HIST 199: THE MAKING OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

Winter 2015, TTh 2:00-3:50 pm., 123 McKenzie Hall

This course aims to explore the modern historical experience of the inhabitants of the Modern Middle East (MME) within the framework of the region’s deep roots within what historians conventionally refer to as ‘Islamic Civilization’. Particularly key will be the construction of a narrative of the emergence the MME as a geopolitical region within the political system of nation-states and globalized economic system characterizing the modern era. Themes discussed include the concept of civilizations and their alleged antagonisms, the processes undergirding colonialism and modernity, the origins of the nation-state and nationalism in the region, the global politics of democratization, and the human experience of everyday life within the grander architectures of historical narrative.

INSTRUCTOR: Sean W. Anthony, Assistant Professor of Islamic History
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Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00 pm; or by appointment
Email: swanthon@uoregon.edu

Course Website. Please consult the course website regularly for announcements. The website is accessible via UofOs Blackboard system (see http://blackboard.uoregon.edu). The site contains general course information, reading assignments, research guides, lecture handouts, study questions for discussion, paper assignments, visual images, links to other sites, etc.

REQUIRED TEXTS
ISBN#: 9780199766055

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Please consult this syllabus frequently throughout the quarter. It will serve as your guide for the readings and assignments necessary for you to participate in and benefit from class time to maximum extent possible. As is necessary, I will continue to update the content of the syllabus as needed, particularly the class schedule, as the quarter progresses.

Attendance and Readings
“80% of success is showing up.”—Woody Allen

Much of the basic work you will be doing outside of class will focus on your readings. For most days, there are two types of readings present on the syllabus: primary source readings and supplemental readings. It is particularly important in this class to focus on the primary source readings—when you come to class at the beginning of the week, I expect that you will have read and
taken notes for in-class discussion and questions on these assigned texts. Before each session, you must email to swanthon@uoregon.edu at least 3 questions about the reading assignment.

Assignments and Tests
“It’s true hard work never killed anybody, but I figure, ‘Why take the chance?’”
-Ronald Reagan

The bulk of your grade for this course will be evaluated based on four assignments:
1) Two essays and in-class presentations on historical documents;
2) a Mid-Term on Feb 14 (never much cared for Valentine’s Day myself either);
3) two short response papers (2 pages) on your choice of films on the Modern ME from the list on the course website;
4) a Final Exam on March 16

All written work will serve as your attempt to express your own ideas in a medium-length essay (~ 5 pages in length, 1.5 spaced, in standard font such as Times New Roman or Garamond) on an assigned topic. These topics will require you to draw extensively upon the assigned readings and the ideas discussed in class and will be scrutinized and evaluated on the basis of the criteria of academic writing.

All assigned written work should be emailed to islamic.history.papers@gmail.com as a Word file by 5:00pm Pacific Standard Time on the due date.

Developing and mastering the ability to write critically and to engage historical events and persons with critical acumen is a difficult, but worthwhile, task. Even if you never revisit the topic of this course again, the skills you acquire in writing and improving your essays will serve you well for the rest of your life. I therefore beseech you to take time to write your essays well. Further instructions on class paper assignments can be found on the assignment handouts.

Grading Scheme:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Essays (x 2)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Document Essay/Presentation (x 2)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
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Learning Objectives

- Develop an historical understanding of the formation of the Modern Middle East, the historical transformations that transpired in the region during the 19th and 20th centuries
- Identify and employ historical methods and terminologies to understand political, societal, and cultural change in the region
- Synthesize arguments from historical evidence and express them in formal prose
• Identify the historical roots and causes behind the trajectory of the ME region in the contemporary era

OTHER CLASS POLICIES

Computers, cellphones, etc.

Please, no texting, no email checking, no cellphone/laptop/ipad/netbook usage in class. All of the readings you’ll need for class will be available on the course website, and I’d much prefer you interact with your classmates and me rather than a machine. When one stands in front of a group of people to lecture, little escapes one’s notice and a great deal can be distracting. Although I hate doing it, I will stop class to request to stop texting, checking your email, etc. on your phone/device if I must.

Academic Honesty

All of the regular rules of the university apply. If you are unfamiliar with these, please do consult the Student Conduct and Community Standards at the Office of Student Life:

http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/tabid/68/Default.aspx

All the work and ideas that you hand in must be your own, and my policy towards plagiarism is one of absolute zero tolerance. If you are unsure of what plagiarism is, an excellent guide exists here at UO:

http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/

REFERENCE WORKS

A selection of basic reference dealing with Islamic history and civilization be found at the Knight Library and accessed via the library’s online resources. Below is a list of the most authoritative and useful:

• Encyclopaedia of Islam, 2nd edition; the gold standard of Islamic studies and abbreviated as EI² http://www.brillonline.nl.libproxy.uoregon.edu/

• Encyclopaedia of Islam THREE; the third edition of EI² is underway but still in its infancy, most including articles falling under the letter ‘A’.

• The New Cambridge History of Islam, vol. 6: Muslims and Modernity, Culture and Society since 1800, ed. Robert W. Hefner (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010); a collection of recent essays on Islam in the modern world, this represents an introduction to the ‘cutting edge’ of Anglophone scholarship on Islam and Muslims since 1800.

• Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World; an accessible alternative to the above, with a more modern focus, I recommend beginning here.

• Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought, ed. Gerhard Böwering et al. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013); an accessible reference with short entries surveying the history of Islamic political thought from the origins to the contemporary period.

