ATA 554  
History of the Modern Middle East  
(Fall 2019)  

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Course times: Monday: 10.00-13.00  

Course Description  
This course is on the themes and debates in the history of the modern Middle East. 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 region. 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  
- Active participation in classroom discussions. (20 %).  
- Three position papers, 3-5 pages in length and one presentation (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  

Some useful sources on the Middle East are as follows:  
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)  
http://akkasah.org/results/?filter=location%3ELuxor,%20Egypt;;&queries=&pageid=1
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: Introduction: main goals and structure

Week 2: Historical Origins, Theoretical Approaches and Conceptual Tools

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


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?,” IJMES 42 (4) (November 2010), pp. 657-71.

Week 3: Ottoman Empire and the Arab provinces in the 19th century


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: Western Colonialism in the Middle East


Recommended Readings:

Week 5: Post World War I Middle East


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 6: Arab Nationalisms**


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.


**Recommended Readings:**

Week 7: Decolonization and the post-colonial era


Recommended Readings:

Week 8 (13 November): Making of minorities in the Middle East


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


Recommended Readings:


Hişyar Özsoy, “The Kurds' ordeal with Turkey in a transforming Middle East” Dialectical Anthropology, 37(1), 2013, pp. 103-111.


Week 9: Political Islam


Recommended Readings:

Week 10: Gender


Handan Çağlayan, “From Kawa the Blacksmith to Ishtar the Goddess: Gender Constructions in Ideological-Political Discourses of the Kurdish Movement in post-1980 Turkey Possibilities and limits”, European Journal of Turkish Studies [Online], 14 | 2012, Online since 18 January 2013.


Recommended Readings:


Week 11 : The Palestinian issue


Week 12 : Globalization and Neo-liberalism


**Recommended Readings:**

Julia elYachar, Rethinking Anthropology of Neoliberalism in the Middle East, *A Companion to the Anthropology of the Middle East*, pp.411-433.

Week 13 : Review and class discussion on the Arab uprisings and authoritarian resurgence