

## THE HISTORY OF MODERN EGYPT

SPRING 2010

Email: pdsedra@sfu.ca

To this day, Egypt looms large in the Western historical imagination, rivaled only by the Holy Land in terms of appeal for scholars of the Middle East. For innumerable Western students, Cairo has served as an inaugural point of contact with the Arab world — the place where they at last began to speak the Arabic they had studied in university. The streets of Cairo and the sonorities of Egyptian Arabic are familiar to the peoples of the modern Arab world generally, due to the enormous cultural production of Egypt throughout the twentieth century. This focus upon Egypt, both in Western scholarly and Arab intellectual circles, means that there is no avoiding Egypt in discussions of the modern Middle East, the modern Arab world, or modern Islam. The scholarship Westerners have generated in their encounters with modern Egyptian history is enormous — to say nothing of the scholarship in the Arabic language — and has often served as a point of departure for explorations of Arab or Islamic history generally. This makes close scrutiny of that scholarship imperative, and such is the principal aim of this course.

**Evaluation:**

Presentation 10%

In-class test (February 10, 2010) 25%

Term paper (due April 14, 2010) 45%

Class participation (including five weekly written responses) 20%

**Texts:** *A History of Egypt: From the Arab Conquest to the Present* by Afaf Lutfi Al-Sayyid Marsot (Cambridge University Press) and journal articles (listed below) accessible through SFU library website.

**Format:** The course is not a survey of Egyptian history, but rather, an interrogation of Egyptian historiography. Among the questions of concern are: How have Western historians constructed their narratives about modern Egypt? What are the assumptions that inform their work? How and why have their concerns shifted over time? What sources have they used, how have they used them, and how have these sources and methods influenced their interpretations? Such questions dictate a particular format for the class. Students are expected to arrive in seminar having carefully scrutinized the readings for the week, and prepared to offer an analysis and critique of each of those readings. Discussion and debate are the foundation of the work students will undertake. The function of the professor is to moderate debate, to offer suggestions for directions of discussion, and to provide context for the readings. The professor expects students to

leave no received notion or conventional wisdom unchallenged. Attending class is, thus, understandably, an integral part of the course.

**In-class test:** The in-class test will cover all the material discussed in the course to that point. The test will consist of four essay questions, two of which students are expected to answer. The essay questions will require students to identify, analyze, and critique trends in the historiography on modern Egypt.

**Class participation:** Repeated absences from class will lead to a failing participation grade. Please consult the instructor should you have to miss classes for health or family reasons. Completion of the readings before class and a consistent effort to contribute to class discussions will be rewarded with high marks in this category. Lateness and poor preparation for class will be penalized.

**Weekly written responses:** Students are expected to write five 500-word responses to the weekly readings, and submit their responses to the professor at the end of the relevant class. The professor will not accept responses to a given week's readings after the end of the class in which those readings are discussed. Students may select whichever five topics they wish for written responses, as long as they have submitted a total of five at the close of the relevant sessions by the end of the term. These responses will constitute part of the class participation grade. Responses may venture to critique the readings, ask questions about ideas contained therein, or simply identify points of particular interest that the student thinks worthy of discussion in class. What are the author's concerns? What are the assumptions that inform the work? What are the author's sources, and how has the author used those sources?

**Term paper:** Term papers are evaluated for clarity, organization, insight, and originality. Faulty grammar, spelling, and syntax reduce clarity, and will thus reduce your grade. Grades are final and not subject to negotiation. Term papers submitted after the deadline receive a penalty of ten percent for the first day late; for each additional day late, a further five percent will be deducted. The instructor will not accept submissions beyond a week from the given deadline. Extensions of deadlines will only be granted in the event of a documented health or family crisis.

**Presentation:** Students will give fifteen-minute presentations on their term papers during one of the final two seminars. Presentations will be followed by ten- to fifteen-minute question-and-answer sessions in which peers are encouraged to offer constructive criticism.

**Course regulations:** I will not tolerate cheating or plagiarism. These are extremely serious academic offences which may lead to loss of credit, suspension, expulsion from the University, or the revocation of a degree. If you are having trouble with a concept or assignment, meet with the instructor well before the relevant deadlines. Keep in mind that poor, but legitimate, performance in a given assignment is far preferable to

jeopardizing your academic career through fraud. All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations. In student papers, it is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived.

