Modern Egypt: A History

Yoav Di-Capua

Fall 2011

HIS 364G
MES 322K
ISL 372

Classes MWF 11:00 - 12:00 BUR 136

Office Hours: Friday 12:15 – 2:15 and by appointment.

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TA: To be announced.

Course Description:
In less than a century Egypt experienced four radically different forms of political community, economic organization and public culture as it swiftly moved from Colonialism to Liberalism, Arab-Socialism and Authoritarian Capitalism. A fifth shift, Islamic Republicanism is pending. In each stage Egypt went through a complete reshuffling of the state structure and public culture. Each of these phases was experienced with great emotional intensity. The aim of this class is to critically examine the social, political and intellectual dynamics which shaped these experiences. What sort of expectations did Egyptians have in each phase, who came up with these revisionist ideas, and who put them to work and how?

Course’s Website: http://laits.utexas.edu/modern_me/

Course Requirements and Grading:
Midterm (25%), Final (40%), two Written reports of two single spaced pages each (25%), Participation and quizzes (10%).

Attendance is mandatory (One grade off (+, -) for more than three classes skipped).

Course Packet: Course packet is available at Jenn’s Copy and Binding 2200 Guadalupe • jenns@io.com • 512-473-8669

Deadlines:
- First Report: date and time will be announced (The Open Door)
- Mid-term exam: October 14th (Take home exam)
- Second Report: date and time will be announced (Yaqbyian Bulding)
- Final exam: date and time will be announced.

**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/depts/dos/sjs](http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs) or call 471-2841

*Please bring a hard copy with your personal annotations to class*

**Mandatory Reading Available at Co-op or at bookfinder.com**

**Film: selected screening:**
- *Adrift on the Nile* (Hussein Kamal, 1971. 115 Min.)
- *Four Women of Egypt* (Tahani Rached Canada/Egypt, 1997, 90 min)
Part I: Liberalism without Democracy

Class 1: Introducing Modern Egypt
August 24th

• Introductory Lecture and Agenda

Class 2: Out of the Ottoman Order: the 19th Century
August 31st September 2nd

• Robert Tignor, *Egypt: A Short History*, Chapter 9, 10.

Class 3: Nationalism and the Spirit of 1919
September 7th

• Blank Map Quiz

Class 4: Liberalism without Democracy
September 9th and 12th

Class 5: Literary Renaissance and the Middle Class  
September 14<sup>th</sup> September 16<sup>th</sup>


Class 6: Political Economy, 1919-1952: Part I  
September 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>


Class 7: Political Economy, 1919-1952: Part II  
September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>


Class 8: The Radicalization of the 1930s  
September 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>

Class 9: Liberal Thought: Taha Hussein  
October 3rd

- **Primary Source**: Taha Hussein, *The Future of Culture in Egypt* (New York: Octagon Books, 1977), Chapters, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12.

Class 10: The Cosmopolitan Upper Class  
October 5th


Class 11: The Collapse of the Liberal Order  
October 7th


Part II: Nasserism

Class 12: Nasserism: 1952-1961  
October 10th

- Robert Tignor, *Egypt: A Short History*. Chapter 11 (only Nasser era)

Class 13: The New Generation  
October 12th and 14th

**FIRST REPORT IS DUE**

• **The Burning of Cairo**: [http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2002/570/special.htm](http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2002/570/special.htm)

• Book report due.

**Class 14: Nasserism as a Civic Experience**

October 17th

**TAKE HOME MIDTERM**

• Film shown in class. *A Drift on the Nile*


**Class 15: The Demise of Nasserism**

October 19th and 21st

• Film shown in class. *A Drift on the Nile*.


**Part III: Public Life under Sadat and Mubarak**

**MID TERM TAKE HOME EXAM IS DUE**

**Class 16: Authoritarian Capitalism**

October 24th, 26th and 28th


**PART IV: Political Islam**

**Class 17: The Intellectual History of Political Islam**  
October 31st  

**Class 18: Political Islam in Action**  
November 2nd  

**Class 19: Islamism and Education**  
November 4th  

**Part V: Themes**
Class 20: The Copts  
November 7th


Class 21 + 22: Feminism, Nation and State  
November 9th and 11th


Part VI: The New Revolution

**SECOND REPORT IS DUE**

Class 23: Imarat Yaqubyan  
November 14th

- Discussion of *Imarat Yaqubyan*
- Report Due

Class 24: Breakdown of the Mubarak Regime  
November 21st 23rd 28th 30th December 2nd