

Department of History
St. Lawrence University
Spring 2010



HIST/GS 148A The Middle East, 1500 – the Present

Instructor: Howard Eissenstat
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Class times: MW 8:00 – 9:30
Office Hours: MW 9:40 – 11:10 and by appointment

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Class Description:

This course will examine the changing nature of Middle Eastern societies in the modern era. Topics to be addressed will include Ottoman and Safavid institutions, Imperialism and the Eastern Question, the development of nation states, the role of non-Muslims in Middle Eastern societies, the Cold War, Pan-Arabism, the Arab – Israeli conflict, Women's Rights and the headscarf issue, and the development of Political Islam.

Required Texts

Ochsenwald and Fisher, *The Middle East: A History*, (McGraw – Hill)
Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, (Oxford)
Abdo, *No God but God* (Oxford)
The New York Times

Additional materials including films, primary source readings, and academic articles as indicated in class or on the syllabus

Basic reading expectations: On average you can expect to have approximately one hundred pages of reading assigned per week. Some weeks will be less; others will be more. It is incumbent upon you to have read, thought about, and be prepared to intelligently discuss these readings in advance of class.

Films: Assuming availability, we will be watching and discussing a series of Middle Eastern films this semester. These will be assigned in advance and available for viewing at the library.

Contemporary Issues: You are expected to read the materials relevant to the Middle East and North Africa in the New York Times on a daily basis (not including Afghanistan, but including Turkey). On Wednesdays, at the start of class, we will have a brief discussion of these issues,

consider how they develop over the course of the semester, and, where possible, consider how our course material helps us to understand contemporary events.

Grading Breakdown:

Participation:	20%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Map Quizzes:	15%
Abdo Synopsis Paper	10%
Final Exam:	35%

Grading:

While I grade on a hundred point scale during the semester, the final grades for the university are submitted on a four point scale. This table will help you understand how I convert between these systems.

96-100	4.0	68-70	2.0
92-95	3.75	65-67	1.75
88-91	3.5	62-64	1.5
84-87	3.25	59-61	1.25
80-83	3.0	55-58	1.0
77-79	2.75	0-54	0.0
74-76	2.5		
71-73	2.25		

Participation and attendance:

As you will note from the grading breakdown, participation is a large component of your final grade for the class. It is not an automatic A. Participation does not mean the same thing as attendance, though, obviously, you must attend in order to participate. To guarantee yourself a good grade in this portion of the class, you must come to class on a regular basis. You need to come prepared, having read – and thought about – the class assignment. You should listen actively, take notes where appropriate, ask questions and be prepared to challenge both other students and the professor. Not incidentally, doing these things are also the basis to a successful classroom experience.

Make-ups:

Regular classes: You are expected to miss no more than three class sessions over the course of the semester. These three absences include medical and personal emergencies (deaths in the family, colds, flu, etc.). If you miss more than three class sessions, your participation grade will be penalized five percent for each class you missed.

Quizzes, exams, etc.: Outside of documented medical emergencies, there are no make-ups for quizzes and exams. Don't miss them. Please note that family vacations, weddings, etc., are not

considered valid excuses to miss a quiz or exam. Make sure your family does not plan holidays or travel in such a way that it conflicts with your exam schedule.

Academic Honesty:

I take issues of academic honesty seriously. Plagiarism undermines the very core of scholarly work and the intellectual integrity of the university. In my experience, such cases occur when the student is overwhelmed with the assignment or does not know the proper conventions for citation. These are problems that can – and should – be addressed in advance. Regardless, if I find evidence of academic dishonesty, I will pursue the case to the full extent outlined in the University and departmental guidelines (see SLU Student Handbook, p. 55 at http://www.stlawu.edu/student_handbook/ and page 10 of the History Department Handbook: http://www.stlawu.edu/history/handbook_newest.docx). I further suspect that it is very bad for your karma.

Accommodation:

If you have a disability and need accommodation, and have already contacted the Office for Special Needs (<http://web.stlawu.edu/needs/index.html>), please see me in private to discuss the accommodation needed. We should have this discussion as soon as possible in the semester. I would also like to know at least ten days before a quiz or exam whether any accommodation is needed.

Contacting Me

In addition to my regularly scheduled office hours, I often work in my office, so it is generally easy to schedule a mutually convenient time to meet and discuss questions you might be having in class. Outside of the office, it is easiest to contact me by e-mail, which I check often. Unless I am travelling or expect to respond to a question in class, I will always respond to e-mails within twenty-four hours of receiving them. I seldom check my voice mail and so this is a less effective way of contacting me. Should you decide to leave a voice mail, please follow up with an e-mail to make sure I get the message.

Cell phones and laptops:

Cell phones: I hate them. Be sure you turn yours off before class begins.

Laptops are not allowed in class. Please turn yours off before class begins.

This syllabus:

Every semester turns out a little differently than planned. This syllabus will likely be revised over the course of the semester. Changes will be announced in class and a revised syllabus may be posted to Angel.

A final word on work-load:

Yes, it is a lot of work. Welcome to university.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Monday, January 18 Introductions: What is the Middle East? What is the Modern?

