

SAMPLE SYLLABUS --- SUBJECT TO CHANGE

HIST 0360 - FALL 2023
MW 10:15-11:44
SEÇİL YILMAZ

EMPIRES, REVOLUTIONS, and EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN:
HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE 1800



This course will cover the major political, cultural, and social features of the modern Middle East, from the 18th century to the end of the 20th century and will center on several major themes. First, we will be looking at the rise of nationalism and the role that imperial powers from Europe and beyond had on the formation of the modern nation-states of North Africa and the Middle East. Second, we will be studying the major ideologies that have mobilized communities across the region, from political Islam to socialism as well as the resulting reforms, political movements, and conflicts. Third, through readings and visual sources, we will touch upon some of the major cultural and social changes of the last two centuries. To cover a geographic area that stretches from North Africa to Iran, this course will rely upon case studies from different locales to highlight the diversity of the political, social, and economic life of the modern Middle East.

Objectives of the course:

- ✓ Students will become conversant in the major events, political changes, religious and cultural

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- features, and important figures of the history of the Middle East of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.
- ✓ Students will be able to evaluate sources and write about the human experience and its changes over time.
 - ✓ Students will learn to ask the big questions about history: How do we know what really happened in the past? Through what lens do we use to describe events/figures/ movements? Why do sources portray events the way they do? Why do all these narratives continue to matter?

REQUIRED TEXTS

- 1) Gelvin, James L. *The Modern Middle East: A History*. 4th ed., Oxford University Press, 2016. **[Canvas]**
- 2) Elizabeth Thompson, *Justice Interrupted: The Struggle for Constitutional Government in the Middle East*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2013. (ebook available on F&M Library <https://fandm.on.worldcat.org/oclc/836870124>)
- 3) Sinan Antoon. *The Baghdad Eucharist*. Translated by Maia Tabet. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe, an Imprint of AUC Press, 2017. (available at the bookstore and F&M Library Course Reserves)
- 4) Marjane Satrapi, *The Complete Persepolis*. First ed. New York: Pantheon Books, 2007. (available at the bookstore and F&M Library Course Reserves)
- 5) Course Package available @ Canvas

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

*Course Expectations: You should attend class regularly, complete all readings and assignments, and come prepared to discuss the material. In order to pass this class, students are expected to take the written exams and submit all the assignments in time. You are required to be familiar with this syllabus. **This is a simple but not an easy class.** Close reading and thoughtful engagement with the texts are essential. Students are reminded to be respectful, and open to diverse perspectives.

- 1) **Attendance & Participation (15%)**
- 2) **Discussion Posts: (20%)**
- 3) **Short Paper #1 (20%)**
- 4) **Short Paper #2 (20%)**
- 5) **Map Quiz (5%)**
- 6) **Final Essay (20%)**

Take Home Essay Grading Guideline (*subject to modification)

- 1.Introduction to the essay (5pt)
- 2.Response to the question asked (10pt)
- 3.Grasp of the reading materials assigned in class (25pt)
- 4.Critical reading and analysis (meaning: don't summarize the readings but engage them in a conversation) (25pt)
- 5.Style (did you follow the format? Are your references put in correct format? Did you borrow a thought and cite it properly? (15 pt)
- 6.Flow of the response: do you have a general structure where you develop ideas? (15 pt)
- 7.Conclusion (5pt)

*****Revisions of the Syllabus:** I reserve the right to revise this syllabus at any time during the semester. Materials may be added or subtracted after the start of the term.

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COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction: Defining the Middle East

Introduction, Key Concepts, Syllabus

Week 2

What is the Middle East? Where is the Middle East?

Readings: Rashid Khalidi, "The 'Middle East' as a Framework of Analysis: Re-Mapping a Region in the Era of Globalization," [Canvas]; Suzy Hansen, "Introduction," *Notes on a Foreign Country*. [Canvas]

Early Islam & Gunpowder Empires

Readings: Gelvin, MME Chapter 1&2; Aron Rodrigue, "Difference and Tolerance in the Ottoman Empire," interview by Nancy Reynolds, *Stanford Humanities Review*, 5 (Fall 1995): 81-90. [Canvas]

Week 3: Making of the Modern State in the Middle East

The Modern World System

Readings: Gelvin, MME Chapter 3&4 [Canvas]; and Elizabeth Thompson, *Justice Interrupted*, Chapter 1: Mustafa Ali: Ottoman Justice and Bureaucratic Reform (pp. 13-30) (ebook available at <https://fandm.on.worldcat.org/oclc/836870124>)

Defensive Developmentalism in the 19th Century

Readings: Gelvin, MME Chapter 5 "Defensive Developmentalism"; & Thompson, *Justice Interrupted*, Chapter 1, pp. 30-36. "Creating new Institutions: Clot Bey's organization of Egypt's first modern medical establishment, 1827-1837," in *The Modern Middle East: A Sourcebook for History*, 31-38 [Canvas]

Week 4: Social and Intellectual Change in the Long 19th Century

Reactions and Responses to Reforms

Readings: Milen V. Petrov, "Everyday Forms of Compliance: Subaltern Commentaries on Ottoman Reform, 1864-1868." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 46, no. 4 (2004): 730-59. [Canvas]; and Thompson, *Justice Interrupted*, Chapter 2. (ebook available at <https://fandm.on.worldcat.org/oclc/836870124>)

