

The History of the Modern Middle East (1800-Present)
University of West Georgia

CRN 82896 – HIST 3313 – Fall 2018
Monday/Wednesday: 12:30-1:45 PM
Room: Nursing Building, # 121

Instructor: Dr. Aimee Genell
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Office Hours: Mon./Wed. 2:00-4:00 PM and by appointment
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Gamel Abdel Nasser and the Suez Canal on the cover of al-Musawwar, August 1956

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the political and intellectual history of the modern Middle East from the late eighteenth century to the present. The primary geographic focus will be the lands of the Ottoman and Qajar Empires and their post World War I successor states and mandates, including Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, mandate Palestine, Israel and the states of the Arabian Peninsula. Subjects covered include: the rise and fall of constitutionalism, ideas of institutional and political reform, the role of religion in political and social life, imperialism, nationalism, post-colonialism, development, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the impact of the Soviet Union and United States in the region. We will also discuss the rise of political Islam and popular challenges to the post-imperial secular state and conclude with a discussion of the US invasion and occupation of Iraq, the Arab Spring and the rise of ISIS.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is mandatory. All students are expected to have completed the week's readings prior to each lecture. **If you are unable to attend a discussion section, send me an email before class. Three or more unexcused absences will result in automatic failure.**

Additional Issues: The use of **cell phones**, especially text messaging, is strictly prohibited. If you are found to be text messaging during class, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the day and marked absent. I prefer that students take notes by hand, if you require the use of a computer please see me.

Academic Honesty: Students are required to abide by the University's Honor Code. Plagiarism or cheating will result in the automatic failure of the course. The code can be found here:
<https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/assets/docs/2016-2017-code-of-conduct.pdf>

Student Resources: Students should meet with me at least once during the semester to discuss your final papers. If you have any questions about the readings, material covered in lectures or the written assignments, please send me an email or visit me in my office. For assistance with writing, please make use of the University Writing Center (UWC) located in TLC 1201: <https://www.westga.edu/academics/coah/writing/>. For assistance with developing study skills and time management please visit the Center for Academic Success (CAS) located in UCC 200: <https://www.westga.edu/student-services/cas/index.php>.

Evaluation:

Class participation: 20% (includes weekly primary source analyses and map quiz)
Please submit a short (1-2 paragraph) typed primary source analysis for each class
Writing assignment: 20%
Midterm: 30%
Final exam: 30%

Required Readings:

Fethiye Çetin, *My Grandmother: A Turkish-Armenian Memoir*

*This text is on order at the bookstore, but can be purchased online
All other readings are available on CourseDen.

Weekly Syllabus:

Wed. August 15 – Is there a Middle East?

Course introduction

Mon. August 20 – The Paradigm of Decline?

Cemal Kafadar, “The Question of Decline,” *Harvard Middle East and Islamic Review*

Document: “How to Read Primary Sources: A Handy, Quick Guide”

**Please use this document to model your primary analyses throughout the semester

Wed. August 22 – The Ottoman Empire in the Eighteenth Century - The Reforms of Selim III

Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire 1700-1922*, chap. 4, “The Nineteenth Century,” p. 54-72

Document: Janissary Song

Mon. August 27 – Napoleon in Egypt

Juan Cole, *Napoleon’s Egypt* (2007), selection

Document: ‘Abd al-Rahman al-Jabarti, *Napoleon in Egypt: Al Jabarti's Chronicle of the French Occupation, 1798*

Wed. August 29 – Egypt and the Rise of Mehmet Ali

Khaled Fahmy, “The Era of Mehmed ‘Ali Pasha, 1805-1848” in *The Cambridge History of Egypt*

Document: Rifa‘a Rafi‘ al-Tahtawi, *An Imam in Paris*, selection

Mon. September 3 – LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

Wed. September 5 – The Tanzimat

Donald Quataert, “The Nineteenth Century,” *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*

Document: Namık Kemal “Progress” (1872)

Mon. September 10 – “Civilization” and the Suez Canal

Emily Haddad, “Digging to India: Modernity, Imperialism and the Suez Canal,” *Victorian Studies* 47 (2005): 363-396

Document: Suez Canal Postcards

Wed. September 12 – Abdülhamid II and Pan-Islam

Cemil Aydın, "Globalizing the Intellectual History of the Idea of "Muslim World" in *Global Intellectual History*, p. 159-182

Document: Roger Allan, trans. Ibrahim al-Muwaylihi, *Spies, Scandals, and Sultans: Istanbul in the Twilight of the Ottoman Empire*, selection

Mon. September 17 – Nasir al-Din Shah and the Qajar Empire

Ervand Abrahamian, "Royal Despots": State and Society under the Qajars" in *A Modern History of Iran*

