

## THE ARAB MIDDLE EAST IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

SPRING 2009

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This course examines major themes in the history of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, and the states of the Arabian Peninsula during the twentieth century. Among the topics students will explore are the legacy of the Ottoman Empire in the Arab world; the development of narratives of Arab nationalism; the political cultures of peasants, workers, and women; the influence of the military upon Arab societies; and the internal dynamics and interactions of monarchical and republican regimes. As the course focuses principally on social, cultural, and political developments within the Arab world, there is little coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

**Evaluation:**

Three one-hour tests	30%
Term paper	40%
Debate presentation	20%
Class participation	10%

**Texts:**

- *Rethinking Nationalism in the Arab Middle East* by James Jankowski and Israel Gershoni, eds., Columbia University Press (1997) [hereafter JJ]
- *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism* by Zachary Lockman, Cambridge University Press (2004) [hereafter ZL]
- *Muslim Politics* by Dale Eickelman and James Piscatori, Princeton University Press (2004) [hereafter DE]
- Journal articles (25 in all) accessible through the SFU library website, via the stable URLs listed below [citations denoted Web]
- Students are urged to consult an introductory textbook, like William Cleveland's *History of the Modern Middle East*, should they encounter names or concepts which are unfamiliar in the midst of their reading.

**Prerequisites:** HIST 151 and 45 credit hours, including nine hours of lower division history credit.

**Lecture sessions:** Generally speaking, these will begin with a lecture of roughly 45 minutes. The lectures will not merely restate the contents of the assigned readings. Rather, they will build upon the readings, putting them in a historical and analytical context. As a result, attending lectures is an integral part of the course, not least given that materials from lectures will appear on the in-class tests. After each lecture, the instructor will answer whatever questions students may have about the readings and lecture. This time will be devoted not only to clearing up misunderstandings, but further, to interpretation and analysis. As a result, students should come to lecture sessions PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE.

**Debate presentations:** At the beginning of the term, students will select a debate topic of particular interest, from among those listed below. At the beginning of the tutorial to which they are assigned, students will make a presentation of ten minutes either in favor or against the day's resolution. After students have made their presentations, the instructor will open the debate to the rest of the class.

**Class participation:** Regardless of their particular presentation topics, students should read every week's materials with an eye to developing a position on the debate resolutions, jotting down notes for this purpose as they move through the readings. Each week, they are expected to be in a position, BEFORE they get to tutorial, to offer an argument either in favor or against the resolution. Repeated absences from either lectures or tutorials will lead to a failing participation grade. Please consult the instructor should you have to miss classes for health or family reasons. Completion of the readings before class and a consistent effort to contribute to class discussions will be rewarded with high marks in this category. Lateness and poor preparation for class will be penalized.

**Class tests:** These tests will vary in format, but will focus upon interpretation and analysis. Details will be provided.

**Course regulations:**

- I will not tolerate cheating or plagiarism. These are extremely serious academic offences. If you are having trouble with a concept or assignment, meet with the instructor well before the relevant deadlines. Keep in mind that poor, but legitimate, performance in a given assignment is far preferable to jeopardizing your academic career through fraud.

- All students in this class are to read and understand University policies on plagiarism and academic honesty. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations. In student papers, it is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived.

**Term papers:** Students will write a ten- to twelve-page paper on a subject of their choice. Please meet with the instructor BEFORE THE END OF WEEK EIGHT to indicate the topic you have selected and the sources you have identified. Papers submitted after the deadline receive a penalty of ten percent for the first day late; for each additional day late, a further five percent will be deducted. The instructor will not accept submissions beyond a week from the given deadline. Extensions of deadlines will only be granted in the event of a documented health or family crisis. Papers are evaluated for clarity, organization, insight, and originality. Faulty grammar, spelling, and syntax reduce clarity, and will thus reduce your grade. Grades are final and not subject to negotiation.

### Week One

Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> • Introduction

Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> lecture • An Ottoman Legacy?

- 1) ZL: "In the Beginning," "Islam, the West and the Rest," and "Orientalism and Empire," 8-98.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://www.mylibrary.com?id=54079>

- 2) JJ: Gabriel Piterberg, "The Tropes of Stagnation and Awakening in Nationalist Historical Consciousness: The Egyptian Case," 42-62.

### Week Two

Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> lecture • Narratives of the "Arab Nation"

- 1) JJ: William Cleveland, "The Arab Nationalism of George Antonius Reconsidered," 65-86.
- 2) JJ: James Gelvin, "The Other Arab Nationalism: Syrian/Arab Populism in Its Historical and International Contexts," 231-248.

Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> lecture • The Liberal Lie

- 1) JJ: Reeva Simon, "The Imposition of Nationalism on a Non-Nation State: The Case of Iraq During the Interwar Period, 1921-1941," 87-104.
- 2) JJ: Rashid Khalidi, "The Formation of Palestinian Identity: The Critical Years, 1917-1923," 171-190.

*Tutorial Debate Topic:* Be it resolved that nationalisms are developed and directed by elites.

### Week Three

Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> lecture • Workers and Their World

- 1) JJ: Zachary Lockman, "Arab Workers and Arab Nationalism in Palestine: A View from Below," 249-272.
- 2) Web: Marius Deeb, "Labour and Politics in Egypt, 1919-1939," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 10, 2 (1979), 187-203.  
<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/162126>

Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> lecture • The Politics of the Peasantry

- 1) Web: Timothy Mitchell, "The Invention and Reinvention of the Egyptian Peasant," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 22, 2 (1990), 129-150.  
<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/163736>
- 2) Web: Nathan Brown, "Brigands and State Building: The Invention of Banditry in Modern Egypt," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 32, 2 (1990), 258-281.  
<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/178915>
- 3) Web: John Chalcraft, "Engaging the State: Peasants and Petitions in Egypt on the Eve of Colonial Rule," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 37 (2005), 303-325.  
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?aid=322978>

*Tutorial Debate Topic:* Be it resolved that history is made in the city.

### Week Four

Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> lecture • From the Notables to the New Middle Class?

- 1) ZL: "The American Century," 99-147.  
<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://www.mylibrary.com?id=54079>
- 2) JJ: Donald Reid, "Nationalizing the Pharaonic Past: Egyptology, Imperialism, and Egyptian Nationalism, 1922-1952," 127-149.

Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> • Test No. 1

*Tutorial Debate Topic:* Be it resolved that the "new middle class" was merely a reconstitution of the old notable class in a "modern" guise.

### Week Five

Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> lecture • The Rhetoric of Revolution

- 1) JJ: James Jankowski, "Arab Nationalism in 'Nasserism' and Egyptian State Policy, 1952-1958," 150-168.
- 2) Web: Kristin S. Tassin, "'Lift Up Your Head, My Brother'," *Journal of Third World Studies* 23, 1 (Spring 2006), 147-168.  
<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=20817253&site=ehost-live>
- 3) Web: Menachem Klein, "Egypt's Revolutionary Publishing Culture, 1952-1962," *Middle Eastern Studies* 39, 2 (2003), 149-178.  
<http://www.informaworld.com/openurl?genre=article&issn=0026-3206&volume=39&issue=2&page=149>

Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> • Film screening

*Tutorial Debate Topic:* Be it resolved that the revolutionary technocratic state was inherently antidemocratic.

### Week Six

Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> lecture • The Militarization of Everyday Life?

- 1) Web: Eberhard Kienle, "More Than a Response to Islamism: The Political Deliberalization of Egypt in the 1990s," *The Middle East Journal* 52, 2 (Spring 1998), 219-235.  
<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/4329187>

- 2) Web: Diane Singerman, "The Politics of Emergency Rule in Egypt," *Current History* (January 2002), 29-35.  
<http://ejournals.ebsco.com/direct.asp?ArticleID=40A3AB30F3EA5B2EA314>

Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> lecture • Gendering Modernization

- 1) JJ: Beth Baron, "Nationalist Iconography: Egypt as a Woman," 105-124.
- 2) Web: Meredith Turshen, "Algerian Women in the Liberation Struggle and the Civil War," *Social Research* 69, 3 (2002).  
<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=7692529&site=ehost-live>
- 3) Web: Wilson Jacob, "Eventful Transformations: *Al-Futuwwa* between History and the Everyday," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 49, 3 (2007), 689-712.  
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?aid=1060800>

*Tutorial Debate Topic:* Be it resolved that the revolutionary technocratic state was inherently hostile to women and their concerns.

### Week Seven

Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> • Midterm break

Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> • Test No. 2

No tutorials, no debate

### Week Eight

Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> lecture • The Losses of 1967

- 1) Web: Roland Popp, "Stumbling Decidedly into the Six-Day War," *The Middle East Journal* (2006), pp. 281-309.  
<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/mei/mei/2006/00000060/00000002>
- 2) Web: Yvonne Haddad, "Islamists and the 'Problem of Israel'," *The Middle East Journal* (1992), pp. 266-285.  
<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/4328433>

Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> lecture • Cultures of Nationalism

- 1) JJ: Musa Budeiri, "The Palestinians: Tensions Between Nationalist and Religious Identities," 191-206.
- 2) JJ: Emmanuel Sivan, "Arab Nationalism in the Age of the Islamic Resurgence," 207-228.
- 3) Web: Sami Zubaida, "Islam and Nationalism: Continuities and Contradictions," *Nations and Nationalism* 10, 4 (2004), 407-420.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=15195069&site=ehost-live>

*Tutorial Debate Topic:* Be it resolved that cultural elites were complicit with political elites in undermining the democratic potential of Arab revolution.