Imperialism and Everyday Life

Readings: Gelvin, MME Chapter 6&7 and Akram Khater and Antoine Khater, "Assaf: A Peasant of Mount Lebanon" in *Struggle and Survival in the Modern Middle East*, 35-47. [Canvas]

Week 5: The Young Turks & the Constitutionalists

Constitutionalism

Readings: Gelvin, MME Chapter 9&10. [Canvas]

Constitutionalism -- Continued

Readings: Thompson, *Justice Interrupted*, Chapter 3. & Also, read documents in Gelvin, MME, Rifa'a Rafi' al-Tahtawi, *The Extraction of Gold*; Huda Shaarawi, "A New Mentor"; Muhammad 'Abduh, *The Theology of Unity*, pp. 178-182. [Canvas]

Week 6: World War I and the Middle East System

The Great War

Readings: Gelvin, MME Part II: 180-184. Eugene Rogan, *The Arabs: A History*, Chapter 6: "Divide and Rule: World War I and the Postwar Settlement," 147-174. [Canvas]

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To Watch before the Class: Letters from Baghdad <https://fandm.kanopy.com/video/letters-baghdad> -95min

Genocide, Forced Migration, & Post-War Settlement

Readings: Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*, 40-76. [Canvas]; Lerna Ekmekcioglu, "A Climate for Abduction, a Climate for Redemption: The Politics of inclusion during and After the Armenian Genocide." 522-553. [Canvas]

Week 7: State Formation and Colonial Control in the Middle East (1920-1950)

The Arab Nationalism & the Arab World under the British and French Mandates

Readings: Gelvin, MME Chapter 12. [Canvas]

To Listen before the Class: Transfer and Partition in the Middle East with Laura Robson
<http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2018/11/robson.html>

Secular and Authoritarian Path in Turkey, Iran, and Egypt

Readings: Gelvin, MME Chapter 13. & Afsaneh Najmabadi, "Authority and Agency: Revisiting Women's Activism during Reza Shah's Period," in *The State and the Subaltern*, ed. Atabaki, pp. 159-177. [Canvas]

Week 8: MidTerm Week

Tuesday, March 10: MidTerm Review

Thursday, March 12: MidTerm

Week 9: Spring Break. No Class.

Week 10: Zionism and the British Mandate in Palestine

Zionism and the British Mandate in Palestine

Readings: Gelvin, MME Chapter 14. & A.J. Liebling, "Letter from Gaza: Life in the Gaza Strip." *The New Yorker*. 16 March 1957. [Canvas]

To Listen before Class

Nationality and Citizenship in Mandate Palestine with Lauren Banko

<http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2016/10/citizenship-in-mandate-palestine.html>

The *Nakba* and the Birth of Israel

Readings: S. Yizhar, *Khirbet Khizeh*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014.

To Watch before the Class "The Settlers" by Shimon Dotan

<https://fandm.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1035150677>

Week 11: Independence and Decolonization in the Middle East (1950-1970)

Nasserism

Readings: Gelvin, MME Part IV and Chapter 15; and Laura Bier, "Our sisters in Struggle: State feminism and Third World Imaginaries," in pp. 154-176. [Canvas]

Algerian Independence, Syrian and Iraqi Developmentalism

Readings: Elizabeth Thompson, *Justice Interrupted*, Chapter 8: "Akram al-Hourani and the Baath Party in Syria: Bringing Peasants into Politics," pp. 207-238 [Canvas]

To Listen

✓ Development, Race, and the Cold War in Algeria with Muriam Haleh Davis

<http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2016/11/development-race-algeria.html>

Week 12: Iran, before and after the revolution

Iran, Oil, and 1957 Coup

Readings: Gelvin, MME Chapter 16. & Ervand Abrahamian, "The 1953 Coup in Iran." *Science & Society* 65, no.

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2 (2001): 182. [Canvas]

To Watch in Class: The Secrets of Seven Sisters by Al-Jazeera

Thursday, April 9: The Iranian Revolution of 1979

Readings: Joseph Kraft, "Letter from Iran," *The New Yorker*, December 18, 1978. [Canvas]; Marjene Satrapi, *Persepolis: The Complete Version* (available at the bookstore and on Course Reserves)

Week 13: Political Islam

Origins of Political Islam and the Muslim Brotherhood

Readings: Gelvin, MME Chapter 18; and Thompson, Chapter 6: "Hassan al-Banna of Egypt: The Muslim Brotherhood's Pursuit of Islamic Justice," pp. 150-176. [Canvas]

The US and the Middle East

Readings: Rashid Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East*. Chapter 1 & Ussama Makdisi, "'Anti-Americanism' in the Arab World: An Interpretation of a Brief History," *The Journal of American History* 89:2 (2002): 538-557. [Canvas]

Week 14: The US and the Middle East-Continued

The US and the Middle East

Readings: Gelvin, MME Chapter 17 & Charles Hirschkind and Saba Mahmood. "Feminism, the Taliban, and Politics of Counter-Insurgency." 339-354. [Canvas]

The US, the Middle East and the 9/11

Readings: Sinan Antoon, *The Baghdad Eucharist*. Translated by Maia Tabet. Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe, an Imprint of AUC Press, 2017.

Week 15: The Arab Uprisings, Syria, and The Middle East in the 21st Century

The Arab Uprisings, Syria, and The Middle East in the 21st Century

Readings: Gelvin, Chapter 19 & Conclusion

To Watch before the class & excerpts in class: "The Square"

Final Class: Wrap up!

The End!