

**History 151
Summer 2012**

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office hours Mondays 1-2 pm, Wednesdays 1-2 pm**

The Modern Middle East

The Middle East is frequently described as a “problem region” by journalists and policymakers, where passion prevails over reason, where primordial loyalties are privileged over socio-economic or political coalitions. This course aims to step beyond such generalizations, by way of an overview of the region's modern history. This overview will provide a context with which students can approach further work in modern Middle Eastern studies. Perhaps more importantly, the course will, in its own right, enable students to adopt an informed, critical perspective on the region's current conflicts and challenges. Specifically, the course covers Egypt, Turkey, Iran, the Fertile Crescent, and the Arabian Peninsula. After surveying the Ottoman world in the nineteenth century, students will examine the emergence of the principal nation-states of the Middle East in the wake of the First World War. Although political currents are considered in depth, much discussion is devoted to associated social, intellectual, cultural, and economic developments.

Teaching assistants: Mr. Ron Hughes (e-mail ronh@sfu.ca) and Mr. Sean Springer (e-mail sean_springer@sfu.ca).

Evaluation:

1500-word essay, based on materials distributed to all students (July 16, 2012) 30%
In-class mid-term examination (June 11, 2012) 25%
Final examination (August 13, 2012) 35%
Tutorial participation 10%

Texts (on reserve at library and available through bookstore):

- Eugene Rogan, *The Arabs: A History*, paperback edition (Basic Books, 2011).
- James L. Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A History*, third edition (Oxford, 2011).
- Ashraf Khalil, *Liberation Square* (St. Martin's Press, 2012).

Class Discussions/Participation:

1. Repeated absences from lectures or tutorials will lead to a failing participation grade. You must consult the instructor should you have to miss classes for health or family reasons.
2. Discussions in tutorials are based heavily on the discussion question and primary source for the week, listed in the syllabus below. Regardless of whether the professor has dealt with the topic of the discussion question in lecture, students are expected to come to their weekly tutorial having completed all readings relevant to the discussion question for the week.
3. Completion of the readings before class and a consistent effort to contribute to class discussions will be rewarded with high participation marks. Lateness and poor preparation for class will be penalized.

News: At the beginning of the term, students must select one Middle Eastern news source and one non-Middle Eastern news source to consult on a regular basis online during the term. There is a wide range of Middle Eastern news sources available in English editions on the web, and students may choose whatever source they wish, as long as the source is headquartered in a Middle Eastern country. As for the non-Middle Eastern source, again the choice is up to the student, as long as the source has a reporter or bureau based in the Middle East. Among the websites I would recommend for consultation are

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/middle-east/ and
http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/rss/-/1/hi/world/middle_east/default.stm

Lecture Recordings: The instructor has agreed to have his lectures recorded and made available to students enrolled in the course through...

http://cgi.sfu.ca/~lectures/pub_html/cgi-bin/index.php and/or <http://itunesu.sfu.ca/>
Students are *strongly* advised *not* to view listening to these recordings as a substitute for attending lectures. Attendance at lectures is a course requirement. Failure to attend lectures will be noted and will result in a reduction of the participation grade.

Cheating and Plagiarism: I will not tolerate cheating or plagiarism. If you are having trouble with a concept or assignment, meet with the instructor well before the relevant deadlines. Poor, but legitimate, performance in a given assignment is far preferable to jeopardizing your academic career through fraud.

Week I

Monday, May 7, 2012: Introduction

Wednesday, May 9, 2012: Islam and the Ottoman World

- Rogan, 13-38.
- Gelvin, 9-44.

No tutorials this week

Week II

Monday, May 14, 2012: Egypt Under Mehmed Ali

- Rogan, 61-83.
- Gelvin, 45-57, 69-86.

Wednesday, May 16, 2012: The Politics of the Notables

- Rogan, 85-107.
- Gelvin, 100-132.

Discussion: In what specific ways were the reforms of the *tanzimat* a departure from past practice in the Ottoman Empire?

Primary source: Hatt-i Sharif of Gulhane (Gelvin, 159-161)

Week III

Monday, May 21, 2012: *Statutory holiday*

Wednesday, May 23, 2012: The Nature of Colonial Rule

- Rogan, 109-136.
- Gelvin, 87-99.

