Re-Forming the 20th Century Arab East

Spring 2011

Yoav Di-Capua

HIS 364G
MES 322K

Classes: T TH 9:30-11:00UTC 4.110

Office Hours: Garrison 0.136 (History Department). TH 11:00-1:00

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Teaching Assistant: Luke Steidl, lukesteinl@gmail.com
Office hours by appointment.

Course Description:
This is an introductory class to the history of the Middle East in the 20th century. The main question for consideration is which forces and what sort of developments transformed this region from a relatively peaceful region to a radicalized environment and a source for opposition against the “West.” By exploring critical political, social, intellectual and economic themes such as colonialism, Arab nationalism, secular modernism, the impact of Zionism and military conflict, the rise of political Islam, the status of women and the oil revolution, we would identify the main internal and external forces, as well as the critical processes, that shaped the region during the last century.

Course Requirements and Grading:
2 Exams: Midterm (25%), Final (40%)
2 short reports (5 double-spaced pages each) (25%)
Participation 10%
Periodic Quizzes

Attendance is mandatory (One grade down for every three classes skipped).

Mandatory Textbooks (available at the Co-op or bookfinder.com):
• James Gelvin, The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Course Packet: Course packet is available at Jenn’s Copy and Binding 2200 Guadalupe • jenns@io.com 512-473-8669
Deadlines:
- Mid-East Blind Map Quiz: January 27th
- Midterm Exam: March 3rd
- First Report: March 10th
- Second Report: April 26th
- Final Exam: TBD.

Note: All papers and exams are due at 9:30 in class. No late or electronic submissions.

Accommodations: At the beginning of the semester, students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify me by presenting a letter prepared by the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD tel. 471-6259)

Academic Integrity: Students should maintain a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholarly work. All work handed in by students should be their own work, prepared without unauthorized assistance. All cases of academic dishonesty will be treated with due severity. For further information visit the Student Judicial Services website at http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/history/about/academic-integrity.php or call 471-2841

Please bring a hard copy of the reading material with your own annotations to class
Class Schedule

The “Troubled Century”

January 18th

• Introductory Lecture: What is there to Understand about the Middle East?

Imperialism and the Close of the Ottoman Era, 1882-1914

January 20th


World War I in the Middle East: Part I

January 25th

• Cleveland William, *History of the Modern Middle East*, Chapter 9 (146-167).


World War I in the Middle East: Part II

January 27th

Middle East Map Quiz

• James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East; A History*, pp. 171-205.

The Emergence of the Arab Nation State System: 1914-1952: Part I
February 1st

• Cleveland, William, *History of the Modern Middle East*, Chapter 10, 11, 12 (172-181, 190-233.)

The Emergence of the Arab Nation State System: 1914-1952: Part II
February 3rd


Arab Israeli Conflict 1882-1948: part I
February 8th

• James Gelvin, *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War*, pp. 1-75.


Arab Israeli Conflict 1882-1948: part II
February 10th

• James Gelvin, *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War*, pp. 76-143.


Socio-Economic Malaise and the End of Liberal Experiments
February 15th

• Stephen Humphreys, *Between Memory and Desire: the Middle East in a Troubled Age* (Berkeley, UC Press, 1999). Conclusion, pp. 113-130.

**Nasserism and Ba’thism: Part I**

February 17th


• Stephen Humphreys, *Between Memory and Desire*: pp. 60-82.

**Nasserism and Ba’thism: Part II**

February 22nd


**The Palestinian Revolution**

February 24th


**Colonialism and Revolution in Algeria**

March 1st


Take Home Midterm Examination, Due March 3rd

The Algerian War of Independence Part I

March 3rd

Film: The Battle for Algiers

The Algerian War of Independence Part II

March 8th


The Arab East and the 1967 War Part I

March 10th

Submit First Report on Algerian War of Independence


• James Gelvin, The Israel-Palestine Conflict, pp. 165-194.

SPRING BREAK MARCH 14TH-19TH
The Arab East and the 1967 War Part II
March 22nd

• Film: Six Days in June

The Age of Oil and America: I
March 24th


The Age of Oil and America: II
March 29th


Reaction to Secularism and the Rise of Islam
March 31st


Radicalism as an Idea
April 5th

• Emmanuel Sivan, Radical Islam: Medieval Theology and Modern Politics (new edition), pp. 1-49.

The Iranian Revolution
April 7th


**Second and Third Waves of Islamic Radicalism**  
*April 12th*


**Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, 1982 to Oslo**  
*April 14th*

• James Gelvin, *The Israel-Palestine Conflict*, pp. 196-256.


**State, Tribe and Family in the Middle East**  
*April 19th*


**Women and Society in the Middle East**  
*April 21st*

• *Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures*, Following Entries:
  A. Love: Modern Discourses
  B. Families: Metaphors for Nation
  C. Marriage Practices
  D. Divorce and Custody: Contemporary Practices
  E. Domestic Violence
  F. Friendship
  G. Honor: Crimes of...
  H. Honor: Feminist Approaches to
I. Gossip  
J. Modesty Discourses  
K. Motherhood  
L. Rape  
M. Aging  
N. Disabilities  
O. Body: Female  
P. Child Marriage  
Q. Courtship  
R. Health: Drug Use  
S. Reproduction: Abortion  
T. Reproduction: Infertility  
U. Sexual Harassment  
V. Virginity

Development, Democracy and Beyond  
April 26th

• Mehran Kamrava, The Modern Middle East, pp. 331-358.  
• Arab Human Development Report 2003 by the United Nations, Selections. (online)

Submit Second Report on Women and Society as Reflected in a ME Newspaper of Your Choice

Concluding Thoughts: The Radicalization of the Middle East  
April 28th

• Mehran Kamrava, The Modern Middle East, pp. 359-376.

Preparation for Final Exam  
May 3rd and May 5th