

**ATA 554**  
**History of the Modern Middle East**  
**(Fall 2020)**

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**Course times: Monday: 10.00-13.00**  
**Office hours: Monday 14.00- 15.00; Wednesday 13.30- 15.00 and by appointment**

**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 (40 %).
- One term 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](https://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east.html)

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

Some useful sources on the Middle East are as follows:

[www.jadaliyya.org](http://www.jadaliyya.org)

[www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com](http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com)

<http://hazine.info> (online resources and useful guide to libraries and archives)

<http://almashriq.hiof.no/>

[www.merip.org](http://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 (26 October): Introduction: main goals and structure

### Week 2 (2 November): Historical Origins, Theoretical Approaches and Conceptual Tools

Edward Said, "Introduction" and "Knowing the Oriental", in *Orientalism*, (NY: Vintage Books, 1978), pp. 1-28 and 31- 49.

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

Zachary Lockman, "Introduction", "In the Beginnings", "Islam, The West and the Rest", "Orientalism and Empire" in *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism*, (Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 1-99.

Hüseyin Yılmaz, "The Eastern Question and the Ottoman Empire" in Michael Bonine, Abbas Amanat and Michael E. Gasper, (eds.), *Is There a Middle East? The Evolution of a Geopolitical Concept* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2012), pp. 11- 35.

Lisa Lowe, *The Intimacies of Four Continents* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2015), pp. 1-42.

### 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?," *IJMES* 42 (4) (November 2010), pp. 657-71.

### Week 3 (9 November): Ottoman Empire and the Arab provinces in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

Eugene Rogan, "The Arab Challenge to the Ottoman rule", in Eugene Rogan, *The Arabs, A History*, (London: Penguin, 2011), pp. 48- 134.

Albert Hourani, "Ottoman reform and Politics of Notables", in Albert Hourani, Philip Khoury and Mary Wilson, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 83- 110.

James Gelvin, "The 'Politics of Notables' Forty Years After," *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin* 40/1 (2006): 21-29.

Ussama Makdisi, "Ottoman Orientalism," *American Historical Review*, 107(3), 2002, pp. 768-796.

Beshara Doumani, *Rediscovering Palestine*, (Introduction), (Berkeley, UC Press, 1995), Introduction and Chapter 1, The meanings of Autonomy, pp. 1-15.

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.

Dina Rizk Khoury, "Where are the Ottomans in the Historiography of the Twentieth Century Fertile Crescent?" in Donald Quataert ve Baki Tezcan (ed.) *Beyond Dominant Paradigms in Ottoman and Middle Eastern/North African Studies: A Tribute to Rifa'at Abou-El-Haj* (Istanbul: ISAM, 2010).

Dina Rizk Khoury. "Provincial and/or Regional Histories and the Question of Temporality." *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*, vol. 7 no. 1, 2020, p. 52-54. Project MUSE [muse.jhu.edu/article/762062](https://muse.jhu.edu/article/762062).

### **Recommended readings:**

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).

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

Khaled Fahmy, "The Era of Muhammad 'Ali Pasha," *Cambridge History of Egypt*, pp. 139-179.

### **Week 4 (16 November): The Empire in the Middle East**

Eugene Rogan, "The First Wave of Colonialism in the Middle East: North Africa" in *The Arabs, A History*, (London: Penguin, 2011), pp. 134- 196.

James Mc Dougall, "The British and French empires in the Arab world: Some problems of colonial state-formation and its legacy", in Raymond A. Hinnebusch and Sally N. Cummings (ed.), *Sovereignty after empire: Comparing the Middle East and Central Asia*, (NY, Edinburgh University Press, 2011), pp. 44- 65.

Peter Sluglett, 'Formal and Informal Empire in the Middle East', in Robin W. Winks (ed.), *The Oxford History of the British Empire : Volume V, Historiography*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1999, pp. 416-436.

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.

Ilham Khuri-Makdisi, *The Eastern Mediterranean and the Making of Global Radicalism, 1860-1914*, (University of California Press, 2010). Chapter 1, The Late Nineteenth-century World and the Emergence of a Global Radical Culture, pp. 15- 34.

**Recommended Readings:**

Abd al-Rahman al-Jabarti, *Al-Jabarti's Chronicle of the French occupation of Egypt (1798)*, (Marcus Wiener Publishers, 1997), pp. 3-15, 101-111, 167-180.

**Week 5 (23 November): Post World War I Middle East and the mandates**

Eugene Rogan, "Divide and Rule", in *The Arabs, A History*, (London: Penguin, 2011), pp. 182-216.

Laura Robson, *States of Separation: Transfer, Partition and the Making of the Modern Middle East* (LA: UCLA Press, 2017), Chapter 2, The Refugee Regime, pp. 35- 64.

