

BROWN UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
HIST 1460: HISTORY OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST since 1918

Spring 2010
MWF: 2-2:50: Salomon Center 001
Discussion sections: M 3-3:50 (Salomon 202)
+ W 3-3:50 (Wilson 205) + F 3-3:50 (Salomon 202)

Prof. Engin Deniz Akarli
Office: Sharpe House #208
Office hours: W 12:30-1:30 + Th 2-3

DESCRIPTION: The objective of this course is to provide a comparative overview of independence movements and the efforts to establish modern nation-states and societies in the Middle East since 1918. The course focuses on four interrelated dimensions of such efforts: Political organization and institutionalization; construction of national ideologies (& identities); management and development of economic resources, and the international setting as it affected the region. The same issues influenced peoples' lives not only in the Middle East but in many other parts of the world as well. Studying the diverse experience of the peoples of the Middle East in dealing with these problems should therefore shed light on general dynamics of the twentieth century as well.

EVALUATION: Grades will be based on three exams (two mid-terms and a final) (30% each), as well as participation in discussion sections and attendance (10%). The exams aim at encouraging you to acquire a better familiarity with the basic issues and developments covered in the course. Each exam will have an essay component. Essay topics will be announced in advance.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Each of you will be assigned to one of the three discussion sections in order to give you a chance to debate and discuss the topics covered in the course at greater length. You are expected to attend the sections, which will meet MWF at 3-3:50 p.m. If need be, we will make arrangements for an additional section.

POLICIES: There will be **no** make-ups for any of the exams for this course. Only cases of medical or other serious emergency—with written proof from a doctor or the university administration—will be considered.

READINGS:

1. W. Cleveland & M. Burton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 4th ed. (Westview, 2008)
2. Zachary Lockman. *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism*, 1st ed., (2004) or 2nd ed. (2009) (Cambridge University Press)
3. *HI 1460 Reader* (available at Allegra Print & Imprinting)
4. Lecture "Notes" and other readings posted on the course web site. (Notes summarize and complement lectures)
5. *Hammond Atlas of the Middle East*, rev. ed. (2001) (A useful reference that provides geographic and general portraits of each country, information on the history of the region, and time tables)

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Jan 27-29: Introduction

Note #1 + Lockman, 99-103 [or 100-104 in the 2nd ed.] + in the *HI 146 Reader*: Manners & Parmenter, "A Geographic Preface" + D. E. Long & B. Reich, "The Middle East," + C. G. Held, "Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East"

PART I: 1918-1950 (Despite early hopes and struggles for independence, the region, except for Turkey, Saudi Arabia and to some extent Iran, fell under the rule of the victorious European powers. Landowning classes dominated internal politics, except in Turkey. Nationalistic aspirations against foreign domination intensified but not always with due concern for strong internal organizations and a clear sense of collective identity):

Feb 1-3: **Turkey: From a democratic resistance movement to bureaucratic and reformist single-party rule:**

Cleveland, pp. 171-185 + Note #2 + In the *Reader*: Nalbantoğlu, "Silent Interruptions," and Bohlen, "In Search for Turkishness"

Feb 5 & 8: **Iran: From constitutionalism to reformist autocracy**

Cleveland, 31-33, 51-56 & 185-192 + Note #3 + In the *Reader*: Keddie, "Iran: Understanding the Dilemma"; Hambly, "Riza Shah", and Yaghoubian, "Hagob Hagobian: An Armenian Truck Driver in Iran"

Feb 10-12: **Egypt: Thwarted hopes of peaceful independence and liberal reform:**

Cleveland, 193-204 + In the *Reader*: Beinun & Lockman, "1919: Labor Upsurge" + On course web page: + Note #4; "Taha Husayn writes on Egypt (1938)", and "Renaissance in the Islamic World (1949)" by Hasan al-Banna

Feb 15-17: **From the Great Arab Revolt to the French Mandate in Lebanon & Syria and the British Mandate in Jordan & Iraq:**

Cleveland, 150-170, 204-230, & 228-231 + In the *Reader*: Philip Khoury, "Abu Ali al-Kilawi: A Damascus *Qabaday*" + On web site: Note #5, and "Antun Saadah's Vision (1935)" and "Michel Aflaq on Islam and Arabism (1943)"