Document: Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran Digital Archive

Wed. September 19 – Constitutional Revolution in the Ottoman Empire

Bedross Der Matossian, *Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire*, chap. 2 "Debating the Future of the Empire"

Document: Ottoman Party for Administrative Decentralization political claims

Mon. September 24 – Libya and the Balkan Wars

Mustafa Aksakal, "Not 'by those old books of international law, but only by war': Ottoman Intellectuals on the Eve of the Great War," *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, 15, 3(2004): pp. 507-544

Document: "Revenge!" Map published by the Society of Muslim Refugees from Rumeliya,

Select Paris Peace Conference Pamphlet for presentation – details available in class

Wed. September 26 – Jihad and the Ottoman First World War

Mustafa Aksakal, "The Ottoman Empire" in *Empires at War, 1911-1923*, p. 17-33

Start to read Fethiye Çetin's *My Grandmother*

Mon. October 1 – Talaat Paşa and the Armenian Genocide

Fethiye Çetin, *My Grandmother* (please read the entire book)

Wed. October 3 – The Post-World War I Settlements

Eugene Rogan, *The Arabs: A History*, p.147-174

Documents: Husayn-McMahon Correspondence & Sykes-Picot Agreement

Mon. October 8 - 1919 Revolutions and the Fall of Faysal's Arab State

Erez Manela, "The Wilsonian Moment and the Rise of Anticolonial Nationalism: The Case of Egypt," *Diplomacy & Statecraft* 12:4 (December 2001), 99-122

Document: Paris Peace Conference Pamphlets

Wed. October 10 - IN CLASS MIDTERM

Mon. October 15 – The Republic of Turkey

M. Şükrü Hanioglu, *Atatürk: An Intellectual Biography*, chap. 6

Document: Halide Edib Adivar, “Turkey Faces West,” in *Modernist Islam: A Sourcebook*

Wed. October 17 – Reza Shah’s Iran

Houchang Chehabi, “Dress Codes for Men in Turkey and Iran” in *Men of Order: Authoritarian Modernization Under Atatürk and Reza Shah*

Introduction to writing assignment “Nationalism and Revolution in the Middle East”

Mon. October 22 - The French Mandates: Syria and Lebanon

Michael Provence, “Ottoman Modernity, Colonialism, and Insurgency in the Arab East,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 43 (2011)

Document: Elbridge Colby, “How to Fight Savage Tribes,” *American Journal of International Law* (1927), selection

Wed. October 24 - The British Mandate in Palestine

Gelvin, *The Arab-Israeli Conflict: 100 Years of War*, p. 92-116

The Balfour Declaration

Document: Jewish National Fund Posters

Mon. October 29 – The War for Palestine: From the Great Revolt to the 1948 War

Gelvin, *The Arab-Israeli Conflict: 100 Years of War*, p. 117-144

Document: UNSCOP Report, excerpt

Wed. October 31 – Development and Secularizing States in the Middle East

Laura Bier, “The Family is a Factory, Regulating Reproduction” in *Revolutionary Womanhood: Feminisms, Modernity, and the State in Nasser's Egypt*

Document: Document: Nasser’s Suez Canal Speech

Mon. November 5 – Pan-Arabism and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Gelvin, *The Arab-Israeli Conflict: 100 Years of War*, p. 166-198

Document: Palestinian Liberation Organization National Charter

Wed. November 7 - Ba‘athism and Authoritarian Regimes in Syria and Iraq

Rogan, *The Arabs*, p. 277-300

Document: Michael Aflaq, *On the Way of Resurrection* (1947), selection

Mon. November 12 – Oil and the Making of Saudi Arabia

Robert Vitalis, “The Wizards of Dhahran,” in *America’s Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier*

Document: Aramco Pamphlets

Writing assignment, “Nationalism and Revolution in the Middle East” DUE IN CLASS!!!!

Wed. November 14 - The Islamic Revolution in Iran

Document: Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, “Islamic Government,” in *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden*, 155-180

November 19-23 THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS

Mon. November 26 - Modern Islamic Movements

Cemil Aydin, “Resurrecting Muslim Internationalism” in *The Idea of the Muslim World*

Document: The Hamas Charter

Wed. November 28 - The Gulf Wars

Mamdani, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim*, chap. 3

Document: Usama bin Laden, “Declaring War against the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Places”

Mon. December 3 – From the Arab Spring to the Arab Winter

Roger Owen, *The Rise and Fall of Arab Presidents for Life*, chap. 10 “The Sudden Fall,” p. 172-191

Document: Articles debating intervention in Syria (2013)

Wed. December 5 – Conclusions

December 8-14 - FINALS WEEK