

## HIST 2504

### A History of the Modern Middle East

Location: LSC-COMMON AREA C338

Instructor: Dr. Amal Ghazal

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00-11:30 or by appointment



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#### An overview

The course covers the history of the modern Middle East from the late nineteenth century until the present. The course offers a critical perspective on the region's major issues and events and aims to provide a general background of information and knowledge about the modern Middle East. It goes beyond stereotypes generally associated with the region and calls into question "conventional wisdoms" about it.

#### Learning Outcomes:

1. to identify key names, events and persons in the modern Middle East
2. to obtain a comprehensive knowledge of the main political, ideological and intellectual trends in the region
3. to acquire some analytical skills that allow you to explain 'cause and effect' in the history of the region and understand the wider context of contemporary events
4. to be able to read historical documents and analytical material, identify their main points and deliver them in a short class presentation
5. to be able to collaborate with classmates on presentation

6. to write a book report that reflects critical thinking and ability to relate the content of the book to material covered or discussed in class

**Required Texts:**

\* William L. Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, third edition, (Westview, 2004)

**ONE** of the two following novels:

\* Rajaa Alsanea, *Girls of Riyadh* (Penguin Press, 2007)

\* Alaa al-Aswany, *The Yacoubian Building* (Harper Perennial, 2006)

All books are available at Outside the Lines Bookstore, 6297 Quinpool Road, Halifax.

\* Course Reader, available for purchase at the History Department office.

**Lecture Sessions:** Generally speaking, Tuesdays are devoted for lectures while Thursdays are partly devoted for lectures and partly for presentations and/or discussions. Check schedule for details. Attending lectures is an integral part of the course. Material from lectures will appear on exams. Thus, missing lectures will result not only in mark reduction but also in a poor performance in exams.

**Evaluation Breakdown:**

Attendance and Discussion:	15%
Presentation:	15%
Test 1:	25%
Test 2:	25%
Book Review:	20%

**Class Attendance and Participation:** Attendance alone is not sufficient to earn the full mark assigned in the category of participation/attendance. Completion of the readings before class and a consistent effort to contribute to class discussions will be rewarded with high marks in this category. All students are required to participate in discussion sessions.

**Class Tests:** Details as to format will be provided and discussed prior to test dates.

**Map Quiz:** This will take place in class during test 1, on January 29. Students will be provided ahead of time with a link to a map of the region and, during the test, will have to identify a list of countries.

**Presentation/Discussion Sessions:** Presentations are an integral part of this course. They provide the students with the opportunity to identify topics of interest and do a group presentation covering those topics. Students will be evaluated individually, not collectively. The group presentation should be between 15 and 20 minutes. Students should sign up for the presentations as early as possible during the term, using Blackboard under the headline "Discussions" where there is a list of presentations. Failure to sign up for a presentation and preparing one will result in failure in the course. All class requirements have to be completed.

**Book Review:** to be submitted in person on March 03. It should be typed and stapled. Length: between 2000 and 2200 words. Guidelines will be provided in class.

**Departmental Grade Scale:**

A+	95-100
A	90-94
A-	85-89
B+	80-84
B	75-79
B-	70-74
C+	65-69
C	60-64
C-	55-59
D	50-54
F	Below 50

**Course Regulations:**

1. The topics discussed in this class are the subject of intense debate. We must keep the debate focused on the subject matter and the related arguments. While debating and arguing about the material is highly encouraged, disrespect for other students and their views is not tolerated.
2. Students with disabilities should register as quickly as possible at Student Accessibility Services. Please telephone 494-2836, e-mail [disabilities@dal.ca](mailto:disabilities@dal.ca), or visit Killam G28.
3. Students should turn their cell phones and pagers off before entering the classroom.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:**

Cheating and plagiarism are extremely serious academic offences which may lead to loss of credit, suspension, expulsion from the University, or the revocation of a degree. All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the [plagiarism.dal.ca](http://plagiarism.dal.ca) website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

**Term Schedule:**

**Week 1**

**Tuesday, January 06:** Syllabus Review/ The Middle East: An Introduction

No Readings

**Thursday, January 08:** The Islamic Civilization / Ottomans and Safavids: Makers of the Modern Middle East  
Cleveland, pp. 1-56

### Week 2

**Tuesday, January 13:** The Long Nineteenth century: the Era of Transformations  
Cleveland, pp. 57-122.

**Thursday, January 15:**  
The Young Turks and the Iranian Constitutionalists  
Cleveland, pp. 122-148

### Week 3

**Tuesday, January 20:** WWI and the Collapse of the Ottoman Order /  
Documentary: Blood and Oil  
Cleveland, pp. 149-170

**Thursday, January 22:** North Africa between the Ottoman Empire and Europe  
No Readings from the textbook. Read Julia Clancy-Smith. "The Shaykh and His Daughter: Coping in Colonial Algeria," in course reader.

