

The History of the Modern Middle East
University of West Georgia

CRN 12770 – HIST 3313 – Spring 2021

Zoom Discussion Sessions: Mondays & Wednesdays (time to be determined pending student availability)

THIS CLASS IS FULLY ONLINE AND WILL NOT MEET IN PERSON

Instructor: Dr. Aimee Genell
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Office Hours: Mon./Wed. 10-11 AM and by appointment
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Gamel Abdel Nasser and the Suez Canal on the cover of al-Musawwar, August 1956

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the political and intellectual history of the modern Middle East from the late eighteenth century to the present. The primary geographic focus will be the lands of the Ottoman and Qajar Empires and their post World War I successor states and mandates, including Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, mandate Palestine, Israel and the states of the Arabian Peninsula. Subjects covered include: the rise and fall of constitutionalism, ideas of institutional and political reform, the role of religion in political and social life, imperialism, nationalism, post-colonialism, development, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the impact of the Soviet Union and United States in the region. We will also discuss the rise of political Islam and popular challenges to the post-imperial secular state and conclude with a discussion of the US invasion and occupation of Iraq, the Arab Spring and the rise of ISIS.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand and distinguish various trends in the political, economic and social history of the modern Middle East
- Demonstrate knowledge of key debates among historians regarding historical processes such as imperialism, nationalism, decolonization, and globalization
- In both written and oral work, practice building historical arguments from primary sources and analyzing the historical arguments made by other scholars

This class is 100% online. It is your responsibility to complete work on time. I strongly suggest you follow the weekly syllabus. There will be two Zoom lectures with discussions each week on Mondays and Wednesdays. If you cannot attend these sessions, you will watch the lecture and complete a quiz related to the day's class.

Evaluation:

Class participation: 20% (Includes quizzes and primary source analyses, online attendance and participation. If you cannot attend the Zoom session, you must watch the lecture and complete a brief quiz for each session missed.)

Midterm Writing Assignment: 20% Tanzimat and the Ottoman Novel (Due Feb. 24)

Research Project: 30% Nationalism and Revolution in the Middle East (Due April 7)

Research Project: 30% Oil and the Gulf (Due May 3)

Grade Scale:

A = 90% and above B = 80-89 % C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = below 60%

Classroom Policies:

Assignments: Students are expected to complete ALL assigned readings before class. Pay attention to the due date of written assignment and exams. You will receive a worksheet for each writing assignment along with a rubric. Late submissions will lose half a letter grade per day late.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance and participation are essential to perform well in the class. Because this is an online course, this means attending Zoom sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. **If you are unable to attend the Zoom sessions, please send**

me an email before class. You will NOT be penalized. I ask that you watch the session, which will be posted on CourseDen, by Monday evening, and take a brief written quiz to demonstrate that you understand the material covered. You will find the quizzes under “assessments” / “quiz.” Your class participation grade will be made up of either attending and participating in Zoom sessions, AND/OR taking quizzes for the classes you miss.

Here is the Zoom link and password (I will resend this link before class every Monday and Wednesday):

Topic: Modern Middle East

Time: Jan 11, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88232464656?pwd=TmhpRk04Y3lBcE9BS2tDdU5SWGhVZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 3246 4656

Passcode: 900017

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,88232464656#,,,,*900017# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,88232464656#,,,,*900017# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 882 3246 4656

Passcode: 900017

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdWmomOnOz>

Academic Honesty: Students are required to abide by the University’s Honor Code. **Plagiarism or cheating will result in the automatic failure of the course. The code can be found here:**

<https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/assets/docs/2016-2017-code-of-conduct.pdf>

Student Resources: I encourage all students to meet with me at least once during the semester. If you have any questions about the readings, material covered in lectures or the written assignments, please send me an email or visit me in my office.

For assistance with writing, please make use of the University Writing Center (UWC) located in TLC 1201: <https://www.westga.edu/academics/coah/writing/>.

For assistance with developing study skills and time management please visit the Center for Academic Success (CAS) located in UCC 200: <https://www.westga.edu/student-services/cas/index.php>.

Disability Services and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): The Office of Disability Services will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please notify me using the course email system by the end of the second full week of class and attach a PDF copy of your SAR (Available from the Office of Disability Services).

For important policy information, i.e., the UWG Honor Code, Email, and Credit Hour policies, as well as information on Academic Support and Online Courses, please review the information found in the Common Language for Course Syllabi documentation at: http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Required Readings:

Ahmet Mithat Efendi, *Felâtn Bey and Râkim Efendi: An Ottoman Novel*

*This text is available ONLINE at the library. You may wish to purchase it as well. It is about \$12.00 from Amazon.

All other readings are available on CourseDen.

Weekly Syllabus:

Mon. Jan. 11 – Is there a Middle East?

Course introduction

Wed. Jan. 13 – The Paradigm of Decline? A Short History of Early Modern Middle East

Document: “How to Read Primary Sources: A Handy, Quick Guide”

**Please use this document to model your primary analyses throughout the semester

Mon. Jan. 18 – NO CLASS – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wed. Jan. 20 – The Ottoman Empire in the Eighteenth Century - The Reforms of Selim III

Donald Quataert, “Clothing Laws, State, and Society in the Ottoman Empire, 1720-1829”

Mon. Jan. 25 – Napoleon in Egypt

Document: ‘Abd al-Rahman al-Jabarti, *Napoleon in Egypt: Al Jabarti's Chronicle of the French Occupation, 1798*

Start to read Ahmet Mithat Efendi, *Felâtn Bey and Râkim Efendi: An Ottoman Novel*

