Course Description

This semester’s Social and Economic History of the Middle East course is organized around the theme of dis(possessed) subjects and dis(possessed) spaces. It does not aim to provide a comprehensive survey of theories of dispossession. Instead, over the course of the semester we will follow key routes into the dialectics of possession and dispossession, considering in particular how models of imperial/colonial and post-colonial urban and rural life are premised on dispossession of certain subjects who are at the same time violently excluded from the national and colonial projects. The task of this course is to interrogate how norms of property are established and concretized, but also challenged from different historical and geographical vantage points. Citizenship, violence and property, then emerge as the three main keywords in this interrogation.

Requirements:

- Active participation in classroom discussions (20 %).
- Three position papers with one presentation, 3-5 pages in length (40 %).
- One research paper, 10 pages in length (due at the end of the semester) (40 %).

Please, familiarize yourself with a map, timeline, and glossary. A variety of Middle East maps are available at:
https://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east.html

Some useful sources on the Middle East:
www.jadaliyya.org
www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com
http://hazine.info (online resources and useful guide to libraries and archives)
http://almashriq.hiof.no/
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (23 March): Introduction: main goals and structure

Week 2 (30 March): What is Dispossession?


Week 3 (6 April): Models and genealogies of Dis(possession) and Empire I


Recommended readings:


**Week 4 (13 April): Models and genealogies of Dis(possession) and Empire II**


**Week 5 (20 April): Empire, Violence and Imaginaries of the Rural Environment**


**Recommended readings:**


“Roundtable: How Does Incorporating the Emerging Field of Environmental History into Studies of the Middle East Challenge Our Views of the Past and/or Present?,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 2010, pp. 657-71

**Week 6 (9 April): Property, Race and Slavery**


**Week 7 (27 April): Empire and its afterlives**


Ottoman History Podcast, Muriam Haleh Davis “Development, Race, and the Cold War in Algeria”, 2016.


**Week 8 (4 May): Dispossession, technology and space**


**Week 9 (18 May): Property and governance of minorities**


**Recommended reading:**

**Week 10 (25 May): Infrastructure, Logistics and Development**


**Week 11 (1 June): Property and Archives and Things**


**Week 12 (8 June): Dispossession and Neoliberalism**


**Week 13 (15 June): Property and Postwar Reconstruction**