Course Description
This course is on the themes and debates in the modern history of the Middle Eastern societies. The course will examine selected aspects of politics and society in the Middle East and will cover the period from the late Ottoman rule up until recent times. It will explore a number of theoretical and methodological questions related to the study of the Middle East. The extent of the course is not limited to high politics, but it aims to present a bottom-up approach to the histories of colonialism, state-making, nationalism, decolonization and state-society relations in the post-colonial period.

Requirements:

1- Active participation in classroom discussions. Each student will be assigned for one of the 13 weeks’ readings and critically present the weekly material in the first 15 minutes of the class. (20 %).
2- Five position papers, 4-6 pages in length (30 %).
3- 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

Some useful sources on the Middle East:
The Middle East Research and Information Project (www.merip.org)
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 (25 September): Introduction: main goals and structure

Week 2 (2 October): Historical Origins, Theoretical Approaches and Conceptual Tools I


http://ebookbrowse.com/edward-said-orientalism-pdf-d64686549


http://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=2YDKEncsu5C&oi=fnd&pg=PP11&dq=david+prochaska+orientalism&ots=7_stcVHiF&sig=0C8IETLc-nLApUjmtmqAP_nn7o#v=onepage&q=david%20prochaska%20orientalism&f=false

(http://texts.cdlib.org/xtf/view?docId=ft8k4008kx&chunk.id=ch1.

Recommended Readings:


Bernard Lewis, What Went Wrong, (NY: Oxford Uni. Press, 2002). For the nucleus of the arguments, see the below link

Adam Sabra, “What is Wrong with What Went Wrong?”, MERIP, August 2003.
http://www.merip.org/mero/interventions/sabra_interv.html

Zachary Lockman, “Behind the Battles of US Middle East Studies,”
http://www.merip.org/mero/interventions/lockman_interv.html

**Week 3 (9 October): The Middle East and the Ottoman Empire**


Dina Rizk Khoury, *State and Provincial Society in the Ottoman Empire: Mosul, 1540-1834* (Cambridge and NewYork: Cambridge University Press, 1999), Chap.2.


Selim Deringil, “They Live in a State of Nomadism and Savagery’: The Late Ottoman Empire and the Post-Colonial Debate,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 45 (2), 2003, pp.311- 342.

**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 4 (23 October): Western Colonialism in the Middle East**


**Week 5 (30 October): Post World War I Settlement and the Mandates**


Recommended Readings:


Orit Bashkin, “‘Out of Place’: Home and Empire in the Works of Mahmud Ahmad al-Sayyid and Dhu Nun Ayyub, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*,” 28:3 (2008), pp. 428-442


**Week 6 (7 November): Nationalisms**


Recommended readings:

On this subject, I recommend reading the short responses to the question, “Arab nationalism: has a new framework emerged?” published by four different historians in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, vol. 41, no. 1 (February 2009).

The articles by four different historians *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol.43 - Special Issue 02 (Relocating Arab Nationalism), 2011.

**Week 7 (13 November): Modernisation in the post-colonial era**


**Week 8 (20 November): Making of minorities in the Middle East**


http://www.merip.org/mer/mer200/mer200.html


http://www.jstor.org/stable/30042472

Laura Robson, Recent Perspectives on Christianity in the Modern Arab World, *History Compass*, vol.9 , 2011.


James Mc Dougall, Histories of heresy and salvation. Arabs, Berbers, community and the state”, in Katherine Hoffman and Susan Gilson Miller (eds.), *Berbers and others: Beyond tribe and nation in the Maghrib*, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010), ch.1


Recommended readings:


**Week 9 (27 November): Political Islam**


Recommended Readings:


Week 10 (4 December): Gender


Recommended reading:

Week 11 (11 December): The Palestinian issue

Joel Beinin and Lisa Hajjar, “Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Primer,” available at:

http://www.merip.org/palestine-israel_primer/toc-pal-isr-primer.html
http://www.democracynow.org/finkelstein-benami.shtml


http://www.merip.org/mer/mer231/sussman.html

Recommended reading:

Week 12 (18 December): Globalization and Neo-liberalism


Joel Beinin, “Late capitalism and the Reformation of the Working Classes in the Middle East”, in Israel Gershoni, Hakan Erdem and Ursula Woköck (eds.) Histories of the Modern Middle East, New Directions, (London: Lynne Rienner, 2002), pp. 113-133


http://www.merip.org/mero/mero032507.html

Week 13 (25 December): Review and Reflections on the recent uprisings in the Middle East