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 (25 September): Introduction: main goals and structure

Week 2 (2 October): 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 (9 October): 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:**

Linda Schilcher, "Violence in Rural Syria in the 1890s and 1890s" in Peasents and Politics in the Modern Middle East (eds.) Farhad Kazami and John Waterbury, (Miami: Florida University Presss, 1991), pp. 50-84.


**Week 4 (16 October): Western Colonialism in the Middle East**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 5 (23 October): Post World War I Middle East**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 6 (30 October): Arab Nationalisms**


**Recommended Readings:**

**Week 7 (6 November): 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 (20 November): Political Islam**


**Recommended Readings:**

**Week 10 (27 November ): 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 Possiblilities and limits”, European Journal of Turkish Studies [Online], 14 | 2012, Online since 18 January 2013.


Recommended Readings:


Week 11 (4 December): The Palestinian issue

Joel Beinin and Lisa Hajjar, “Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Primer” 
http://www.merip.org/palestine-israel_primer/toc-pal-isr-primer.html
http://www.democracynow.org/finkelstein-benami.shtml


Week 12 (11 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.


**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 (18 December): Review and class discussion on the Arab uprisings and authoritarian resurgence