• JSTOR (http://www.jstor.org): useful for essentially any class you’ll take here at Oregon, by logging into jstor.org via Oregon’s proxy server and/or at the library, you have access to a wealth of scholarly articles on Islamic history and civilization. If you’re looking for a
place to find sources on the Internet, this should be one of your first stops (Wikipedia tends to be VERY unreliable and/or ideological for early Islamic history and the history of the modern Middle East, though it is sometimes useful for the basics, such as well-known dates).
CLASS SCHEDULE (WINTER QUARTER 2015)

NOTE: readings with a red asterisk (*) can be found posted online at the course website

Week 1
Tues Jan 6  Introduction: A Modern ‘Clash of Civilizations’? Is it the West vs. Islam?

READINGS:
*Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” Foreign Affairs 73.3 (Summer 1993): 22-49.

Thurs Jan 8  Islamic Civilization and the Advent of the Modern World: An Overview

READINGS:
Gelvin, 9-32.

Week 2
Tues Jan 13  The Near East in the New World System

READINGS:
Gelvin, 33-57

DOCUMENTS:
Eviya Çelebi, Seyahataname (I & II); in Gelivin, 58-60.
“Treaty of Friendship and Amity”, in Gelvin, 60-61.
The Travels of Sir John Chardin into Persia and the East-Indies (I & II); in Gelvin, 61-66.

Thurs Jan 15  Defensive Developmentalism

READINGS:
Gelvin, 69-86.
“Treaty of Balta Liman”; in Gelvin, 158-59

1 http://www.jstor.org/stable/162435
“Hatt-ı Şarif of Gülhane”; in Gelvin, 159-61
“İslâhat Fermânî”; in Gelvin, 161-64

Week 3

Tues  Jan 20  FILM: Nasserdisn Shah and his 84 Wives
DOCUMENTS:
“D'Arcy Concession”; in Gelvin, 164-67

Thurs  Jan 22  Imperialism

READINGS:
Gelvin, 87-99

Recommended
*Charles Issawi, “Middle East Economic Development, 1815-1914: The General and the Specific,” in MME

Week 4

Tues  Jan 27  The Great Nineteenth-Century Transformation and the Life of the Mind

READINGS:
Gelvin, 100-42.

DOCUMENTS:
Excerpt from Huda Sha’rawi, Harem Years, tr. M. Badrin; in Gelvin, 169-70
*Rifaʿa Rafiʿ al-Tahtawi on Paris; in Kurzman, Modernist Islam

Thurs  Jan 29  Secularism, Modernity, and 19th-century Salafism

READINGS:
Gelvin, 143-49

DOCUMENTS:
*ʿAbd al-Qādir al-Jazāʾirī, “Reminding the Intelligent” (1855); in Kurzman,
*Jamāl al-Dīn al-Afghanī, “Answer to Rénan” (1883); in Kurzman,
Week 5
Tues  Feb 3  Constitutionalism

READINGS:
Gelvin, 150-57

DOCUMENTS
*Namık Kemal on Constitutionalism; in Kurzman,
“Supplementary Fundamental Law of 1907”; in Gelvin, 174-77
*Shaykh Fāżl Allāh Nūrī against Constitutionalism, tr. A.-H. Hairi

Thurs  Feb 5  MID-TERM EXAM

Week 6
Tues  Feb 10  FILM: The First World War Through Arab Eyes

READINGS:
Gelvin, 180-83

Thurs  Feb 12  World War I: The Origins of the State System

READINGS:
Gelvin, 184-95
*Charles D. Smith, “The Historiography of World War I and the Emergence of the
Contemporary Middle East,” in Middle East Historiographies: Narrating the Twentieth Century,

DOCUMENTS:
“Final Resolution of the Syrian General Congress”; in Gelvin, 227-28

Week 7
Tues  Feb 17  The Origins of the State System (2)

READINGS:
Gelvin, 196-207
*Hanna Batatu, “Of the Diversity of Iraqis,” in MME; and
*Joel Beinin and Zachary Lockman, “1919: Labor Upsurge and National Revolution,” in MME.
Thurs  Feb 19  Nationalism in the Middle East

READINGS:
Gelvin, 208-16, 240-55

DOCUMENTS
“Speech Delivered by President Gamal ʿAbd al-Nāṣir”; in Gelvin, 327-28

Week 8

Tues  Feb 24  Palestine, Israel, and Zionism

READINGS:
Gelvin, 217-226

DOCUMENTS
Theodor Herzl, “A Solution of the Jewish Question”; in Gelvin, 228-30
The Balfour Declaration, 2 November 1917

*Suggested Reading*
*Ted Swedenburg, “The Role of the Palestinian Peasantry in the Great Revolt (1936-1939),” in MME.*

Thurs  Feb 26  The Evolution of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

READINGS:
Gelvin, 283-93

DOCUMENTS

*Suggested Reading*
*David McDowall, “Dilemmas of the Jewish State,” in MME.*

Week 9

Tues  Mar 3  Oil, the Cold War and the US in the Near East
READINGS:
Gelvin, 256-282

Thurs Mar 5 Political Islam and the Iranian Revolution

READINGS:
Gelvin, 294-318

DOCUMENTS
*Sayyid Quṭb, Signposts Along the Road, tr. Roxanne L. Euben; in Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought, ed. Roxanne L. Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman (Princeton 2009), 129-44
*Zaynab al-Ghazālī, Days of My Life, tr. V. Hoffman; in Euben and Zaman, 275-300.

Week 10

Tues Mar 10 FILM: The Square

READINGS

Thurs Mar 12 Uncertain Destines: The Arab Uprisings

FINAL EXAM: 12:30 PM, Monday, 16 March 2015