

HI 381/Near & Middle East
UNC-Greensboro
Office Hours: By Appointment
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Fall 2007

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Overview of the course:

With lectures, readings, DVDs, and class discussions, we will develop a historical understanding of the social, cultural, political, religious, and economic history of the Near and Middle East starting with World War I and the fall of the Ottoman Empire. We will also consider and develop a deeper knowledge and awareness of present-day events in the Middle East and the roots of those events in the past.

The purpose of this class is to provide a study of the modern region of the Near and Middle East. Although the religion of Islam and the language of Arabic are the dominant forces in the area, there are many important minority groups that will also be considered. Defined broadly as the area between North Africa and Iran, we will begin with a basic understanding of Islam and discuss Western influences through colonialism and the mandate system. We will then discuss Egypt, North Africa, and Islamism, popularly referred to as “Islamic fundamentalism.” The second half of the course will cover the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Women in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, Iraq, and finally Iran. Many historical studies of the Middle East deal only with politics and religion; in this class, however, we will be studying not only those topics but also introducing literature and language, art and architecture, food, and music.

Attendance is crucial for success in this course. Discussion is an important component; obviously, you cannot benefit from that aspect of the course if you do not attend class. Much of the information discussed in class lecture is not necessarily in the textbooks; therefore, reading the texts is **not** a suitable substitution for coming to class. **I will take attendance every class period; because the class only meets once a week, only one unexcused absence (for whatever reason) is allowed.** In addition, **do your best to be on time.** Occasionally being late cannot be helped, but repetitive tardiness disrupts the class and annoys your professor. Multiple absences and/or tardiness will affect borderline grades at the end of the semester.

There will be a mid-term and a non-cumulative final exam (each worth 100 points), two short reports of four pages each on assigned topics (75 points each), and a five-page book review (100 points). In addition, a possible 50 points is included for class attendance and participation for a total of 500 points possible for the course. Exams will be one map exercise, short answers and essays. Make-up exams will be entirely essay and must be done within one week of the original exam (no exceptions!).

The short report consists of a four-page paper that considers any aspect of the modern history or society of the assigned location. The first one will be on any country in North Africa (Morocco, the Western Sahara, Algeria, Libya, or Tunisia—not Egypt!) and is due September 13th; the second concerns Saudi Arabia or any of the neighboring Gulf States

(Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, etc.) and due November 8th. You may use the Internet (although be careful and document thoroughly!!) to look for articles or websites; however, exercise caution with anything that is government-sponsored—by the US or otherwise. **Wikipedia, Encarta, Yahoo, or any other online encyclopedia is not an acceptable academic source for this project.**

The primary writing assignment for the course is a 5-page, typed book review due on **November 15th**. Choose a history book (not fiction!) that deals with any topic within the scope of this class (from World War I to the present). **All books must be OK'd by me in advance.** Each book must include footnotes or endnotes, a bibliography, published after 1980, and published by a reputable press. Be sure the book contains all four of these elements before you bring it to me for approval. Ten points will be deducted from the final grade for any report dealing with a book that was not approved in advance.

Ramadan, the month of fasting in the Islamic calendar, will be starting about September 13th this year. We will be having an *iftar*, the traditional meal for Muslims to break the fast each day at sundown, at a Greensboro-area Middle Eastern restaurant. I also hope to arrange a tour and lecture at a local mosque, probably on a Sunday afternoon before the *iftar*. Further information about these events will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Turn off all cell phones during class time.

Required textbooks:

Ali, Tariq. *The Clash of Fundamentalisms, Crusades, Jihads and Modernity*. London: Verso, 2002.

Aslan, Reza. *No god but God, The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*. New York: Random House, 2006.

Cleveland, William L. *A History of the Modern Middle East*. 3rd ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2004.

Optional textbooks:

Lumbard, Joseph, ed. *Islam, Fundamentalism, and the Betrayal of Tradition, Essays by Western Muslim Scholars*. Bloomington, IN: World Wisdom, Inc., 2004.

Various other required readings will be included on E-Reserves throughout the semester.

Class schedule:

August	23	Introduction to Course Islam 101 Aslan, Chs. 1-3
	30	Colonialism and the Mandate System Creation of the Modern State of Turkey Cleveland, Ch. 9, 10 (175-85); 14 (277-288) Aslan, Ch. 9

September	6	Egypt Cleveland Ch. 15; 18 (373-382) Mahfouz novella (E-Reserve)
September	13	North Africa Lapidus (E-Reserve) 1st Short Paper Due Ramadan begins this week
	20	Lebanon & Syria Cleveland, Ch. 12; 18 (382-392) Cleveland, Ch. 19 (397-407)
	27	Rise of Islamism Aslan, Ch. 4 Lumbard, Ch. 5 (E-Reserve) Ali, Ch. 20
October	4	Mid-Term Exam
	11	No Class Ramadan ends this week
	18	Arab-Israeli Conflict I Cleveland, Chs. 13, 17 Ali, Ch. 12
	25	Arab-Israeli Conflict II Jordan Cleveland, Ch. 13 (213-215); 16 (330-332) Ch. 22 (474-478); 23
November	1	Saudi Arabia & the Gulf States Cleveland, Ch. 12 (231-234); Ch. 21 Ali, Ch. 9
	8	Women in the Near & Middle East Ali, Ch. 7 Bullock, Ch. 3 (E-Reserve)
	15	Iraq Cleveland, Ch. 11 (204-213); 19 (408-421) Book Review Due

November	22	No Class—Thanksgiving Break
	29	Iran Cleveland, Ch. 10 (185-192); 14 (288-299) Aslan, Ch. 7
December	6	Last Day of Class Final Exam

Useful Internet Links and Websites:

Newspapers:

From Egypt:

www.egyptiancastle.com/live/newspapers/main.htm

www.egyptiangazette.net.eg

From Qatar:

www.aljazeera.com

From Kuwait:

www.arabtimesonline.com

From Lebanon:

www.daralhayat.com (English link)

www.alanwar.com

www.dailystar.com.lb

www.naharnet.com

From Syria:

www.sana.org (English link)

Israeli Peace Movement websites:

www.icahdusa.org (Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions)

<http://zope.gush-shalom.org/home/en>

<http://otherisrael.home.igc.org>

www.tikkun.org

www.nkusa.org

Miscellaneous websites:

www.csis.org/mideast/menc.cfm

www.futuretvnetwork.com

www.lebanon.com/radio

www.bbc.co.uk

www.arabtimes.com

www.memritv.org

www.lifebehindthewall.com/index.htm (Quaker peace movement site)