Cyrus Schayegh and Andrew Arsan (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of the History of the Mandates*, (Routledge, 2015), Introduction, pp. 1- 23.

Toufoul Abou Hodeib, "Sanctity across the Border: Pilgrimage Routes and State Control in Mandate Lebanon and Palestine," in *The Routledge Handbook of the History of the Middle East Mandates*, (Routledge, 2015), pp. 383-394.

Michael Provence, "French Mandate Counterinsurgency and the Repression of the Great Syrian Revolt," in *The Routledge Handbook of the History of the Middle East Mandates*, (Routledge, 2015), pp. 136- 152.

Muriam Haleh Davis, "Colonial Capitalism and Imperial Myth in French North Africa" in Joel Beinin et al. (ed.) *A Critical Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa*, (LA: Stanford University Press, February 2021).

**Recommended Readings:**

Roger Owen, *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*, (London, NY: Routledge, 2004), pp. 5- 22.

Peter Sluglett, *Les Mandats/ The mandates: Some reflections on the nature of the British presence in Iraq (1914- 1932) and the French presence in Syria (1918- 1946)*, in Peter Sluglett and Nadine Méouchy (eds.), *The British and French mandates in comparative perspectives/Les mandats Français et Anglais dans une perspective comparative*, (Leiden, Brill, 2004), pp. 103-28.

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.

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

Israel Gershoni and James Jankowski (eds.), "Introduction" and "Rethinking the Formation of Arab Nationalism in the Middle East, 1920-1945: Old and New Narratives", in *Rethinking Nationalism in the Arab Middle East*, (NY: Columbia University Press, 1997).

James Mc Dougall, "The Emergence of Nationalism" in Amal Ghazal and Jens Hanssen (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Middle-Eastern and North African History*, (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Mary C. Wilson, "The Hashemites, the Arab Revolt and Arab Nationalism", in Rashid Khalidi, Lisa Anderson, Muhammad Muslim and Reeve S. Simon (eds.), *The Origins of Arab Nationalism*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 1991), pp. 3-31.

Ted Swedenburg, 'The Role of the Palestinian Peasantry in the Great revolt (1936-1939)', in Edmund Burke III and Ira Lapidus (eds.), *Islam, Politics and Social Movements*, (Berkeley and Los Angeles, California University Press, 1988), pp. 169-203.

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:**

"Arab nationalism: has a new framework emerged?" published by four different historians in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 43(2), *Special Issue 02 (Relocating Arab Nationalism)*, 2011.

### **Week 7 (7 December): Decolonization and the post-colonial era**

Eugene Rogan, *The Arabs, A History*, (London: Penguin, 2011), pp. 349- 400.

Zachary Lockman, *Contending visions of the Middle East: the history and politics of Orientalism*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 100- 148.

Joel Beinin, "Populist nationalism, state-led development, and authoritarian regimes, 1939–1973", in *Workers and Peasants in the Modern Middle East* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2001). pp. 114- 141.

Salwa Ismail, "Changing Social Structure, Shifting Alliances and Authoritarianism in Syria", Fred Lawson (ed.), *Demystifying Syria*. (London: Saqi, 2009), pp. 13-28.

Todd Shepard, "Decolonization and the Republic", in Edward Berenson, Vincent Duclert and Christophe Prochasson (eds.), *The French Republic: History, Values, Debates* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011).

Lisa Weeden, Acting "As If": Symbolic Politics and Social Control in Syria", *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 40 (1998), pp. 503-523.

### **Week 8 (14 December): Making of minorities in the Middle East**

Ussama Makdisi, "Reconstructing the Nation-State: The Modernity of Secularism in Lebanon" in *Minorities in the Middle East: Power and the Politics of Difference*, *Middle East Report*, 200, (Summer 1996).

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

Heather J. Sharkey, "History Rhymes? Late Ottoman Millets and Post-Ottoman Minorities in the Middle East" *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 50:4 (2018), pp. 760-764.

Max Weiss, "Prologue: Shi'ism, Sectarianism, Modernity" in *In the Shadow of Sectarianism: Law, Shi'ism, and the Making of Modern Lebanon* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010), pp. 1-37.

Shira Robinson, *Citizen Strangers: Palestinians and the Birth of Israel's Liberal Settler State*, (Stanford, Stanford University Press, 2013, "Citizenship as a Category of Exclusion", Chapter 3.

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

Saba Mahmood, "To Be or Not to be a Minority" in *Religious Difference in a Secular Age: A Minority Report* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2016), pp. 66-107.

### **Recommended Readings:**

Janet Klein, "Conflict and Collaboration: rethinking Kurdish Armenian relations in the Hamidian period", 1876-1909, *International Journal of Turkish Studies*, 13(1-2), 2007, pp. 153-166.

