

**ATA 535
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE 1800
(Citizenship, Violence, Property)**

(Spring 2020)

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Course times: Wednesday: 10.00-13.00
Office hours: Wednesday 13.30- 15.00 and by appointment

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, though. 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, then, 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, 3-5 pages in length (30 %).
- One research paper, 15-20 pages in length (due at the end of the semester) (50 %).

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
<http://gulf2000.columbia.edu/maps.shtml>

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/>
www.merip.org (The Middle East Research and Information Project)

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (11 February): Introduction: main goals and structure

Week 2 (18 February): Dispossession

Judith Butler and Athena Athanasiou, *Dispossession: The Performative in the Political*, (Malden MA: Polity, 2013), Preface and Chapters 1, 2, 7–9.

Jordana Rosenberg and Chi-ming Yang, The Dispossessed Eighteenth Century, *The Eighteenth Century*, 2014, 55 (2-3), pp. 137- 152.

Katherine Verdery and Caroline Humphrey, *Property in Question, Value Transformation in the Global Economy*, (NY: Berg, 2004), Introduction: Raising Questions about Property, pp. 1- 25.

Week 3 (25 February): Models and genealogies of Dis(possession) and Empire

Huricihan İslamoğlu, “Property as Contested Domain: A reevaluation of the Ottoman land Code of 1858”, in Roger Owen (ed.), *New Perspectives on Property and Land in the Middle East*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000), pp. 3-62.

Brenna Bhandar, “Title by Registration: Instituting Modern Property Law and Creating Racial Value in the Settler Colony”, *Journal of Law and Society*, 42(2), 2015, pp. 253-282.

Nicholas Blomley, “Law, Property, and the Geography of Violence: The Frontier, the Survey, and the Grid”, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 93(1), 2003, pp. 121-141.

Pascale Ghazaleh (ed.), *Held in trust: Waqf in the Islamic world*, (Cairo : American University in Cairo Press, 2011), Introduction.

Martha Mundy and R. Saumarez Smith, “Al-mahr zaytuna: property and family in the hills facing Palestine (1880-1940)”, Beshara Doumani (ed.) *Family history in the Middle East: Household, Property and Gender*, (Albany: SUNY Press, 2003).

Yücel Terzibaşoğlu, “The Ottoman Agrarian Question and the Making of Property and Crime in Nineteenth Century” in Elias Kolovos (ed.), *Ottoman Rural Societies and Economies* (Institute of Mediterranean Studies, Crete: University of Crete Press, 2015).

Week 4 (4 March): Models and genealogies of Dis(possession) and Empire

Timothy Mitchell, *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity* (LA: University of California Press, 2002). Chapter 2, Principles True in Every Country, pp. 52- 78.

David Washbrook, “Sovereignty, Property, Land and Labour in Colonial South India” in Huri Islamoglu (ed.), *Constituting Modernity: Private Property in the East and West*, (London and New York, IB Tauris, 2004), pp.69-99.

Martin Bunton, "Demarcating the British Colonial State: Land Settlement in the Jiftlik Villages of Sajad and Qazaza" in Roger Owen, (ed.), *New Perspectives on Property and Land in the Middle East* (Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press, 2000), pp. 121- 158.

Martha Mundy, "The state of property: late Ottoman Southern Syria (the Kaza Aclun, 1875-1918)", H. Islamoglu (ed.), *Constituting modernity: Private property in the East and West*, (London: IB Tauris, 2004).

Nicholas Blomley, "Making Private Property: Enclosure, Common Right and the Work of Hedges", *Rural History*, 18(1), 2007, pp. 1-21.

Marion Farouk-Sluglett, Peter Sluglett, "The Transformation of Land Tenure and Rural Social Structure in Central and Southern Iraq, C. 1870-1958," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 40, No. 1 (Feb., 2008)

Week 5 (11 March): Empire, Violence and Imaginaries of the Rural Environment

Joseph William Singer, *Entitlement: The Paradoxes of Property* (Ithaca: Yale University Press, 2000), Chapter 1.

Gary Fields, "This is *our* land": collective violence, property law, and imagining the geography of Palestine", *Journal of Cultural Geography*, 29(3), 2012, pp. 267-29.

Alan Mikhail, "An Irrigated Empire: The View from Ottoman Fayyum," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 42(4), 2010, pp. : 569-590.

Alexis Wick, "History, Geography and the Sea," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 48(4), 2016, pp. : 743-745

"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 (18 March): Property and Race and Slavery

Cheryl I. Harris, "Whiteness as property", *Harvard Law Review*, 2006, 106 (8), pp. 1707. - 199.

Brenna Bhandar, *Colonial Lives of Property Law, Land, and Racial Regimes of Ownership*. (North Caroline: Duke University Press, 2018), Introduction.

Brenna Bhandar, "Property Abolitionism: Race, Colony, Body, Land", *The Disorder of Things Blog*, May 10, 2019.

Ceyda Karamürsel, "Transplanted slavery, contested freedom and vernacularization of rights in the reform era Ottoman Empire", *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 59(3), 2017, pp. 690-714.

Week 7 (25 March): Property and post-imperial/decolonization

Muriam Haleh Davis, “Restaging Mise en Valeur: "Postwar Imperialism" and The Plan de Constantine”, *Review of Middle East Studies*, 44(2), 2010 , pp. 176-186.

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

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

Jordanna Bailkin, “Where Did the Empire Go? Archives and Decolonization in Britain”, *American Historical Review*, AHR Roundtable On Decolonization, 2015, pp.884-899.

Christian Lund, “Rule and Rupture: State Formation Through the Production of Production of Property and Citizenship”, in Christian Lund and Michael Eilenberg (ed.), *Rule and Rupture: State Formation Through the Production of Production of Property and Citizenship* (London: Blackwell, 2017), pp. 1-29.

