

History of the Middle East

Ball State University HIST 373
TTh 0930-10:45, Burkhardt Building 221
Professor: Dr. Yaron Ayalon, yayalon@bsu.edu
Office hours: TTh, 11-12, Burkhardt 234, or by appointment

This course is designed to provide an understanding of the social, cultural, intellectual, economic and political processes, which have shaped the Middle East since the rise of Islam, and more particularly, from the early nineteenth century. The second half of the semester will be devoted to the 20th and 21st centuries. Overall, this course will give you a glimpse into the societies, political structures, and cultures of the Middle East, with the goal of acquiring a better understanding of the Middle East and the problem the region faces today; of the work of historians; of the foundations of research; and of the principles of proper writing.

Grading:

The maximum number of points you may earn for this course is 500. Grading will be distributed as follows (see below for explanation of each section):

Attendance and participation – 100pts
Quizzes – 100pts
Book report – 100pts
Final exam - 200pts

Your final grade will be determined by your points balance as of 12/12/11, according to the following key: 470 points or above: A; 450-469: A-; 430-449: B+; 410-429: B; 390-409: B-; 375-389: C+; 355-374: C; 340-354: C-; 330-339: D+; 300-329: D; less than 300: F.

Note: You must meet the minimum requirement for each section listed below *separately* to pass the course.

You will not receive a final grade lower than what your total number of points is worth according to the key above, but I may decide to give you a higher grade.

What if I'm "borderline"? How do I get bumped up?

If you are 10 points or less from the next grade, here's what I'll look at to determine whether to bump you up:

1. Have you attended class regularly and submitted all assignments?
2. Have you actively participated in class?
3. Have you done reasonably well on all assignments except one, which caused your average to be lower?
4. Do I know you? Did you come talk to me during the semester? Did I get a chance to know you beyond the numbers? Don't wait till the last week. This is true for everyone, and especially important if there are personal reasons that might impair your performance.

Requirements:

Attendance – you are expected to show up to all classes. I treat our classes as if they were a personal appointment with each one of you, and expect you to do the same. If you cannot come to class for whatever reason, please e-mail me *in advance* to let me know about it.

I will be checking attendance randomly via a sign-in sheet. You have 3 grace absences for whatever reason during the semester (absence = your signature does not appear on a sign-in sheet for one of the classes in which students were asked to sign one). Your grade will begin to suffer from the 4th absence, and you will automatically receive an F grade for the course once you have reached 8 absences. There are no exceptions to this policy and no “excused” absences that do not count toward the 3 allowed ones. You are advised to use your grace absences wisely, including for illness.

No cellphones, no texting during class! Phones and related accessories should not be visible during class and must be either turned off or on silent mode. If you have special circumstances that require you to receive a call/text during class, please let me know in advance and make sure to sit by the door so you can exit without disrupting the class.

I allow the use of laptops/ipads etc. in class, but I ask you to refrain from using them for any purpose but taking notes or looking up a name/place mentioned in class online. This means no facebook/twitter/youtube etc. As with cellphones, please keep them on silent mode.

Participation – you are expected to read/watch all assigned texts/videos as elaborated in the schedule below and as I will mention in class from time to time, and participate in class discussions that will be integrated within lectures. Readings and videos are not only essential to the understanding of course material; they also complement the information provided in lectures. The more elaborate or analytic your arguments and ideas in class are, the higher your grade for participation will be.

Quizzes – There will be 6 short quizzes throughout the semester. You only need to take 5 of them, or you may take all 6 and I will drop your lowest score. Quizzes will be administered on Blackboard. Each quiz will comprise 10 multiple-choice questions, and you will have 20 minutes to complete it (and a 24-hour window within which to take it). Material for each quiz will include everything we have done in class or in assigned reading since the previous quiz (for quiz #1, the beginning of the semester). Each quiz will be worth 20 points. Minimum points to pass: 50 (for all quizzes combined)

Book report – due electronically by Tuesday, 11/19 at the beginning of class, this assignment requires you to read one book on the Middle East, either from the list of suggested readings provided at the end of this syllabus or a book that you choose and I approve. You will then write a 300-500 word essay addressing the following question:

What is the main argument of this book? Why is it important?

The report will be worth 100 points. Minimum points to pass: 60
I will provide further details in class.

Final take home exam – The final will comprise 6 questions of which you will need to answer 4, in no more than 500 words (1-2 pages) each. You will receive the questions for it no later than the last day our class meets regularly (12/5). The final will be due electronically on the date originally scheduled for this course's final exam (Friday, 12/13, by 2pm). We will meet once before then during the final examination period to review and answer your questions. The exam will be worth 200 points. Minimum points to pass: 120

Miscellaneous things you should know:

1. I care a lot about how you write. In fact, how you write is more important to me than what you say. I have a website dedicated to improving college students' writing skills (<http://writingmaster.net>). The website has all the information you may need on grammar, style, punctuation, and citing sources. When grading your take home exams, I will assume you are familiar with the rules described on this website. If you use facebook, I suggest you "like" this site's page (<http://facebook.com/writingm>) and follow it to receive occasional writing and academic tips. If you find it useful, feel free to spread the word and share this resource with your friends. It is free to use.

