

History 381  
THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST  
T 18:00-20:50 225 McIver

Instructor: Dr. Ann Saab  
Office Hours: 223 McIver T 17:00-18:00 or by appointment (334-5992 or 272-1024)  
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Texts: S.N. Fisher and W. Ochsenswald, THE MIDDLE EAST: A HISTORY, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., vol. II (F)  
Michael Cook, THE KORAN: A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION  
Other assignments on reserve in Jackson Library

The Fisher text is a standard account of Middle Eastern history in the twentieth century. It will be most helpful for background, and for laying hold 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 due at the class period for which the reading is assigned. Alternatively, you may e-mail 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. Foundation "Narratives"

Aug 21 Introduction: How do we define "Middle East"?

Aug 28 Judaism: The Promise and the History Old Testament or Hebrew Bible (any ed), Genesis 6:5-9:17; 12:1-9; 13:14-18; 15:1-21; 17:1-27; Joshua 24:1-28; Isaiah 40:1-31; Ezekiel 1:1-2:7; Yehuda Amichai, *Open, Closed, Open*, first set of selections on reserve

Sep 4 Islam: The Way of Life Then and Now Cook, pp. 3-48; 95-143; Rumi, *Daylight*, selections on reserve

Sep 11 The Ottoman Empire: The Political Heritage "Story of Bugach Khan"

Sep 18 REVIEW/FIRST HOUR EXAM

#### II. "Narratives" of Modernization and Despair

Sep 25 Egypt under Nasser: The Pan-Arab Dream F 539-55; 561-70; "Another Evening at the Club"; "Cairo is a Small City"

Oct 2 Kemal Ataturk's Turkey: The "Model" Secular State F 399-412; 482-503; "The Peach Orchard," "Toy Carts Five Kurush," "In God's Plains"

Oct 9 FALL BREAK; NO CLASS

Oct 12 LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT PENALTY

Oct 16 Iran and Iraq: The High Price of "Success" F 414-21; 445-51; 505-19; 521-29; 606-13; Gina Nahai, *Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith*, pp. 80-82

Oct 23 SECOND HOUR EXAM

III. "Narratives" of Exile and Return

Oct 30 Israel: Dream and Reality F 453-65; 674-94; "The Wedding"; Amos Oz, *Panther in the Basement*; Aharon Meged, "The Name"

Nov 6 Israel: Triumph and Tragedy F 697-714; 583-95; Amin Maalouf, *The Rock of Tanios*; Amos Oz, *In the Land of Israel*; "Apples in Honey"

Nov 13 Palestine: Intifada inside and outside Israel F 714-19; Yehuda Amichai, *Open, Closed, Open*, second set of selections; "Room on the Roof"

Nov 20 War and Peace in the Middle East: from the Gulf War to Oslo F 529-32; 613-21; Rachel Kadish, *From a Sealed Room*, pp. 3-5

Nov 27 History's Revenge F 721-39; "The Persian Carpet," "Jelal the Bricklayer," "My Nephew," "Civilization's Spare Part"

Dec 4 REVIEW

FINAL EXAM: Take-home Exam to be given out at the end of the last class and to be handed in at any time up to Dec 18 20:50