N.B. 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," available online at...

<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

Page 441

6.9 The Ottoman home front, a German correspondent's remarks, 1917
Robert G. Landen

Discussion: In what ways is Zionism a secular movement?

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

Wednesday, October 14th: Kemalism

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, pp. 175-185.

Page 127

2.7 Cartoon from the satirical Turkish weekly comic LeMan entitled 'Sözde Mini Öykü . . .' ('A So-Called Short Story'), 27 January 2001
Matthew Elliot

Page 191

3.5 The Turkish 'Modern Woman': two press articles, 1924 and 1926
Carole Woodall

Page 233

4.3 Kemal Atatürk on the abolition of the Ottoman caliphate, 3 March 1924
Robert G. Landen

Page 482

7.4 A memorial to a young Assyrian refugee, 1922
Eden Naby

Friday, October 16th: Mid-term examination

Week VII

Wednesday, October 21st: The Palestine Mandate

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, pp. 244-261.

Page 65

1.12 A protest of the Jewish women workers of Palestine against the new municipal ordinance which deprives the women of Palestine of their civic rights, 1934
Ellen Fleischmann

Page 178

3.3 Two Ottoman officials on gender and class in early twentieth-century Nablus, 1916
Weldon C. Matthews

Page 205

3.7 Interview of a deputation of the Arab Women's Committee in Jerusalem at Government House on Thursday, 24 March 1938
Ellen L. Fleischmann

Friday, October 23rd: The Emergence of the State of Israel

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, pp. 261-271.

** N.B. web reading: Avi Shlaim, "The Debate About 1948," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 27 (1995), 287-304, available online at...

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

Page 284

4.9 Israel at fifty: the cultural war in the pages of Ha'aretz and the Jerusalem Post, 1998
Danny Ben-Moshe

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 28th: Nasser and Pan-Arabism

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, pp. 301-322.

Page 73

1.14 Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir (Gamal Abd al-Nasser): from Egypt's Liberation, 1953
From the Islamfiche project

Page 101

2.2 Nationalist imagery in Egypt's tabloid presses: a drawing from the Egyptian Papagallo, 1904
Indira Falk Gesink

Page 112

2.5 Seruan Azhar: a paper published by Southeast Asian students in Cairo, 1925
Michael Laffan

Page 116

2.6 Journalism in Egypt in the 1920s and 1930s: from The Education of Salama Musa, 1947
From the Islamfiche project

Page 501

7.7 Taha Husayn: revolt against tradition, from Al-Ayyam (The Days), 1939
From the Islamfiche project

Friday, October 30th: The Roots of Civil War in Lebanon

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, pp. 332-337.

Page 456

6.11 The Lebanese community of Dearborn, Michigan, 1975-2000
Ronald R. Stockton

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

Week IX

Wednesday, November 4th: The Legacy of Oil Wealth in the Arabian Peninsula

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 4th ed., pp. 451-472.

Page 57

1.10 Wahhabi ulama and the state in Saudi Arabia, 1927
Guido Steinberg

Page 268

4.7 The Committee for Public Morality in Saudi Arabia, 1957
Guido Steinberg

Page 292

4.10 Osama bin Laden's use of history: an audiotape released in early 2004
Benjamin C. Fortna

Friday, November 6th: Case Studies of Authoritarianism

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, pp. 397-421.

Page 85

1.15 The Program of the Baath (Arab Socialist Resurrection) Party, 1963
Robert G. Landen

Page 444

6.10 Muslim state participation in UN human rights debates, 1946-1966
Susan Waltz

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 [N.B. No tutorials this week, but attendance at the film screenings is mandatory]

Wednesday, November 11th and Friday, November 13th: Film screening (in two parts) of *The Circle* (Iran, 2000, 91 minutes)

“A woman gives birth to a baby girl. Little does she know, but she and her daughter are already unwanted. Three women are released from prison and their need for money leads them to take desperate measures. An unmarried woman seeking an abortion is rejected from her father's house by the violent threats of her brothers.

“Their crimes are vague, their guilt or innocence unimportant. Their paths cross, the suspense of their intrigues heightens. Their plights are often too tragically similar. Their world is one of constant surveillance, bureaucracy and age-old inequalities. But this stifling world cannot extinguish the spirit, strength and courage of the circle of women.”

Week XI

Wednesday, November 18th: Prelude to Revolution in Iran

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, pp. 288-299.

Page 360

5.10 Iran and the National Front, a speech by Muhammad Mosaddeq, 27 September 1951
Robert G. Landen

Page 594

8.5 Development concessions, the D'Arcy Concession for Iranian oil, 29 May 1901
Robert G. Landen

Page 623

8.7 The population as a national economic resource: an Iranian press article, 1937
Cyrus Schayegh

Page 627

8.8 Diplomatic and court perspectives on the 'White Revolution' in Iran, 1958-1971
Ali M. Ansari

Friday, November 20th: Iran Since the Revolution

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, pp. 423-440.

Page 132

2.8 From the Internet magazine, *The Iranian*, 25 January 2002: a debate on the legacy of the Persepolis celebrations of 1971
Cyrus Kadivar and Jahanshah Javid

Page 273

4.8 Twelver Shiism and revolutionary Islam in Iran: from Ali Shariati's, *Approaches to the Understanding of Islam*, 1968
From the Islamfiche project

Page 485

7.5 The Brigadier and the Imam: two commemorative poems from Iran, 1923 and 1989
Paul E. Losensky

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

Week XII

Wednesday, November 25th: Islamism in Theory and Practice

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, pp. 440-448.

** N.B. 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*, available online at...

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.]

Page 68

1.13 The program of Hasan al-Banna and the Muslim Brotherhood, 1936
Robert G. Landen

Friday, November 27th: Gender

Page 174

3.2 'Should a woman demand all the rights of a man?' From the Cairo periodical, Al-Hilal, 1894
Sarah Gualtieri

Page 184

3.4 Excerpts from Antun al-Gamayyil's textbook, 'The Young Woman and the Home', 1916
Mona Russell

Page 214

3.8 Two views of women fighters during the Algerian War of National Liberation, 1957
Ryme Seferdjeli

Page 395

6.2 Ottoman-Iranian marriage and the Ottoman legal code in the nineteenth century
Karen M. Kern

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

Week XIII

Wednesday, December 2nd: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict to Oslo

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, pp. 345-367 and pp. 499-510.

Page 368

5.11 Anwar al-Sadat's speech to the Israeli Knesset, 1977

Friday, December 4th: Looking to the Future

** N.B. web readings: UNDP *Arab Human Development Reports*, available online at...

<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?