In addition, you might want to seek the help of the writing center. The Writing Center is a community of Ball State students and faculty who value writing. You may go there to collaborate with one of the center's trained peer tutors on any project for any major. The Writing Center is a comfortable, supportive environment for writers from all communities and backgrounds. It is located in Robert Bell 291. It has both online and face-to-face appointments. To make an appointment, go to ballstate.mywconline.com.

Furthermore, if you feel you need help with preparing for class, reading, understanding lectures, or preparing for exams, there's a resource on campus you can use: the Learning Center. The Learning Center offers free tutoring for many courses on campus, including science and humanities, modern and classical languages, math and business, help with any writing task, and study strategies such as time management, test taking, note taking, and effective textbook reading. Call 765-285-1006 or visit NQ 350 to make an appointment to meet with a tutor, or visit them online at www.bsu.edu/learningcenter. Needless to say, I would be happy to hear from you and help out as much as I can.

2. I have zero tolerance for violations of academic dishonesty, and especially plagiarism. Even the slightest suspicion of plagiarism, cheating in the form of copying the work of another student, or having someone write an exam for you, or any other violation of academic dishonesty as defined in the University's Student Academic Ethics Policy will result in an F grade (see <http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/studentrights/policiesandprocedures/studentcode/viiethicspolicy> for more details) and possible further disciplinary action.

3. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact me as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

4. Questions? Concerns? Suggestions how to make this course better? Just need someone to talk to? Feel free to get in touch via email. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours (48 hours during the weekend), but usually a lot faster. I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you!

Course Schedule:

There are two necessary purchases for this course, available from the university bookstore or amazon.com and other similar online stores:

William Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2013).

Note: in class we will be using the most recent, 5th edition, and pages in the schedule below refer to that edition. For most of this class, you may use the 3rd or 4th editions (2004 and 2008) as well, and it will be your responsibility to obtain the parts missing in those editions and to verify which parts to read.

Marvin Gettleman and Stuart Schaar, *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader* (New York: Grove Press, 2012).

In the schedule below, assignments from these two books appear as Cleveland and Bunton, or Gettleman and Schaar.

We will also read sections/chapters from other books and articles. These will be available via the course's website on Blackboard in PDF form. Some of the items mentioned in the schedule below are also available at the library (just look them up in the catalog). If you prefer to read from the books themselves instead of the PDFs, please do so in the library and do not check out the books, so others may have access to them as well.

Reading assignments/videos that appear under each week should be read/viewed *in preparation for* that week (with more precise per-class instructions given the week before).

Week 1 – introduction: geography and climate of the Middle East, the Middle East before Islam, the rise of Islam in the 7th century

Tuesday, 8/20 and Thursday, 8/22

First part of: Chase Robinson, "The rise of Islam, 600-705," *The New Cambridge History of Islam* vol. 1, pp. 173-202 (on Blackboard).

Gettleman and Schaar, 12-21; A pagan, Jewish, and Muslim version of the story of Noah and the flood (on Blackboard)

Week 2 – the caliphate, the Umayyad and Abbasid empires, the coming of the Steppe people
8/27-29

Second part of: Chase Robinson, “The rise of Islam, 600-705,” *The New Cambridge History of Islam* vol. 1, pp. 202-225 (on Blackboard).

Tayeb el-Hibri, “The Empire in Iraq, 763-861,” *The New Cambridge History of Islam* vol. 1, pp. 269-304 ((on Blackboard).

Gettleman and Schaar, 22-24

Week 3 – from the crusades to the rise of the Ottomans (11th to 14th century)
9/3, 9/5 – no class, Rosh ha-Shanah

Gettleman and Schaar, 26-28, 46-58

Capture of Jerusalem by Saladin, 1187; an account of a Muslim visiting the Mongols (on Blackboard)

*** Monday 9:30 to Tuesday 9:30: Quiz #1 ***

Week 4 – the Ottoman and other empires, 14th-18th century
9/10-12

Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire 1700-1922* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005), 13-53, 90-173 (on Blackboard).

A section from Ogier de Busbecq’s letters from Istanbul (on Blackboard)

Week 5 – reforms in the 19th century
9/17-19

Cleveland and Bunton, 56-94

Gettleman and Schaar, 81-84

Napoleon Bonaparte’s letter to the people of Egypt, 1798; an Ottoman imperial decree, 1856

*** Monday 9:30 to Tuesday 9:30: Quiz #2 ***

Week 6 – from sultan ‘Abdülhamid II to the fall of the Ottoman Empire (1876-1920)
9/24-26

Cleveland and Bunton, 109-112, 122-32, 137-158.

