

## Syllabus

History 381

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

T 6:00-8:50pm 225 McIver

Instructor: Dr. Ann Saab

Office Hours: 223 McIver T 5:00-6:00pm or by appointment

Telephone: 334-5992 or 272-1024

Email: [annsaab@earthlink.net](mailto:annsaab@earthlink.net)

### 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 (including e-reserve) in Jackson Library

You should also be prepared to access course information at <http://bb.uncg.edu>

The Fisher text is a standard account of Middle Eastern history in the twentieth century. It will be most helpful for background and for keeping details straight.

I chose the Cook reading on the Koran because I think it gives some idea, for those of us who are not Muslims, what it would be like to live your life as a Muslim.

In addition, I have placed a series of short stories and selection 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 or Cook) 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 the reading 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, students should read all selections for discussion purposes, then pick one to write about. Helpful hints about each selection will be found in Blackboard (<http://bb.uncg.edu>) under assignments. Summaries plus class participation will count equally with each hour exam and the final in determining the course grade.

## I. LIVING THE HERITAGE

August 20	Definitions
August 27	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
September 3	Islam: The Way of Life Then and Now Cook, pp. 3-48; 95-143; Rumi Selections
September 10	The Political Heritage: Ottoman Glory and Colonial Disgrace "Story of Bugach Khan"

September 17            REVIEW/FIRST HOUR EXAM

## II. CONFRONTING MODERNITY

September 24            Torn States I: Turkey  
F 399-412; 482-503; “Civilization’s Spare Part,” “My Nephew”

October 1                Torn States II: Iran  
F 414-21; 505-19; 521-32; MOONLIGHT ON THE AVENUE OF FAITH, pp. 80-82

October 8                The Middle Way: Egypt and Iraq  
F 539-55; 561-70; 445-51; 606-13; “Another Evening at the Club,” “Cairo is a Small City,” “Women in Fear”

October 11                LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT PENALTY

October 15                FALL BREAK: NO CLASS

October 22                Cleft States: Lebanon and Afghanistan  
F 439-43; 583-95; 533-34; AN UNEXPECTED LIGHT, pp. 403-16

October 29                REVIEW/SECOND HOUR EXAM

## III. A CLASH OF WHAT?

November 5                Israel and the Palestinians to 1967  
F 453-65; 674-94; “The Swimming Contest”

November 12              Israel and the Palestinians since 1967  
F 697-719; “Room on the Roof”

November 19              War and Peace: Core-State Competition, Fault-Line Conflicts, and Great Power Hegemony  
F 613-21; FROM A SEALED ROOM

November 26              Islamism  
F 721-39; Amal and Hezbollah

December 3                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 Tuesday, December 17 at 10:00pm