Feb 19 & 24-26: **Zionism, Palestinians & the British Mandate over Palestine**

Cleveland, 239-271 + In the *Reader*: Schleifer, "Izz al-Din al-Qassam: Preacher and *Mujahid*," and Khalidi, "Arab Society in Mandatory Palestine" + On web site: Notes #13 & #14, and "Documents" [# 2-7 to #3-5];

March 1: **Saudi Arabia: Building a kingdom with popular support:**

Cleveland, 231-37 + Note #6

March 3 (Wednesday): **First mid-term examination**

PART II: 1950-1990 (United States and the Soviet Union replace old European powers as rival world leaders. Economic blocs that form around the US and the SU replace the nationalist capitalism of the European powers. Middle Eastern countries become sites of proxy wars, regional wars, internal power struggles, rapid socioeconomic development and much soul-searching)

March 5: **Introduction to Part II:**

(Note #7 + Lockman, 111-47 [new ed. 112-48])

March 8-10: **Turkey: A democracy punctured by military intervention & repression:**

Cleveland, 273-288 & 523-29 + In the *Reader*: Bohlen, "In Search for Turkishness" + On web site: Note #8, and "Human rights & the army" (1998)

March 12 & 15-17: **Iran: A failed democratic front, an autocratic shah, and the road from a “white” revolution to a “green” revolution:**

Cleveland, 288-300, 423-444, & 529-33 + Notes #9 & #12 + In the *Reader*: Hambly, “Muhammad Riza Shah”, and Naj-mabadi, “Hazards of Modernity and Morality”

March 19 & 22: **The Age of Nasser: Radicalization of Arab politics:**

Cleveland, 301-344 + On course web site: Notes #10 & #12, and “Documents” [#5-1 to #5-4] + In the *Reader*: “Ideological Problems in the Arab World”

March 24: **Efforts to redefine Egypt:** Cleveland, 369-382, 392-395 & 445-449 +

On course web site: Notes #10 & #12, and “Sadat's Speech to the Knesset (1977)”

March 26 & 29-31: **Iraq & Syria: Rivalry to lead the same “Arab Renaissance” (*Ba‘ath*):**

Cleveland, 397-421 + In the *Reader*: S. Zubaida, “Naji: An Iraqi Country Doctor” + On course web site: Note #11, and reread “Michel Aflaq on Islam and Arabism (1943)”

(Read on your own during the spring recess): **The idea of Lebanon & the Lebanese Civil War:**

Cleveland, 382-92 + In the *Reader*: “Political arguments underlying the Lebanese Civil War (1975)”

April 5: Second mid-term examination

April 7-9: **The Arabian Peninsula: Oil as wealth, power, and vulnerability:**

Cleveland, 450-472 + Readings that will be announced later and posted on web site

PART III: Burning Issues, Reflections, and Review:

April 12-16: **Israel & Palestinians**

Cleveland, 337-367, 473-478, and 499-517 + + In the *Reader*: J. Hiltermann, “Abu Jamal: A Palestinian Urban Villager” + On course web site: Relevant parts of Notes #13 & #14; Amos Elon, “Politics & Archeology”; Amos Elon, “Israel and the End of Zionism”; Margalit, “Settling Scores”, and other readings that will be posted later.

April 19-21: **Neo-Islamism: A clash of civilizations?**

Cleveland, 440-49, 460-63, 522-29, & 533-541 + Lockman, 172-77 [173-78] & 215-236 [216-37] + On web site: Note #15: “Guide to Readings on Neo-Islamism” + In the *Reader*: Compare the views of Sayyid Qutb, Ali Shari‘ati, Mahdi Bazergan, and Usama bin Laden included in Khater, “Islamic Political Movements”

April 23-26 **America’s moment in and perceptions of the Middle East:**

Cleveland, 478-497, 519-523, & 541-548 + Lockman, 241-72 [242-78] + On web site: Note #16, and an additional reading.

April 28: Review

May 12 (Wednesday) 9 a.m.: Final examination

HAVE A NICE SEMESTER!