Wed. Jan. 27 – Ottoman Rebels in the Balkans: The Greek Question

Documents: Lord Byron on Ali Paşa and the Greek Revolt; Paintings by Eugène Delacroix

Continue reading Ahmet Mithat Efendi, *Felâatun Bey and Râkim Efendi: An Ottoman Novel*

Mon. Feb. 1 – Egypt and the Rise of Mehmed Ali

Continue reading Ahmet Mithat Efendi, *Felâatun Bey and Râkim Efendi: An Ottoman Novel*

Wed. Feb. 3 – The Tanzimat

Finish reading (before class!) Ahmet Mithat Efendi, *Felâatun Bey and Râkim Efendi: An Ottoman Novel*

Introduction to midterm writing assignment, “Tanzimat and the Ottoman Novel” – worksheet and rubric to be distributed in class

Mon. Feb. 8 – “Humanitarian Intervention” in Ottoman Lebanon

Davide Rodogno, “Intervention in Ottoman Lebanon and Syria” in *Against Massacre: Humanitarian Interventions in the Ottoman Empire, 1815-1914* (2012)

Wed. Feb. 10 – “Civilization” and the Suez Canal

Document: Newspapers and postcards on the opening of the Suez Canal

Mon. Feb. 15 – Abdülhamid II and Pan-Islam

Cemil Aydın, “Globalizing the Intellectual History of the Idea of “Muslim World” in *Global Intellectual History*, p. 159-182

Wed. Feb. 17 – Nasir al-Din Shah and the Qajar Empire

Document: Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran Digital Archive
<http://www.qajarwomen.org/en/>

Select one object, image or historical text from the archive to present to the class. Why did it interest you? What do you suppose the object tells us about the Qajar Empire? **Post your selection and a short analysis under “discussion”** / “Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran Digital Archive.” Write at least 4-5 sentences about the object.

Mon. Feb. 22 – Constitutional Revolution in the Ottoman Empire

Bedross Der Matossian, *Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire*, chap. 2 “Debating the Future of the Empire”

Wed. Feb. 24 – Libya and the Balkan Wars

Mustafa Aksakal, “Not ‘by those old books of international law, but only by war’: Ottoman Intellectuals on the Eve of the Great War,” *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, 15, 3(2004): pp. 507-544

Document: “Revenge!” Map published by the Society of Muslim Refugees of Rumelia

Writing Assignment “Tanzimat and the Ottoman Novel” due at 11:59 PM on CourseDen

Mon. March 1 – Jihad and the Ottoman First World War

Mustafa Aksakal, “The Ottoman Empire” in *Empires at War, 1911-1923*, p. 17-33

Wed. March 3 - The Post-World War I Settlements

Documents: Husayn-McMahon Correspondence & the Sykes-Picot Agreement

Select Paris Peace Conference Pamphlet for presentation – details available in class

Mon. March 8 - 1919 Revolutions and the Fall of Faysal’s Arab State

Document: Paris Peace Conference Pamphlets / SELECT 1 from the list posted on CourseDen

Present a pamphlet from the Paris Peace Conference to the class. Why did it interest you? What does it tell us about the breakdown of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East? **Post your selection and a short analysis under “discussion”** / “Paris Peace Conference.” Write at least 4-5 sentences about the pamphlet.

Wed. March 10 – The Republic of Turkey

Document: Halide Edib Adivar, “Turkey Faces West,” in *Modernist Islam: A Sourcebook*

Introduction to writing assignment “Nationalism and Revolution in the Middle East”

Mon. March 15-19 – NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Mon. March 22 - Reza Shah’s Iran

Houchang Chehabi, “Dress Codes for Men in Turkey and Iran” in *Men of Order: Authoritarian Modernization Under Atatürk and Reza Shah*

Wed. March 24 - The French Mandates: Syria and Lebanon

Michael Provence, “Ottoman Modernity, Colonialism, and Insurgency in the Arab East,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 43 (2011)

Mon. March 29 - The British Mandate in Palestine

Gelvin, *The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: 100 Years of War*, chapter 3

Wed. March 31 – The War for Palestine: From the Great Revolt to the 1948 War

Document: UN Special Commission on Palestine Report, excerpt

Mon. April 5 – Development and Secularizing States in the Middle East

Document: Document: Nasser’s Suez Canal Speech

Wed. April 7 – Ba‘athism and Authoritarian Regimes in Syria and Iraq

Document: Michael Aflaq, *On the Way of Resurrection* (1947), selection

Writing assignment, “Nationalism and Revolution in the Middle East” DUE AT 11:59 PM

Mon. April 12 – Oil and the Making of Saudi Arabia

Robert Vitalis, “The Wizards of Dhahran,” in *America’s Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier*

Introduction to final research project “Oil and the Gulf: Using the Qatar Digital Library”
– worksheet and rubric to be distributed in class

Wed. April 14 – Oil and the Gulf: Using the Qatar Digital Library

In class research exercise: Understanding how to use the Qatar Digital Library

<https://www.qdl.qa/en>

Mon. April 19 - The Islamic Revolution in Iran

Document: Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, “Islamic Government,” in *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden*, 155-180

Mon. April 21 – Modern Islamic Movements

Cemil Aydin, “Resurrecting Muslim Internationalism” in *The Idea of the Muslim World*

Document: The Hamas Charter

Mon. April 26 - The Gulf Wars

Mamdani, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim*, chap. 3

Wed. April 28 – From the Arab Spring to the Arab Winter

Document: Articles debating intervention in Syria (2013)

May 3 – Conclusions

Final research assignment “Oil and the Gulf” due at 11:59 PM on CourseDen