

**FROM OIL FIELDS TO SOCCER  
FIELDS:  
The Middle East in the Twentieth  
Century**

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How did the Middle East become modern? Life changed in spectacular ways for the people of the Middle East in the span of a century. Oil – once considered a scarce natural commodity – was discovered and exported in substantial quantities that transformed the economic landscape of the world. Movie theaters, sewage systems, and public housing projects changed the urban backdrop of Middle Eastern cities and towns. Soccer, swimming, skiing, and volleyball became some of the new-fangled sports embraced by Middle Eastern women and men. This course will traverse these fascinating and fraught cultural and economic transformations of the Middle East in the twentieth century to explain the processes of modernity in the region.

Although inclusive of the military battles and conflicts that have shaped the political landscape, this class will move beyond the images of war to show the resiliency and creativity of Middle Eastern communities, even when faced with extraordinary and even unthinkable circumstances. The cultural politics and economic value of oil, as well as the formation of vibrant athletic communities, will be among the topics covered. By considering illustrative cultural moments that shed light on the political history of the period, this course will adopt a nuanced framework to approach the region's current crises.

Students are required to participate in every lecture, as on Thursdays, class time will be devoted to analyzing readings, student PPT presentations based on weekly assignments, and submission of occasional blog posts. Please keep in mind that lectures do not duplicate the readings, but rather supplement them. We will also watch video clips during the lectures. Students are therefore expected to complete all class work in a timely fashion.

Course requirements include satisfactory performance on a Powerpoint presentation related to the weekly readings, 2 short factual quizzes, and a 7-page double-spaced final paper (inclusive of separate submissions for a bibliography and abstract). The essay should be on a topic of contemporary interest covered in the course that is placed in the proper historical context. Online resources will be shared with students to facilitate preparation of the paper.

**Grading** – Presentation: 25%; 2 Short Factual Quizzes: 10% each; Final Paper: 35%; Bibliography and abstract: 10%; Participation: 10%.

**Academic Integrity:** It should go without saying that the University's policies on academic integrity apply to this course:

<https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity/>

If you use websites, articles, books, and other scholarly material for written assignments or for your Powerpoint presentation, you **MUST** cite all your sources. When in doubt, please ask. A good resource would be the Chicago Manual of Style:

<https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

**Course Expectations:** The classroom space functions best as a safe and respectful learning environment. This means that we all need to show patience and understanding. Debate can and should take place with civility and without the stifling of well-grounded, though at times oppositional, opinions. Students should put away all cellphones and non-essential electronic

devices. Laptops are permissible, but students may *not* record classroom conversations. The instructor's Powerpoint presentations are to be used ONLY as study guides and are *not* to be used for public posting or distribution. The course syllabus may similarly *not* be posted online for public consumption.

**Readings & Assignments** – The course readings and assignments will reinforce the analytical skills of students. Writing, critical reading, and textual explication form an integral part of the requirements. In addition, attendance is expected at every class, and all assignments must be turned in on time. Unless there is an emergency, medical, religious, and other excuses must be discussed in advance with the instructor. Unexcused absences and tardy assignments will be penalized with a 1/3 grade deduction per day.

For the PPT presentations, each student will collaborate with 2-3 other students to present on ONE week's readings. Students must sign up for these short presentations at the start of the semester.

For written assignments students should abide by these general editorial guidelines: 1-inch margins on all sides and on every page; 12-point Times New Roman font for the text; 10-point Times New Roman font for footnotes. The text should be double-spaced and the notes single-spaced.

**Learning Resources and Disability Policy:**

We are very invested in your learning and well-being. The University provides support and workshops for students requesting guidance in certain areas. For additional assistance with writing assignments, students can visit the Marks Family Writing Center:

<http://writing.upenn.edu/critical/wc/>. Students who self-identify and seek accommodations should speak to me directly and contact the Office of Disability Service:

<https://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/sds/>.