Ceyda Karamürsel, “Shiny Things and Sovereign Legalities: Expropriation of Dynastic Property in the Late Ottoman Empire and Early Turkish Republic”, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 2019, 51 (3), pp 445-463.

Besley, Tim and Persson, Torsten, “The Origins of State Capacity: Property Rights, Taxation and Politics,” *American Economic Review*, 99(4), 2009, pp. 1218-44.

Week 8 (1 April): Dispossession and space

Eyal Weizman, *Hollow Land: Israel’s Architecture of Occupation*, (London: Verso, 2006), Introduction.

Nicholas Blomley, “The Territory of Property”, *Progress in Human Geography*, 40 (5), 2016, pp. 593- 609.

Michael Fischbach, *Records of Dispossession : Palestinian Refugee Property and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, (NY: Columbia University Press, 2003).

Ray Bush, “Coalitions for Dispossession and Networks of Resistance? Land, Politics and Agrarian Reform in Egypt”, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 38(3), 2011, pp. 391-405.

Week 9 (8 April): Property and governance of minorities

Ayşe Parla and Ceren Özgül, “Property, Dispossession, and Citizenship in Turkey; Or, the History of the Gezi Uprising Starts in the Surp Hagop Armenian Cemetery”, *Public Culture*, 2016, 28 (3), pp. 617–653.

Hiba Bou Akar, *For the War Yet To Come, Planning Beirut's Frontiers*, (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2018), Prologue and Constructing Sectarian Geographies, pp. 1- 34.

Yaşar Tolga Cora, Female Labor, Merchant Capital, and Resilient Manufacturing: Rethinking Ottoman Armenian Communities through Labor and Business, *Journal of The Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 61 (2018), pp. 361- 395.

Yücel Terzibaşoğlu, "Land Disputes and Ethno-Politics: North-western Anatolia, 1877-1912", in S. Engerman and J. Metzger (ed.), *Ethno-Nationality, Property Rights in Land and Territorial Sovereignty in Historical Perspective* (Routledge: London, 2004).

Ümit Kurt and Taner Akçam, *The Spirit of the Laws: The Plunder of Wealth in the Armenian Genocide* (NY: Berghahn, 2015), Chapter 7.

Week 10 (15 April): Infrastructure, Logistics and Development

Joanne Randa Nucho, *Everyday Sectarianism in Urban Lebanon: Infrastructures, Public Services, and Power* (NY: Princeton University Press, 2017). Chapter 2.

Laleh Khalili, Charmaine Chua, Martin Danyluk and Deborah Cowen, "Introduction: Turbulent Circulation: Building a Critical Engagement with Logistics", *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 36(4), pp. 617- 629.

Priya Satia, "Rebellion of Technology" Development, Policing and the British Arabian Imagery" in Diana Davis and Edmund Burke III (ed.), *Environmental Imaginaries of the Middle East and North Africa*, (Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2011), pp. 23- 59.

Daniel Neep, *Occupying Syria under the French mandate: Insurgency, Space and State Formation*, (London: Cambridge University Press, 2012), Chapter 6, Urban Planning, Hygiene and Counter Insurgency, pp. 131- 164.

Rosalind Fredericks, "Vital Infrastructures of Trash in Dakar," *Comparative Studies of South Asia, African and the Middle East* 34(3), 2015, pp. 532-548.

Nikhil Anand, "Municipal Disconnect: On Abject Water and its Urban Infrastructures.", *Ethnography* 13(4), 2013, pp: 487–509.

Week 11 (29 April): Property and Archives and Things

Michelle Caswell, "Thank You Very Much, Now Give Them Back": Cultural Property and the Fight over the Iraqi Baath Party Records, *The American Archivist*, 74(1), 2011, pp. 211-240.

Rebecca Stein, "Dispossession Reconsidered: Israel, Nakba, Things", *Ethnologie Française*, 45(2), 2015, pp. 309- 320.

Alice von Bieberstein, "Treasure/Fetish/Gift: Hunting for 'Armenian gold' in post-genocide Turkish Kurdistan", *Subjectivity*, 10(3), 2017, pp.170–189

Zerrin Özlem Biner, *States of Dispossession: Violence and Precarious Coexistence in Southeast Turkey*, (Philadelphia: UPenn Press, 2020), Chapter 2, Ruined Heritage, pp. 62-81.

Week 12 (6 May): Dispossession and Neoliberalism

David Harvey, “The New Imperialism: Accumulation by Dispossession.” *The Socialist Register*, 40, 2004.

Michael Levien, “From Primitive Accumulation to Regimes of Dispossession: Six Theses on India’s Land Question” Working paper, Johns Hopkins University, 17 March 2015
<https://krieger.jhu.edu/arrighi/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2015/03/Theses-on-Indias-Land-Question-3.4.pdf>

(Michael Levien, “Regimes of Dispossession: From Steel Towns to Special Economic Zones”, *Development and Change* 44(2), 2013).

Tuna Kuyucu and Özlem Ünsal, “Urban Transformation’ as State-led Property Transfer: An Analysis of Two Cases of Urban Renewal in Istanbul”, *Urban Studies*, 47(7), 2010, pp. 1479–1499.

Robert Parks, “Claiming Bits and Pieces of the State: Squatting and Appropriation of Public Domain in Algeria”, *Middle East Law and Governance*, 11, 2019, pp. 103- 135.

Laura Pulido, “Geographies of race and ethnicity II: Environmental racism, racial capitalism and state-sanctioned violence,” *Progress in Human Geography*, 41(4), 2016, pp. 524- 533.

Week 13 (13 May): Property and Postwar- Reconstruction