

History 381
THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

R 6:00pm-8:50pm 226 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 culture. 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 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: THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

Jan 12 Introduction: Land, Peoples, Language

Jan 19 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

Jan 26 Islam: The Way of Life Then O 25-47; Essential Rumi

Feb 2 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

Feb 9 The Ottoman Empire: The Political Heritage and its Relevance O 190-213; Story of Bugach Khan

Feb 16 FIRST HOUR EXAM

UNIT II. CONFRONTING MODERNITY: OPPORTUNITY OR FALSE ROAD?

Feb 23 Torn States: Turkey and Iran O 393-414; 476-520; Civilization's spare part; Persepolis

Mar 2 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

Mar 9 SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS

Mar 15 LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT PENALTY

Mar 16 Cleft States: Lebanon and Afghanistan O 414-15; 433-7; 525-30; 626-38; Road to home; Bookseller of Kabul, a broken heart

Mar 23 Iraq: A Cleft State Waiting to Happen O 439-45; 649-56; Women in fear; Fire last time

Mar 30 SECOND HOUR EXAM

UNIT III. THE SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVES

Apr 6 Israel and the Palestinians to 1967 O 447-59; 533-53; Swimming contest

Apr 13 Israel and the Palestinians since 1967 O 556-79; Room on the roof

Apr 20 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

Apr 27 Islamism, Saudi Arabia and Oil O 696-715; The world is flat

May 4 FINAL EXAM: To be given in 226 McIver 6 pm