

History 381
THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST
T 7:00pm-9:50pm 225 McIver

Instructor: Dr. Ann Saab
Office Hours: 223 McIver T 6:00-7:00pm 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 on reserve (including e-reserve) in Jackson Library
You should also be prepared to access course information at <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 placed a series of short stories and selections from longer works on reserve in the library. 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 reserve assignments (NOT Fisher) due at the class period for which the reading is assigned (total of 10 during the semester). 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. When more than one selection is assigned for the same class period, each student 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 hour exam and the final exam in determining the course grade.

I. LIVING THE HERITAGE

Aug 17 Introduction: Land, Peoples, Language

Aug 24 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; Yehuda Amichai, OPEN, CLOSED, OPEN, selection on reserve

Aug 31 Islam: The Way of Life Then O 25-47; Rumi, on reserve

Sep 7 Islam: The Way of Life Now O 75-93; AN UNEXPECTED LIGHT, selection on reserve; BOOKSELLER OF KABUL, "The Call from Ali," selection on reserve

Sep 14 The Ottoman Empire: The Political Heritage O 190-213; "Story of Bugach Khan"

Sep 21 FIRST HOUR EXAM (covers Aug 17-Sep 14)

II. CONFRONTING MODERNITY

Sep 28 Torn States: Turkey and Iran O 393-414; 476-520; "Civilization's Spare Part;" "My Nephew"

Oct 5 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 8 LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT PENALTY

Oct 12 FALL BREAK: NO CLASS

Oct 19 Cleft States: Lebanon and Afghanistan O 414-15; 433-7; 525-30; 626-38; THE ROAD TO HOME, pp. 65-80; BOOKSELLER OF KABUL, "A Broken Heart," selections on reserve

Oct 26 Iraq: A Cleft State Waiting to Happen O 439-45; 649-56; "Women in Fear;" "The Fire Last Time" selection from THE NEW REPUBLIC on reserve

Nov 2 Israel and the Palestinians to 1967 O 447-59; 533-53; "The Swimming Contest"

Nov 9 Israel and the Palestinians since 1967 O 556-79; "Room on the Roof"

Nov 16 SECOND HOUR EXAM (covers Sep 28-Oct 26)

III. A CLASH OF WHAT?

Nov 23 War and Peace: Core-State Competition, Fault-Line Conflicts, and Great Power Hegemony O 656-65; "From a Sealed Room"

Nov 30 Islamism and Saudi Arabia O 696-715; THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT, pp. 47-70 on reserve

FINAL EXAM: Take-home Exam to be given out at the end of the last class on Nov 30 and to be handed in at any time up to Tuesday, Dec 14 at 10:00 pm (covers Nov 2-30)