

History 2162A

A Concise Introduction to the history of the Middle East

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Lecture: Thursday 2:30-4:30

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This course serves as an introduction to the history of the Middle East from the rise of Islam up until the present-day. We will survey the key themes which are central to the understanding of the Middle East. We will discuss the rise of Islam (the Prophet, Islamic Law) Arabic and Islamic civilization (Literature and art and architecture) institutions, (political, social and military). We will discuss the historical development (Empire and regional states) the economy (agriculture, money, trade) the political development (the Ottoman empire, the first WW, the Peace Agreement) independent states in the Middle East (social, political and economic development) and the current direction of the Middle East (Arab spring and its aftermath: Egypt, Turkey, ISIS, Syria, Iran). By the end of the course, students will have gained an understanding of the history of the region and appreciate its achievements, will be able to analyze the present, and draw conclusion for the future direction. The course is primarily lecture-based, although we will have discussions of readings in class. Students are expected to come to every class having completed the assigned readings.

Classes will meet on Sept. 7-Dec. Fall reading week Oct 9-13. Exam period 10-21.

Course description *texts*

Students require a textbook to supplement the lectures, to provide the main narrative of events. You could use James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A History*, 3rd Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. **Or**, William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*. (Westview Press, 2009.) 4th edition. **Or**, and especially for the early period, Vernon O. Egger, *A History of the Muslim World to 1405. The Making of a Civilization*. (Pearson Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 2004). You will need Akram Fouad Khater, *Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East* (Houghton and Mifflin Company, 2004) in order to select primary sources for your essay.

These textbooks were used in previous years so may easily be found in the used books of the Bookstore.

Exams

There will be one in-class TERMS quiz and one final examination in the exam period. Questions for the final exam will be based on both lectures and course readings. In the exam, there will be

two sections. In Section A, students will be asked to define and give the significance of multiple terms (important peoples, places, or events). In Section B, students will be asked to write an essay. Several options will be provided.

Writing assignment

There will be one writing assignment: a 1500-2000 word (including footnotes) of primary source analysis. The primary sources will be chosen by you from Akram Fouad Khater, *Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East* (Houghton and Mifflin Company, 2004)

Late submission without deductions will only be permitted in extenuating circumstances (documented medical reasons, compelling personal issues, etc.). Term papers are evaluated for clarity, organization, insight, and originality. Faulty grammar, spelling, and syntax reduce clarity, and will hence result in a reduction of your grade.

Course evaluation

15% Attendance and Participation
15% In-Class Quiz
30% Writing Assignment
40% Final Exam (during exam period)

Lectures

Lecture 1. Sept. 7

ISLAMIC AND MIDDLE EASTERN HISTORY, CURRENT DEBATES

Lecture 2. Sept 14

MUHAMMAD, THE QUR'AN, THE ENVIRONMENT: NEW EVIDENCE ON THE RISE OF ISLAM AND THE CONQUEST OF THE MIDDLE

Readings: Egger, pp. xv-xvi, 1-32, Cleveland and Bunton, Part One intro, Chapter 1 pp. 1-17

Lecture 3 Sept 21

THE CONQUEST OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE FOUNDATION OF AN EMPIRE. POLITICAL HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL ISLAM

Readings: Egger, 1-32, Cleveland and Bunton, Part One intro, Chapter 1 and 2, pp. 1-33.

Lecture 4. Sept. 28

ISLAMIC LAW, SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS. THE ECONOMY

Readings: Egger, 33-61, Reading Egger, 62-103, Readings: Egger, 104-113, 114-122
Cleveland and Bunton, Part One intro, Chapter 1 and 2, pp. 1-33.

Lecture 5. Oct 5:

ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION: SCIENCES, LITERATURE ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Reading: Egger, 123-138

Lecture 6. Oct. 19

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN ITS GLORY AND DECLINE

Readings: Cleveland and Bunton Introduction to Part 2, Chapter 3 pp. 34-52

Lecture 7. Oct. 26

WORLD WAR I. THE SECRET AGREEMENTS, AND THE NEW MIDDLE EAST

Lecture 8. Nov. 2

THE NATIONAL STATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IRAN, EGYPT, TURKEY

Readings: Cleveland and Bunton, Part Two intro, Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Chapter 7

Lecture 9. Nov. 9.

DEVELOPMENTAL DEFICIENCIES: POLITICAL. INSTITUTIONS. THE
ARMY. IDEALOGIES

Readings: Cleveland and Bunton, Chapter 6 and chapter 7

Lecture 10. Nov. 16

DEVELOPMENTAL DEFICIENCIES: FAMILY, GENDER
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION

Lecture 11. Nov. 23

DEVELOPMENTAL DEFICIENCIES: FAMILY, GENDER
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION

Lecture 12. Nov. 30

THE MIDDLE EAST OIL

Lecture 13. Dec. 7.

**REVOLUTIONS. AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES. SECTARIANISM. VIOLENCE
AND NIHILISM**

Final Exam

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations.

Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from

another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently.

Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to

https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form.

In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not

accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.