Wednesday, January 20 Basic Elements of Islamic History up to the Mongol Invasions
Gelvin, 1 – 26.
*Richard Eaton, “Islamic History as World History”
Discussion of News

Week 2

Monday, January 25 From Mongols to the Early Ottomans
Ochsenwald and Fisher, 159 – 186
*V.L. Ménage, “Some Notes on the Devshirme,” 64 – 78.
Discussion of Film, *Crossing the Bridge*

Wednesday, January 27 The Rise of the Safavids and the Creation of the Ottoman –
Safavid Frontier
Oschwald and Fisher, 186 – 188
*Dror Zeevi, “The Present Shia – Sunna Divide: Remaking
Modern Memory”
Discussion of News

Week 3

Monday, February 1 What is the Early Modern?
*Hodgson, “The Great Western Transmutation,” 44 – 71.
*McNeill, “The Age of Gunpowder Empires”

Wednesday, February 3 Ottoman Expansion and Institutions
Gelvin, 27 – 34,
Oschwald and Fisher, 190 – 213.
Map Quiz 1
Discussion of News

Week 4

Monday, February 8 The Flowering and Collapse of Safavid Iran
Oschwald and Fisher, 215 – 229

Gelvin, 34 – 46
Discussion of Film, *Baran*

Wednesday, February 10 The Transformation of the Ottoman Empire / The Issue of Religious Minorities
Oschenwald and Fisher, 231 – 255
Gelvin, 47 – 49
*Masters, “The Limits of Tolerance”
Discussion of News

Week 5

Monday, February 15 Tulips, Selim III, and Napoleon
Oschenwald and Fisher, 259 – 270.
Gelvin, 49 – 59.
*Wallerstein, Decdéli, and Kasaba, “The Incorporation of the Ottoman Empire into the world-economy,” 89 – 97
Discussion of Film, *The Dream of Sparrows*

Wednesday, February 17 The Early Qajars / Defensive Developmentalism in the Central Ottoman State
Oschenwald and Fisher, 271 – 277
Gelvin, 73 – 87
*Uriel Heyd, “The Ottoman Ulema and Westernization in the Time of Selim III and Mahmud II,” 29 – 54.
Discussion of News

Week 6

Monday, February 22 Defensive Developmentalism in Egypt: Successes and Failures
Oschenwald and Fisher, 279 – 291
Timothy Mitchell, *Colonizing Egypt*, 34 – 94.

Wednesday, February 24 The Tanzimat and the Eastern Question
*L. Carl Brown, “The Classical Eastern Question, 1774 – 1923,” 21 – 81
Oschenwald and Fisher, 294 – 308
Gelvin, 88 – 99.

Week 7

Monday, March 1

Responses to Reform

*Roderic Davison, "Turkish Attitudes Concerning Christian – Muslim Equality in the Nineteen Century," 61 – 78.

*Albert Hourani, "Ottoman Reforms and the Politics of Notables," 83 - 108

Wednesday, March 2

Midterm Exam

Week 8

Spring Break, March 5 – 14

Week 9

Monday, March 15

The Reign of Abdulhamit

Oschenwald and Fisher, 311 – 320

Wednesday, March 17

Imperialism and Cultural Transformation at the end of the Nineteenth Century

Gelvin, 88 – 146

Gelvin, Documents, 157 – 164.

Discussion of the News

Week 10

Monday, March 22

Constitutional Revolutions in the Middle East

Oschenwald and Fisher, 322 – 333; 349 – 359

Discussion of Film, *Ararat*

Wednesday, March 24

Goodbye to All That: World War I and its aftermath in the Middle East

Oschenwald and Fisher, 336 – 346; 369 – 387.

Gelvin, 171 – 205.

Map Quiz #2

Discussion of the News

Week 11

Monday, March 29

Shaping the Modern Middle East, 1917 – 1945
Oschenwald and Fisher, 393 – 446
Discussion of Film, *Time and Winds*

Wednesday, March 31

The Question of Palestine: Development of Two Nationalisms
Gelvin, 206 – 215
*Documents from Rubin and Laqueur, eds., *The Arab – Israeli Reader*, 3 – 10; 16 – 25.
Rashid Khalidi, “The Formation of Palestinian Identity”

Week 12

Monday, April 5

The British Mandate in Palestine, to 1945
Oschenwald and Fisher, 447 – 459.

Wednesday, April 7

World War II and its Aftermath in the Middle East / The
Foundation of Israel
Oschenwald and Fisher, 462 – 473; 536 – 549.
Discussion of the News

Week 13

Monday, April 12

Orientations in the Middle East After World War II
Gelvin, 223 – 270.

Wednesday, April 14

Turkey and Iran, From 1945 – 1980
Oschenwald and Fisher, 476 – 488; 502- 512
Discussion of News

Week 14

Monday, April 19

Egypt, Israel, and the Shape of the Middle East Conflict, Part I
Oschenwald and Fisher, 585 – 602; 542 - 557
Gelvin, 271 – 281.
Map Quiz # 3
Film Discussion, *Promises*

Wednesday, April 21

Egypt, Israel, and the Shape of the Middle East Conflict, 1973 to
the Present
Oschenwald and Fisher, 604 – 626; 560 – 582

Week 15

Monday, April 26

The Rise of Islamism
Oschenwald and Fisher, 514 – 535
Gelvin, 282 – 303
Abdo Review Due

Wednesday, April 28

The Rise and Fall of the American Moment in the Middle East
Oschenwald and Fisher, 717 – 737
Gelvin, 304 – 312
Exam Questions