

History 151
Paul Sedra (office AQ6226)

**THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST:
A SURVEY OF CHANGING SOCIETIES**

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Email: pdsedra@sfu.ca

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 novel accessible to all students 20%
In-class mid-term examination 30%
Final examination 40%
Tutorial participation 10%

Texts:

[N.B. All texts will be available through the SFU library website, at no cost to students.]

- Betty Anderson, *A History of the Modern Middle East: Rulers, Rebels, and Rogues* (Stanford University Press, 2016), <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/10.1515/9780804798754>
- Tawfiq al-Hakim, *Return of the Spirit*, trans. William Maynard Hutchins (Penguin, 2019), <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/lib/sfu-ebooks/detail.action?docID=6063226>
- journal articles and primary sources accessible through SFU library website

Prerequisites:

None

For further information, please visit paulsedra.com