

## **History 2608F 001**

### **THE HISTORY OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST -Sep-2025 to 31-Dec-2025**

Monday 1:30-4:30

Instructor: **Professor Maya Shatzmiller**

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Office: **Department of History, Lawson Hall**

Office Hours: **TBA**

This is a **draft** outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

#### **Course Description**

This survey course is designed to provide a scholarly based introduction and analysis to the modern history of the Middle East.

The course surveys the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, the transformation of political institutions in the region and the formation of independent Persian, Turkish and Arab states in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The role of ideological movements, socialism, pan-Islamism, nationalism are compared to the role of the Ottoman empire, to colonial powers and economic resources in the social and economic decline of the modern Middle East. The social and economic development challenges faced by the people of the Middle East is articulated through discussion of political institutions, the role of the army, local conflicts, healthcare, education, family and the status of women.

#### **Course Syllabus**

The course aims to provide the large scholarly environment of the topic without becoming a dry catalogue of events and achievements. Overall the course will provide a thorough knowledge of a specific topic and enhancing students' research skills, through both methodologies, providing lectures and encouraging research. For this reason, we keep moving back and forth between chronologically depiction and material and intellectual achievements and outline directions for each theme taught for future investigation. Lectures and research are complemented with readings from primary and secondary sources for a better and more rounded picture of the topics discussed. The Middle East, its history and civilization are part of world civilization and the learning experience, will enhance students' understanding of current globalization and provide a layered background knowledge which will lead them to ask further questions and engage in individual research pursuit.

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The second goal of the course is to train students in constructing new knowledge through their research and essay writing. Students will be able to pursue individual interest with a research essay and enhance their knowledge in this way. With guidance that includes historical research methodologies, how to structure of the paper, and a list of essay topics to choose from, students in the course will be encouraged to ask difficult questions about the decline of the modern Middle East and be critical about the literature. Pursue a scholarly investigation will enlarge the spectrum of how to use the empirical evidence and analysis and offer new perspectives, discover new disciplines, use new historical methodologies and enhance their research and essay writing skills.

## **Lectures subjects and Tutorial work**

### **1. Introduction to Islam, the Medieval Middle East, institutions and economic performance**

Readings: Cleveland and Bunton, 1-35  
Khater, 1-9. Discussion of paper.

### **2. The Ottoman Empire in its glory and decline**

Readings: Cleveland and Bunton, 37-103.  
Khater, 38-39, 48-51.

### **3. The Arabic speaking provinces under Ottoman rule**

Readings Cleveland and Bunton, 61-102.  
Khater, 162-170

### **4. Westernization in the Ottoman Empire and the *Tanzimat***

Reading: Cleveland and Bunton, 57-102  
Khater, 10-18, 19-21

### **5. French occupation of Egypt, Egypt under Muhammad Ali and British Occupation**

Readings: Cleveland and Bunton, 81—119  
Khater, 29-35, 51-57,

### **6. Iran**

Readings: Cleveland and Bunton, 51-56; 109-117, 175-193; 275-301  
Khater, 57-64, 252-263, 286-289

### **7. The secret agreements, World War I and the new Middle East**

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Readings: Cleveland and Bunton, 133-171  
Khater, 128-145.

### **8. Modern Turkey**

Readings: Cleveland and Bunton, 175-193, 275-301.  
Khater, 145-152, 271-276

### **9. Ideologies: from Arab Nationalism to Islamic Fundamentalism**

Readings: Cleveland and Bunton, 273-345  
Khater, 162-181

### **10. Political regimes in the Modern Islamic and Middle Eastern State**

Readings: Cleveland and Bunton, 193-345, 451-557  
Khater, 278-302

### **11. Challenges: Family, gender, Education, Healthcare.**

Readings: Cleveland and Bunton, 369-451.  
Khater, 211-218, 263-266, 331-339, 374-379

### **12. Challenges: The Economies of the modern Middle East**

Readings: Cleveland and Bunton, 451-473.  
Khater, 384-388, 411-416

### **Tentative Textbooks**

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*. (Westview Press, 2009.) 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

Akram Fouad Khater, *Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East* (Houghton and Mifflin Company, 2004)

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, (Bedford/St. Martin, 2010) 6<sup>th</sup> edition

Or

William Kelleher Storey and Towser Jones, *Writing History. A Guide for Canadian Students*, (Oxford, 2011) 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

## Methods of Evaluation

1. **First assignment:** An essay topic selection and essay proposal with annotated bibliography 15%  
  
(Tentatively *three days before the deadline for withdrawing from the course without penalty.*)
2. **Second assignment:** written research essay 35%  
  
Tentatively after reading week
3. **Attendance and participation** 10%
4. **Final exam** 40%

### **Late Assignments:**

Essays may be submitted **up to three days late** (by 11:55pm) with a 10% deduction. Thereafter, essays will not be accepted without a formal consideration

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Advising. Please see [https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

### **Absences and Assignments:**

*Students need to attend at least 7 meetings and submit all assignments to pass the course. Consult Social Science Academic Advising on [Absence & Academic Consideration](#), the university's policies on [Academic Consideration for Medical Illness](#), and the Department of History's own [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#)).*

## Course Schedule and Readings

Initial plan provided to be further detailed on OWL Brightspace site.

## Additional Statements

E-mails are welcome and office hours will be announced later.

### **Classroom behavior:**

No cellphones

No Use of electronic devices

No eating in classes

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**Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI):**

You may not make any use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, in this course. Any use of such tools for assignments in this course may be considered a form of academic misconduct.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: [https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.