**NB:** This syllabus may be subject to change.

### Required Texts:

- Mark Gasriowski and Sean Yom, *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa* (GPMENA) 8<sup>th</sup> Edition
- Wilson Chacko Jacob, *Working out Egypt: Effendi Masculinity and Subject Formation in Colonial Modernity, 1870-1940*
- Danyel Reiche and Tamir Sorek, *Sport, Politics and Society in the Middle East*
- Benn, Tansin; Pfister, Gertrud; Jawad, Haifaa, *Muslim Women and Sport*
- Morton, Michael Quentin. *Empires and Anarchies: A History of Oil in the Middle East*
- Resource: Reiche, Danyel, and Paul Michael Brannagan. *Routledge Handbook of Sport in the Middle East*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2022.
  - With the exception of the main textbook, all books and readings should be available online. Older versions of the textbook are available through HathiTrust, but the syllabus corresponds to the 8<sup>th</sup> edition.

### **Week of August 29/31 – Welcome**

- Gasiorowski & Yom, GPMENA, “Introduction”
- Chehabi, H. “The Juggernaut of Globalization,” *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, Volume 19 (2002): 275-29
- Danyel Reiche and Tamir Sorek, Sport, Politics and Society in the Middle East, “Introduction”

### **Week of September 5, 7 – Turkey: From Empire, to Nation, to Religious Activism**

- Gasiorowski & Yom, (GPMENA) chap. 7
- Cem Tınaz, “Turkish Sports, Lost in Politics?” in Reiche and Sorek, Sport, Politics and Society in the Middle East
- Sait Tarakçıoğlu, “A Failed Project in Turkey's Sports History: The Law on Physical Education of 1938,” *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, Vol. 31 (if available)
- Demet Lüküslü & Şakir Dinçşahin, “Shaping Bodies Shaping Minds: Selim Sırrı Tarcan and the Origins of Modern Physical Education in Turkey,” *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, Vol. 30: <http://sbu.hku.edu.tr/Dosyalar/25022017122657.pdf>

### **Week of September 12, 14 – State and Society in Iran until 1941**

- Cyrus Schayegh, “Sport, Health, and the Iranian Middle Class in the 1920s and 1930s,” *Iranian Studies* (2002) Vol. 35, pp. 341-369, JSTOR

- John Cadman, “The Development of the Petroleum Industry in Persia,” (1927), via JSTOR
- Morton, *Empires and Anarchies*, pp. 16-46

### **Week of September 19, 21 – Iraq from Mandate to Revolution**

- Gasriowski & Yom, GPMENA, chap. 8
- Edward Peter Fitzgerald. “The Iraq Petroleum Company, Standard Oil of California, and the Contest for Eastern Arabia, 1930-1933.” *The International History Review*, vol. 13, no. 3, 1991, pp. 441–465. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/40106423](http://www.jstor.org/stable/40106423).
- Hanna Batatu, “Of the Diversity of the Iraqis”:  
<https://courses.marlboro.edu/pluginfile.php/77898/course/section/68419/Batatu%20Chap%202%20Diversity%20of%20Iraqis...Monarchic%20Period.pdf>
- “Women’s narratives of sport and war in Iraq” ~ **DOI:** 10.4324/9780203880630-28 ~ Muslim Women and Sport , 2011, p.267-280 – Available ONLINE: EBook Central: <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.proxy.library.upenn.edu/lib/upenn-ebooks/reader.action?docID=557239#>

### **Week of September 26, 28 – Egypt from Monarchy to Revolution**

- Gasriowski & Yom, GPMENA, chap. 13
- Shaun Lopez, “Football as National Allegory: *Al-Ahram* and the Olympics in 1920s Egypt,” History Compass, Volume 7, Issue 1, January 2009, pp. 282–305 (UPENN online databases)
- Wilson Chacko Jacob, Working out Egypt: Effendi Masculinity and Subject Formation in Colonial Modernity, 1870-1940 (chapters TBA)