No tutorials this week

Week IV

Monday, May 28, 2012: Islamic Reform

- Rogan, 136-146.
- Gelvin, 133-142.

Wednesday, May 30, 2012: Arabism and Turkism

- Rogan, 147-150.
- Gelvin, 143-157, 208-216.

Discussion: Were Islamic modernists entirely hostile to the spread of Western influence in the Middle East?

Primary source: Muhammad 'Abduh's *Theology of Unity* (Gelvin, 171-172)

Week V

Monday, June 4, 2012: World War I

- Rogan, 150-174.
- Gelvin, 180-195.

Wednesday, June 6, 2012: Kemalism and the Turkish Republic

- Gelvin, 199-204.

Discussion: In what specific ways was the nation-state model of political organization that arose after World War I different from the imperial model of the Ottomans?

Primary source: Resolution of the Syrian General Congress at Damascus, 2 July 1919 (Gelvin, 227-228)

Week VI

Monday, June 11, 2012: *Mid-term examination*

Wednesday, June 13, 2012: Zionism

- Gelvin, 217-219.

Discussion: In what specific ways is Zionism akin to Arab nationalism or Turkish nationalism? Is Zionism unique among nationalisms?

Primary source: Theodor Herzl's "Solution of the Jewish Question" (Gelvin, 228-230)

Week VII

Monday, June 18, 2012: The Palestine Mandate

- Rogan, 197-207.
- Gelvin, 220-226.

Wednesday, June 20, 2012: The Emergence of the State of Israel

- Rogan, 247-276.

Discussion: What were the guiding principles behind British policy on Palestine after World War I? Were these principles consistent through the Mandate period? Were there guiding principles at all?

Primary source: The Balfour Declaration, 2 November 1917 (Gelvin, 230)

Week VIII

Monday, June 25, 2012: Nasser and Pan-Arabism

- Rogan, 277-291, 296-308, and 331-343. [Recommended: 319-322.]
- Gelvin, 240-255.

Wednesday, June 27, 2012: Sectarianism: The Lebanese Case

- *Essay topic distributed in lecture*
- Rogan, 379-386, 410-423, and 456-463.

Discussion: What was the most significant legacy of Nasser's rule (1) for Egypt and (2) for the Arab world?

Primary source: Speech Delivered by President Gamal 'Abd al-Nasser, 1961 (Gelvin, 327-328)

Week IX

Monday, July 2, 2012: *Statutory holiday*

Wednesday, July 4, 2012: The Legacy of Oil Wealth in the Arabian Peninsula

- Rogan, 177-183 and 355-363.
- Gelvin, 256-265.

No tutorials this week

Week X

Monday, July 9, 2012: Islamism in Theory

- Rogan, 397-405.
- Gelvin, 307-318.

Wednesday, July 11, 2012: Islamism in Practice: The Iranian Case

- Gelvin, 294-306.

Discussion: Are Islamists, on the whole, “anti-modern”?

Primary source: Sayyid Qutb’s *Milestones* (Gelvin, 334-336)

Week XI

Monday, July 16, 2012: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict to 1967

- *Essays due at the beginning of lecture*
- Rogan, 343-354.

Wednesday, July 18, 2012: From 1967 to Oslo

- Rogan, 364-379, 386-392, and 429-438.
- Gelvin, 283-293.

Discussion: What impact has the domestic politics of Arab states had upon the Arab-Israeli conflict? Will the Arab revolutions of last year hasten or delay a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Primary source: UN Security Council Resolution 242 (Gelvin, 330-331)

Week XII

Monday, July 23, 2012: Authoritarianism

- Rogan, 405-410 and 439-447.
- Khalil, 1-104.

Wednesday, July 25, 2012: Revolution 2011

- Khalil, 105-261.

Discussion: Were the Arab uprisings of 2011 a failure?

Primary source: Zakaria Tamer's "Tigers on the Tenth Day" (Gelvin, 328-330)

Week XIII

Monday, July 30, 2012: Conclusion

- Khalil, 263-312.

Wednesday, August 1, 2012: Review Session

Discussion: Is the Middle East an "exceptional" region, or is it subject to the same social and political forces as any other?