### Week 4

**Tuesday, January 27**

#### **Presentation and Class Discussion**

\*James L. Gelvin, "Wasif Jawhariyyeh and the Great Nineteenth-Century Transformation," *The Modern Middle East, A History*. (Oxford University Press, 2005), 100-110. Course Reader (5 students)

#### **Presentation and Class Discussion**

\* Julia Clancy Smith. "The Shaykh and His Daughter: Coping in Colonial Algeria," in Edmund Burke, III ed. *Struggle and Survival in the Modern Middle East*, (University of California Press, 1993), 145-163 Course Reader (5 students)

**Thursday, January 29: TEST I**

### Week 5

**Tuesday, February 03:** Turkey and Iran: reform, democracy and authoritarianism  
Cleveland, pp. 171-192

**Thursday, February 05:** Colonialism and Arab Struggle for Independence  
Cleveland, pp. 171-237

### Week 6

**Tuesday, February 10:** Zionism, the Palestine Mandate and the Creation of Israel  
Cleveland, pp. 239-271

**Presentation and Class Discussion**

\*Avi Shlaim, "The Debate About 1948," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 27, 3(1995), 287-304. (Download online. A copy is posted on Blackboard) (5 students)

**Thursday, February 12:** Jamal 'Abd al-Nasser: the era of revolutionary radicalism  
Cleveland, pp. 301-344  
Documentary: The Other Side of Suez

**Week 7**

**Tuesday, February 17:** Secularism, Socialism and Authoritarianism: the Baath, Saddam Hussein and Hafiz al-Asad  
Cleveland, pp. 397-421.

**Thursday, February 19:**

Egypt under Anwar al-Sadat and Husni Mubarak  
Cleveland, pp. 373-382; 392-394

**Class Discussion**

\*Lisa Wedeen, "Acting "As If": Symbolic Politics and Social Control in Syria" *Comparative Study of Society and History*, 1998. (Download online. A copy is posted on Blackboard)

**February 23-March 01: Study Break**

**Week 8**

**Tuesday, March 03:** Iran: Prelude to Revolution/ Political Islam: Islamism in Turkey, Iran and the Arab World

Cleveland, p. 423-449

**Thursday, March 05:** Documentary: *The Hidden Imam*

**SUBMISSION OF BOOK REVIEW**

**Class Discussion**

\*Ervand Abrahamian, "Fundamentalism or Populism?" in *Khomeinism: Essays on the Islamic Republic* (Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 1993), 13-38. Course Reader

\*Gudrun Kramer, "Islamist Notions of Democracy," in Joel Beinin and Joe Stork, ed. *Political Islam: Essays from Middle East Report* (I. B. Taurus, 1997), 71-82. Course Reader

**Week 9**

**Tuesday, March 10:** Lebanon: Civil War and Israeli Invasions

Cleveland, pp. 382-392

**Presentation and Class Discussion**

\*Lara Deeb, "From Marginalization to Institutionalization'," in *An Enchanted Modern" Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon*. Course Reader. (5 students)

**Thursday, March 12:** Israel and the Palestinian Question before and after Oslo

Cleveland, pp. 345-367; 473-499

**Presentation and Class Discussion**

\*Ilan Pappé, "Post-Zionism and Its Popular Cultures," in Rebecca L. Stein and Ted Swedenburg, eds. *Palestine, Israel, and the Politics of Popular Culture* (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2005), 77-95. Course Reader (5 students)

**Week 10**

**Tuesday, March 17:** *The Arabian Peninsula: Monarchies, Oil and Wars*  
Cleveland, pp. 451-472

**Thursday, March 19:** the USA in the Middle East; 9/11 and the Invasion of Iraq

Cleveland, pp. 519-539

**Class Discussion**

\*Mansoor Moaddel, "The Saudi Public Speaks: Religion, Gender and Politics," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 38(2006), 79-108.

**Week 11:**

**Tuesday, March 24:**

Documentary: *Driving an Arab Street*

Cleveland, pp. 541-548

**Presentation**

\*Middle East News Monitor (20 students)

**Thursday March 26:**

**Presentation**

\*Middle East Blogs (20 students)

**Week 12**

**Tuesday, Marh 31:** The Middle East Today/Documentary: *Arabs and Terrorism*

Cleveland, pp. 541-548

**Thursday, April 02:**

**Class Discussion**

**Presentation**

\* The 'Arab Conscience' Operetta (5 students)

**Week 13**

**Tuesday, April 07:** Summary/Revisions

**Thursday, April 09:** Final test