### **Week of October 3, 5 – Saudi Arabia and its International Relations**

- Gasriowski & Yom, GPMENA, chap. 10
- William Eddy, FDR Meets King Ibn Saud: <http://susris.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/100222-fdr-abdulaziz-eddy.pdf>  
of Saudi Arabia: A Minority in Search of Cultural Authenticity.” *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 25, no. 1, 1998, pp. 121–138. *JSTOR*
- Sherifa Zuhur, Saudi Arabia, Chapter 6, pp. 245-354. Available online
- “Saudi Arabia’s Token Change in Women’s Sports, A step, not a jump,”  
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2012/06/27/saudi-arabia-token-change-women-sports/IUDzD6v2Q2yLAsXTyEGtzH/story.html>

### **Week of October 10, 12 – Sports, Gender, and Social Change in M.E. Societies --**

- Mahfoud Amara, “The Muslim World in the Global Sporting Arena,” *The Brown Journal of World Affairs*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (SPRING/SUMMER 2008), pp. 67-75 via JSTOR
- Leila Sfeir, “The Status of Muslim Women in Sport: Conflict between Cultural Tradition and Modernization,” *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, Vol. 20, 4 (1985): 283-306 via SAGE



**FALL BREAK ~ OCTOBER 12-15, 2023**

### **Week of October 17, 19 – Sports among Palestinians and the Lebanese**

- Gasriowski & Yom, GPMENA, chaps. 3, 6
- Tamir Sorek, “Palestinian Nationalism Has Left the Field: A Shortened History of Arab Soccer,” in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Volume 35, Issue 3 (August 2003): pp. 417-437 (JSTOR)
- Dag Tuastad, “Football’s Role in How Societies Remember: The Symbolic Wars of Jordanian–Palestinian Football,” Reiche & Sorek, Sport, Politics and Society in the Middle East
- Nadim Nassif, Developing a National Elite Sport Policy in an Arab Country: The Case of Lebanon,” in Reiche & Sorek, Sport, Politics and Society in the Middle East
- Danyel Reiche, “Legacies of Mega-Sporting Events in Developing Countries
- A Case Study of Lebanon,” in Reiche & Sorek, Sport, Politics and Society in the Middle East

**~ FACTUAL QUIZ #1 ~**

### **Week of October 24, 26 – RESEARCH WEEK**

- Students will use this week to work in the library in order to research their paper topic and to write a one-page bibliography of primary and secondary texts. Please refer to this resource for guidance:
- [https://writingproject.fas.harvard.edu/files/hwp/files/bg\\_writing\\_history.pdf](https://writingproject.fas.harvard.edu/files/hwp/files/bg_writing_history.pdf)
- On October 26<sup>th</sup> – students will submit by email a one-page paper abstract
- On October 26<sup>th</sup> – students will submit by email a one-page preliminary bibliography

### **October 31/November 2 – Israeli Society and Culture**

- Gasriowski & Yom, Politics and Government of the Middle East, chap. 5
- Ben-Porat, G. and Ben-Porat, A. (2004) '(Un)bounded Soccer: Globalization and Localization of the Game in Israel,' *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* 39 (4): 421-436.
- Haim Kaufman, "Jewish Sports in the Diaspora, Yishuv, and Israel: Between Nationalism and Politics," *Israel Studies*, Volume 10, Number 2, Summer 2005, pp. 147-167 via Project Muse
- Alina Bernstein and Yair Galily, "Games and Sets: Women, Media and Sport in Israel," Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies & Gender Issues, Number 15, Spring 5769/2008, pp. 175-196 via PROJECT MUSE
- Tamir Sorek, "Hapoel Tel Aviv and Israeli Liberal Secularism," in Reiche & Sorek, Sport, Politics and Society in the Middle East