Sami Zubaida, Community, Class and Politics in Iraqi Politics, in Robert Fernea and Roger Louis (eds.), *The Iraqi revolution of 1958*, (London : IB Tauris, 1991) pp. 197- 210.

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

Paul Silverstein, "States of Fragmentation in North Africa", *Middle East Report*, 237 (Winter, 2005), pp. 26-33. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30042472>

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.

### **Week 9 (21 December): Political Islam**

Joel Beinin and Joe Stork, "On the Modernity, Historical Specificity, and International Context of Political Islam", in Joel Beinin and Joe Stork, *Political Islam: Essays from Middle East Report*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997), pp. 3-25.

James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A history*, (NY: Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 282- 303.

Zachary Lockman, *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism* (London: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2004), pp. 216-236.

Asef Bayat, "Revolution without movement, Movement without Revolution: Comparing Islamic Activism in Iran and Egypt in 1960- 1980," in Asef Bayat ,*Making Islam Democratic Social Movements and the Post-Islamist Turn*, (Stanford : Stanford Uni. Press, 2007), pp. 16-48.

Thomas Pierret, "The Syrian Baath Party and Sunni Islam: Conflicts and Connivance", *Middle East Brief 77, February 2014*. <http://www.brandeis.edu/crown/publications/meb/MEB77.pdf>

#### **Recommended Readings:**

Cihan Tuğal, "Islamism in Turkey: Beyond Instrument and Meaning", *Economy and Society*, 31, 1 (2002), pp. 85-111.

#### **Week 10 (28 December ): No Class**

#### **Week 11 (4 January): Gender**

Deniz Kandiyoti, Contemporary Feminist Scholarship and Middle East Studies, in Deniz Kandiyoti (ed.), *Gendering the Middle East: Emerging Perspectives*, (London: I.B. Tauris, 1996), pp. 1-27.

Khaled Fahmy, "Women, Medicine, and Power in Nineteenth-Century Egypt" in Leila Abu-Lughod, (ed.) *Remaking Women: Feminism and Modernity in the Middle East*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998), pp. 35- 72.

Maya Mikdashi, "How not to Study Gender in the Middle East," *Jadaliyya* March 21, 2012. <http://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/25434/How-Not-to-Study-Gender-in-the-Middle-East>

Nadje al-Ali, *Secularism, Gender and the State in the Middle East, The Egyptian Women's Movement*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. pp. 51- 85.

Lara Deeb, *An Enchanted Modern: Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon* (Princeton & Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), Introduction.

Hanan Hammad, *Industrial Sexuality: Gender, Urbanization, and Social Transformation in Egypt* (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2016). Intro.

### **Recommended Readings:**

<https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/41129/On-Teaching-Gender-and-Islam-in-the-Middle-East-An-Interview-with-Lila-Abu-Lughod-conducted-by-Jacob-Bessen-41129>

Afsaneh Najmabadi, "Transing and Transpassing across Sex-Gender Walls in Iran" *Women's Studies Quarterly*, 36 (3-4), 2008, pp. 23- 42.

### **Week 12 (11 January): 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.merip.org/palestine-israel_primer/toc-pal-isr-primer.html)  
<http://www.democracynow.org/finkelstein-benami.shtml>

Rema Hammami and Salim Tamari, "Anatomy of Another Rebellion", *Middle East Report*, 217 (Winter 2000), pp. 2-15.

Charles Smith, The End of the Oslo Process? The Camp David Talks, the Second Intifada, and the Resurgence of Likud, 1999-2003, in Charles Smith, *The Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents*, (Boston: Bedford and St. Martin's, 2004), pp. 487-538.

Gary Sussman, "The Challenge to the Two-State Solution", *Middle East Report*, 231 (Summer 2004): 8-15.

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

Shira Robinson, *Citizen Strangers: Palestinians and the Birth of Israel's Liberal Settler State*, (Stanford, Stanford University Press, 2013), Introduction.

### **Week 13 (18 January): Globalization and Neo-liberalism**

James Gelvin, *The modern Middle East: A history*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 304- 324.

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.

Bassam Haddad, "Enduring Legacies: The Politics of Private Sector Development in Syria", In Fred H. Lawson (ed), *Demystifying Syria*, (London: Saqi, 2009), pp. 29- 56.



Joel Beinin and Hossam el-Hamalawy, "Egyptian Textile Workers Confront the New Economic Order," *Middle East Report Online*, March 25, 2007.  
<http://www.merip.org/mero/mero032507.html>

Timothy Mitchell, *Dreamland: The neoliberalism of your desires*, *Middle East Report*, 29(1), 1999, pp.28-33.

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.

**Recommended Readings:**

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

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.