

History 381
THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

R 6:00pm-8:50pm 225 McIver

Instructor: Dr. Ann Saab

Office Hours: 223 McIver R 5:00-6:00pm or by appointment (334-5992 or 272-1024)

email: annsaab@bellsouth.net

Texts: W. Ochsenswald and S.N. Fisher, THE MIDDLE EAST: A HISTORY, 6th ed. (O)

Other assignments (unless otherwise noted in the syllabus) are on reserve through Blackboard (<http://blackboard.uncg.edu>).

The Ochsenswald/Fisher text is a standard account of Middle Eastern history. It will be especially helpful for background, and for making sure of the many complex details in which this subject abounds. In addition, I have assigned a series of short stories and selections from longer works which are available in Blackboard. These readings are designed to give you a feel for the milieu. Students should hand in a short (250-500 word) summary and reaction to these assignments (NOT Ochsenswald) due at the class period for which the reading is assigned (total of 9 during the semester, 3 from each unit out of 4 sets assigned in each unit). Alternatively, you may email me your paper *before* the class period at which it is due. Late papers will be accepted, but the grade will be lowered five points if we are still studying that unit. Papers handed in after the unit has been completed will lose 20 points. When more than one selection is assigned for the same class period, students will be responsible for reading all the selections for discussion purposes, but should write a paper on only one selection. These summaries plus class participation will count equally with each of the two hour exams and the final exam in determining the course grade.

Attendance is up to you, but students who miss a majority of the classes may be dropped from the course.

UNIT I. LIVING THE HERITAGE

Aug 18 Introduction: Land, Peoples, Language

Aug 25 Judaism: The Promise and the History Old Testament or Hebrew Bible (you may use any edition), Genesis 6:5-9:17; 12:1-9; 13:14-18; 15:1-21; 17:1-27; Joshua 24:1-28; Open, closed, open

Sep 1 Islam: The Way of Life Then O 25-47; Essential Rumi

Sep 8 Islam: The Way of Life Now O 75-93; Bookseller of Kabul, a call from Ali; Love in a blue time, my son the fanatic

Sep 15 The Ottoman Empire: The Political Heritage O 190-213; Story of Bugach Khan

Sep 22 FIRST HOUR EXAM

UNIT II. CONFRONTING MODERNITY

Sep 29 Torn States: Turkey and Iran O 393-414; 476-520; Civilization's spare part; Persepolis

Oct 6 The Middle Way: Nasser's Egypt and the Pan-Arab Dream O 419-26; 582-97; 603-12; Another evening at the club; Cairo is a small city

Oct 7 LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT PENALTY

Oct 13 NO CLASS

Oct 20 Cleft States: Lebanon and Afghanistan O 414-15; 433-7; 525-30; 626-38; Road to home; Bookseller of Kabul, a broken heart

Oct 27 Iraq: A Cleft State Waiting to Happen O 439-45; 649-56; Women in fear; Fire last time

SECOND HOUR EXAM: Take Home exam will be handed out in class Oct 27 and should be completed and returned by class time Nov 3)

UNIT III. A CLASH OF WHAT?

Nov 3 Israel and the Palestinians to 1967 O 447-59; 533-53; Swimming contest

Nov 10 Israel and the Palestinians since 1967 O 556-79; Room on the roof

Nov 17 War and Peace: Core-State Competition, Fault-Line Conflicts, and Great Power Hegemony O 656-65; From a sealed room; A hundred and one days

Nov 24 NO CLASS

Dec 1 Islamism, Saudi Arabia and Oil O 696-715; The world is flat

Dec 8 FINAL EXAM: To be given in 225 McIver 6-8:50pm