Images from the ‘Abdülhamid II collection, Library of Congress (link on Blackboard)

Week 7 – beyond the Ottoman Empire: Iran and North Africa, 19th-20th century
10/1-3

Cleveland and Bunton, 95-108, 132-35

“Algeria” and “Tunis” in *Encyclopedia of Islam*, 2nd edition (on Blackboard)

*** Monday 9:30 to Tuesday 9:30: Quiz #3 ***

Week 8 – political Islam and Arab nationalism
10/8-10

Cleveland and Bunton, 112-121

Jamal a-Din al-Afghani’s answer to Renan, taken from Nikkie Keddie’s *An Islamic Response to Imperialism*, pp. 181-90 (on Blackboard)

Sections from Sylvia Haim, *Arab Nationalism: an Anthology*, pp. 75-93, 120-53. Access this book [here](#).

Week 9 – the Middle East between two world wars, the Arab struggle for independence
10/15-17

Cleveland and Bunton, 179-220

Gettleman and Schaar, 113-18

*** Monday 9:30 to Tuesday 9:30: Quiz #4 ***

Weeks 10-11 – the Arab Israeli Conflict
10/22 – no class, fall break, 10/24, 10/29, 10/31

Cleveland and Bunton, 221-251, 314-343, 441-445, 463-86

Gettleman and Schaar, 165-234 (in class we will choose specific documents from this range)

Week 12 – Turkey and Iran
11/5-7

Cleveland and Bunton, 162-178, 255-79, 347-368, 487-500

Gettleman and Schaar, 254-57

Part of a speech given by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk; sections from Khomeini's *Islamic Government* (on Blackboard)

*** Monday 9:30 to Tuesday 9:30: Quiz #5 ***

Week 13 – Egypt and Syria (and Lebanon too)
11/12-14

Cleveland and Bunton, 301-314, 369-392, 415-424

Gettleman and Schaar, 289-96

Sayyid Qutb on America; Speeches by Egyptian and Syrian presidents (on Blackboard)

Week 14 – Saudi Arabia and Iraq
11/19-21

Cleveland and Bunton, 393-413, 424-437

Speeches by Saddam Hussein (on Blackboard)

*** 11/19: book report due ***

Weeks 15-16 – terrorism, the war on terror, and US involvement in the Middle East
11/26, 11/28 – no class, Thanksgiving, 12/3-5

Cleveland and Bunton, 445-462, 500-521

Gettleman and Schaar, 245-53, 300-3, 310-13, 326-43

Letters written by Ayman al-Zawahiri; a declaration from Usama bin Laden, 1998 (on Blackboard)

*** Monday (11/25) 9:30 to Tuesday (11/26) 9:30: Quiz #6 ***

*** Final exam due: Friday, 12/13, 12noon, electronically ***

List of suggested books for book report:

Note: all books are available at the library; one book per student on a first come-first serve basis; make a decision early to get the book you want. You may choose a book not from this list as long as I approve it. Need help locating items in the library or deciding on a book? Just ask.

1. Ervand Abrahamian, *A History of Modern Iran*
2. Leila Ahmed, *A Quiet Revolution: the Veil's Resurgence, from the Middle East to America*
3. Fouad Ajami, *The Dream Palace of the Arabs: A Generation's Odyssey*
4. Michael Bonner, *Jihad in Islamic History: Doctrines and Practice*
5. Dawn Chatty, *Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East*
6. Stephen Dale, *The Muslim Empires of the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals*
7. Fred Halliday, *The Middle East in International Relations: Power, Politics and Ideology*
8. Jane Hathaway, *The Arab Lands under Ottoman Rule, 1516-1800*
9. Efraim Karsh, *Islamic Imperialism: a History*
10. Gilles Kepel, *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam*
11. Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: the Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*
12. Philip Khoury, *Urban Notables and Arab Nationalism*
13. Bernard Lewis, *The Emergence of Modern Turkey*
14. Afaf Lutfi al-Sayyid Marsot, *A History of Egypt: from the Arab Conquest to the Present*
15. Abraham Marcus, *The Middle East of the Eve of Modernity: Aleppo in the Eighteenth Century*
16. Margaret Meriwether, *Social History of Women and Gender in the Modern Middle East*
17. Muhammad Muslih, *The Origins of Palestinian Nationalism*
18. Yitzhak Nakash, *The Shi'is of Iraq*
19. Vali Nasr, *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam will Shape the Future*
20. Augustus Norton, *Hezbollah: a Short History*
21. Cyrus Schayegh, *Who is Knowledgeable is Strong: Science, Class, and the Formation of Modern Iranian Society, 1900-1950*
22. Patrick Seale, *The Struggle for Syria: a Study of Post-War Arab Politics*
23. Kenneth Stein, *Heroic Diplomacy: Sadat, Kissinger, Carter, Begin, and the Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace*
24. Charles Tripp, *A History of Iraq*
25. Dirk Vandewalle, *A History of Modern Libya*
26. Keith Watenpaugh, *Being Modern in the Middle East: Revolution, Nationalism, Colonialism, and the Arab Middle Class*
27. Lawrence Wright, *The Looming Tower: al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*
28. Hakan Yavuz, *Secularism and Muslim Democracy in Turkey*
29. Hakan Yavuz, *Turkish Islam and the Secular State: the Gülen Movement*
30. 'Abd al-Salam Zaif, *My Life with the Taliban*
31. Eyal Ziser, *Lebanon: the Challenge of Independence*