---

*January 6, 2010*

**Week One: Introduction**

*January 13, 2010*

**Week Two: Egypt in the Ottoman World**

Marsot, 1-64.

Mary Ann Fay, "From Concubines to Capitalists: Women, Property, and Power in Eighteenth-Century Cairo," *Journal of Women's History* 10, 3 (Autumn 1998), 118-140.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=1374925&site=ehost-live>

Jane Hathaway, "The Military Household in Ottoman Egypt," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 27, 1 (February 1995), 39-52.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/info/176186>

Gabriel Piterberg, "The Formation of an Ottoman Egyptian Elite in the 18th Century," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 22, 3 (August 1990), 275-289.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/info/164128>

*January 20, 2010*

**Week Three: The Turco-Egyptian Aristocracy**

Marsot, 65-97.

Khaled Fahmy, "The Police and the People in Nineteenth-Century Egypt," *Die Welt des Islams* 39, 3 (November 1999), 340-377.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/info/1571253>

Khaled Fahmy, "Anatomy of Justice: Forensic Medicine and Criminal Law in Nineteenth-Century Egypt," *Islamic Law and Society* 6, 2 (1999), 224-271.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/info/3399313>

Mine Ener, "At the Crossroads of Empires: Policies toward the Poor in Early-to Mid-Nineteenth-Century Egypt," *Social Science History* 26, 2 (2002), 393-426.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=7273808&site=ehost-live>

F. Robert Hunter, "State-Society Relations in Nineteenth-Century Egypt: The Years of Transition, 1848-79," *Middle Eastern Studies* 36, 3 (2000), 145-159.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=3557067&site=ehost-live>

*January 27, 2010*

#### **Week Four: Colonial Projects**

Charles Coulston Gillispie, "Scientific Aspects of the French Egyptian Expedition," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 133, 4 (1989), 446-474.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/info/986871>

Alexander Scholch, "The 'Men on the Spot' and the English Occupation of Egypt in 1882," *The Historical Journal* 19, 3 (September 1976), 773-785.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/2638229>

P. J. Cain, "Character and imperialism: The British financial administration of Egypt, 1878-1914," *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 34, 2 (2006), 177-200.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=20917393&site=ehost-live>

*February 3, 2010*

#### **Week Five: The Rise and Fall of Liberal Egypt**

Marsot, 98-126.

Erez Manela, "The Wilsonian Moment and the Rise of Anticolonial Nationalism: The Case of Egypt," *Diplomacy & Statecraft* 12, 4 (December 2001), 99-122.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=6899940&site=ehost-live>

John Gallagher, "Nationalisms and the Crisis of Empire, 1919-1922," *Modern Asian Studies* 15, 3 (1981), 355-368.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/312286>

Marius Deeb, "Labour and Politics in Egypt, 1919-1939," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 10, 2 (May 1979), 187-203.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/162126>

Omnia El Shakry, "Barren Land and Fecund Bodies: The Emergence of Population Discourse in Interwar Egypt," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 37, 3 (2005), 351-372.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?aid=322984>

*February 10, 2010*

**Week Six: In-Class Test**

*February 17, 2010 and February 24, 2010*

**No Classes**

*March 3, 2010*

**Week Seven: The Nasserist Moment**

Marsot, 127-177.

Jack Crabbs, Jr., "Politics, History, and Culture in Nasser's Egypt," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 6, 4 (October 1975), 386-420.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/162751>

Elisabeth Kendall, "The Theoretical Roots of the Literary Avant-Garde in 1960s Egypt," *Edebiyat: Journal of Middle Eastern Literatures* 14, 1 (2003), 39-56.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=12345056&site=ehost-live>

Joel Gordon, "The False Hopes of 1950: The Wafd's Last Hurrah and the Demise of Egypt's Old Order," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 21, 2 (1989), 193-214.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/163074>

*March 10, 2010*

**Week Eight: Gender and Sexuality**

Juan Ricardo Cole, "Feminism, Class, and Islam in Turn-of-the-Century Egypt," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 13, 4 (November 1981), 387-407.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/162906>

Beth Baron, "The Construction of National Honour in Egypt," *Gender and History* 5, 2 (Summer 1993), 244-255.