### Week Nine

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> lecture • The Politics of the Family

- 1) DE: "What Is Muslim Politics?" and "The Invention of Tradition in Muslim Politics," 3-45.
- 2) Web: Frank Vogel, "The Public and Private in Saudi Arabia," *Social Research* 70, 3 (2003).

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=11207091&site=ehost-live>

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> lecture • The Gulf Ascendant

- 1) DE: "Sacred Authority" and "The 'Firmest Tie' and the Ties That Bind," 46-107.
- 2) Web: Michael Herb, "Princes and Parliaments in the Arab World," *The Middle East Journal*, 58, 3 (2004).

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/4330030>

*Tutorial Debate Topic:* Be it resolved that oil wealth is principally responsible for the rise of the Islamic trend throughout the Arab world.

### Week Ten

Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> lecture • The Migration Revolution

1) Web: Andrzej Kapiszewski, "De-Arabization in the Gulf," *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs* (2007), 81-88.

*Link to be announced*

2) Web: Martin Baldwin-Edwards, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place," *Review of African Political Economy* (2006), 311-324.

<http://www.informaworld.com/openurl?genre=article&issn=0305-6244&volume=33&issue=108&spage=311>

Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> lecture • Thinking Beyond Patriarchy

1) Web: Margot Badran, "Between Secular and Islamic Feminism/s," *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 1, 1 (2005).

<http://inscribe.iupress.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/doi/pdf/10.2979/MEW.2005.1.1.6>

2) Web: Michelle Browers, "The Centrality and Marginalization of Women," *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 2, 2 (2006).

<http://inscribe.iupress.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/doi/pdf/10.2979/MEW.2006.2.2.8>

*Tutorial Debate Topic:* Be it resolved that women are marginal to the political, social, and economic life of the Arab world.

### Week Eleven

Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> lecture • Theorizing the "Islamic Trend"

1) ZL: "Turmoil in the Field," 148-181.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://www.myilibrary.com?id=54079>

2) DE: "Protest and Bargaining" and "Changing Political Geography," 108-164.

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> • Test No. 3

*Tutorial Debate Topic:* Be it resolved that there exists not one Islam, but rather, a multiplicity of "Islams" in the modern Arab world.

### Week Twelve

Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> lecture • Dictating Development

1) Web: Ninette Fahmy, "A Culture of Poverty or the Poverty of a Culture?" *The Middle East Journal* 58, 4 (Autumn 2004), pp. 597-611.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/4330065>



2) ZL: "Said's *Orientalism*: A Book and Its Aftermath," 182-214.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://www.mylibrary.com?id=54079>

Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> lecture • Ethnicity

1) Web: James McDougall, "Myth and Counter-Myth: 'The Berber' as National Signifier in Algerian Historiographies," *Radical History Review* 86 (2003), 66-88.

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/radical\\_history\\_review/v086/86.1mcdougall.pdf](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/radical_history_review/v086/86.1mcdougall.pdf)

2) Web: Elizabeth Fentress, "Romanizing the Berbers," *Past and Present* 190 (2006), 3-34.

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/past\\_and\\_present/v190/190.1fentress.pdf](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/past_and_present/v190/190.1fentress.pdf)

*Tutorial Debate Topic*: Be it resolved that "development" is an inherently ethnocentric notion.

### Week Thirteen

Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> lecture • From Capital to Crisis

1) ZL: "After Orientalism?" 215-267.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://www.mylibrary.com?id=54079>

2) Web: Robert Springborg, "Identity in Crisis: Egyptian Political Identity in the Face of Globalization," *Harvard International Review* (Fall 2003), 18-23.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=11190046&site=ehost-live>

3) Web: Julia Elyachar, "Empowerment Money: The World Bank, Non-Governmental Organizations, and the Value of Culture in Egypt," *Public Culture* 14, 3 (2002).

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/public\\_culture/v014/14.3elyachar.pdf](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/public_culture/v014/14.3elyachar.pdf)

Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> [Papers Due] • Film screening

### Week Fourteen

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> lecture • Nostalgia for the Nation

1) Web: Joel Gordon, "Film, Fame, and Public Memory: Egyptian Biopics from *Mustafa Kamil* to *Nasser 56*," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 31, 1 (February 1999), pp. 61-79.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/176331>