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

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 (26 October): Introduction: main goals and structure

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

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


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 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.

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.

**Recommended readings:**


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


**Recommended Readings:**

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


**Recommended Readings:**


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

“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**


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

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


**Recommended Readings:**


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


**Recommended Readings:**


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

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


**Recommended Readings:**


**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.democracynow.org/finkelstein-benami.shtml


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


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


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