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/journal/119981003/abstract>

Beth Baron, "Women, Honour, and the State: Evidence from Egypt," *Middle Eastern Studies* 42, 1 (2006), 1-20.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=19182621&site=ehost-live>

Judith E. Tucker, "Problems in the Historiography of Women in the Middle East: The Case of Nineteenth-Century Egypt," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 15, 3 (August 1983), 321-336.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/163522>

Nicola Pratt, "The Queen Boat case in Egypt: sexuality, national security and state sovereignty," *Review of International Studies* 33, 1 (2007), 129-144.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?aid=660132>

Mario Ruiz, "Virginity Violated: Sexual Assault and Respectability in Mid- to Late-Nineteenth-Century Egypt," *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 25 (2005), 214-227.

[http://muse.jhu.edu.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/journals/comparative\\_studies\\_of\\_south\\_asia\\_africa\\_and\\_the\\_middle\\_east/v025/25.1ruiz.html](http://muse.jhu.edu.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/journals/comparative_studies_of_south_asia_africa_and_the_middle_east/v025/25.1ruiz.html)

*March 17, 2010*

**Week Nine: Islamism as Political Movement**

Sana Abed-Kotob, "The Accommodationists Speak: Goals and Strategies of the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 27, 3 (August 1995), 321-339.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/176254>

Saad Eddin Ibrahim, "Anatomy of Egypt's Militant Islamic Groups: Methodological Notes and Preliminary Findings," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 12, 4 (December 1980), 423-453.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/163128>

Ronald L. Nettler, "Guidelines for the Islamic Community: Sayyid Qutb's Political Interpretation of the Qur'an," *Journal of Political Ideologies* 1, 2 (1996), 183-196.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=9612192458&site=ehost-live>

Mona El-Ghobashy, "The Metamorphosis of the Egyptian Muslim Brothers," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 37, 3 (2005), 373-395.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?aid=322987>

James Toth, "Islamism in Southern Egypt: A Case Study of a Radical Religious Movement," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 35, 4 (2003), 547-572.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/3879863>

*March 24, 2010*

### **Week Ten: Islamism as Social Movement**

Gregory Starrett, "The Margins of Print: Children's Religious Literature in Egypt," *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 2, 1 (March 1996), 117-139.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/3034636>

Maurits S. Berger, "Apostasy and Public Policy in Contemporary Egypt: An Evaluation of Recent Cases from Egypt's Highest Courts," *Human Rights Quarterly* 25, 3 (August 2003), 720-740.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/20069684>

Charles Hirschkind, "The Ethics of Listening: Cassette-Sermon Audition in Contemporary Egypt," *American Ethnologist* 28, 3 (August 2001), 623-649.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/3095066>

V. J. Hoffman, "The Role of Visions in Contemporary Egyptian Religious Life," *Religion* 27, 1 (1997), 45-64.

<http://dx.doi.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/10.1006/reli.1996.0051>

*March 31, 2010*

### **Week Eleven: Neoliberal Egypt**

Relli Shechter, "The Cultural Economy of Development in Egypt: Economic Nationalism, Hidden Economy and the Emergence of Mass Consumer Society during Sadat's Infitah," *Middle Eastern Studies* 44, 4 (2008), 571-583.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=32990498&site=ehost-live>

Robert Springborg, "Identity in Crisis: Egyptian Political Identity in the Face of Globalization," *Harvard International Review* (Fall 2003), 18-23.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=1190046&site=ehost-live>

Julia Elyachar, "Mappings of Power: The State, NGOs, and International Organizations in the Informal Economy of Cairo," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 45, 3 (2003), 571-605.

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.sfu.ca/stable/3879462>

Bosmat Yefet-Avshalom and Luis Roniger, "A Discourse on Trial: The Promotion of Human Rights and the Prosecution of Sa'ad Eddin Ibrahim in Egypt," *Journal of Human Rights* 5, 2 (2006), 185-204.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=20855395&site=ehost-live>

Ray Bush, "Politics, Power and Poverty: Twenty Years of Agricultural Reform and Market Liberalisation in Egypt," *Third World Quarterly* 28, no. 8 (2007): 1599-1615.

<http://proxy.lib.sfu.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=27394917&site=ehost-live>

*April 7, 2010 and April 14, 2010*

### **Presentations**