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

The Ochsenwald/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 Ochsenwald) 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),
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 419-26; 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