### **Week of November 7, 9 – Eastern Arabian/Persian Gulf States and Yemen**

- Gasriowski & Yom, GPMENA, chaps. 11-12
- Ian P. Henry Mahfoud Amara Mansour Al-Tauqi, "Sport, Arab Nationalism and the Pan-Arab Games," *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, (2003) via JSTOR
- Luis Henrique Rolim Silva, "The Establishment of the Qatar National Olympic Committee: Building the National Sport Identity," The International Journal of the History of Sport, Volume 31, 2014 - Issue 3: Sport and Nationalism in Asia - Power, Politics and Identity, pp. 306-319 via JSTOR.
- Jane Bristol-Rhys, "Emirati Historical Narratives," History and Anthropology; Vol. 20, Iss. 2 (2009) via JSTOR.
- Charlotte Lysa, "Qatari Female Footballers: Negotiating Gendered Expectations," in Reiche & Sorek, Sport, Politics and Society in the Middle East

- Thomas B. Stevenson and Abdul Karim Alaug, “Football in Newly United Yemen: Rituals of Equity, Identity, and State Formation,” Journal of Anthropological Research, Vol. 56, No. 4 (Winter, 2000), pp. 453-475.

### **Week of November 14, 16 – Culture and the Islamic Revolution in Iran**

- Houchang E. Chehabi, “The Politics of Football in Iran,” Soccer & Society, 25 Jan 2007, via JSTOR.
- Morton, *Anarchies and Empire*, Chapter 3
- Ali-Mohammad Amirtash, “Iran and the Asian Games: The Largest Sports Event in the Middle East,” Sport in Society Cultures, Commerce, Media, Politics, Volume 8, 3 (2005).
- Gasriowski & Yom, GPMENA, Chap. 10

### **Week of November 21, 23 – Oil, The Hostage Crisis, and the Iran-Iraq War**

- Morton, *Anarchies and Empires*, Chapter 13
- "Saudi Arabia's King Salman commits \$1bn for Iraq sports city." *Construction Week*, 5 Apr. 2019. *Gale OneFile: News*, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/A581269189/STND?u=upenn\\_main&sid=STND&xid=21b3513](http://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A581269189/STND?u=upenn_main&sid=STND&xid=21b3513)
- Gary Sick, "Trial by Error: Reflections on the Iran-Iraq War." *Middle East Journal* 43, no. 2 (1989): 230-45 via JSTOR.
- Falih Hassan and Alissa J. Rubin, “Iraqi Protesters Cheer Victory Over Iran, at Least on the Soccer Field,” The New York Times, Nov. 14, 2019: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/14/world/middleeast/iraq-iran-world-cup.html>
- Elie Podeh, “From Indifference to Obsession: The Role of National State Celebrations in Iraq, 1921–2003.” *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 37, no. 2, 2010, pp. 179–206

## **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**November 23 -26, 2023**

### **Week of November 28, 30 – Islam and Women’s Sports**

- Tansin Benn, Gertrud Pfister, Haifaa Jawad, and Richard Bailey, Muslim Women and Sport, chapters 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, & 13. This entire text is available online through the library: EBook Central: <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.proxy.library.upenn.edu/lib/upenn-ebooks/reader.action?docID=557239#>

**~ FACTUAL QUIZ #2 ~**

**Week of December 5, 7 -- Sports, Politics and Diplomacy in the Middle East**

- H.E. Chehabi (2001). "Sport diplomacy between the United States and Iran," Diplomacy & Statecraft, 12:1, 89-106, DOI: [10.1080/09592290108406190](https://doi.org/10.1080/09592290108406190). Available online.
- Nida Ahmad, "Sportswomen's Use of Social Media in the Middle East and North Africa, (Mena)," in Reiche & Sorek, Sport, Politics and Society in the Middle East
- Simon Chadwick, "The Business of Sports in the Gulf Cooperation Council Member States," in Reiche & Sorek,
- Carl Stempel, "Televised Sports, Masculinist Moral Capital, and Support for the U.S. Invasion of Iraq," Journal of Sport & Social Issues, Volume 30 Number 1 February 2006 79-106.

**PAPER DUE ON 18 DECEMBER 2023**