

History 381
THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST
T 6:00pm-8:50pm 135 McIver

Instructor: Dr. Ann Saab
Office Hours: 223 McIver T 17:00-18:00 or by appointment (334-5992 or 272-1024)
e-mail: annsaab@earthlink.net

Texts: S.N. Fisher and W. Ochsenswald, *THE MIDDLE EAST: A HISTORY*, 5th 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 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"

Jan 15 Introduction: How do we define "Middle East"?

Jan 22 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

Jan 29 Islam: The Way of Life Then and Now Cook, pp. 3-48; 95-143; Rumi, selections on reserve

Feb 5 The Ottoman Empire: The Political Heritage "Story of Bugach Khan"

Feb 12 REVIEW/FIRST HOUR EXAM

II. "Narratives" of Modernization and Despair

Feb 19 Egypt under Nasser: The Pan-Arab Dream F 539-55; 561-70; "Another Evening at the Club"; "Cairo is a Small City"

Feb 26 Kemal Ataturk's Turkey: The "Model" Secular State and Central Asia (Afghanistan) F 399-412; 482-503; "The Peach Orchard," "Toy Carts Five Kurush," "In God's Plains

Mar 5 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

Mar 12 SPRING BREAK; NO CLASS

Mar 19 SECOND HOUR EXAM

Mar 20 LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT PENALTY

III. "Narratives" of Exile and Return

Mar 26 Israel: Dream Come True? F 453-65; 674-94; "The Wedding"; Amos Oz, *Panther in the Basement*; Aharon Meged, "The Name"

Apr 2 Israel: Triumph and Tragedy F 697-714; 583-95; Amin Maalouf, *The Rock of Tanios*; "Apples in Honey"

Apr 9 Palestine: Intifada inside and outside Israel F 714-19; Yehuda Amichai, *Open, Closed, Open*, second set of selections; "Room on the Roof"

Apr 16 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

Apr 23 History's Revenge F 721-39; "The Persian Carpet," "Jelal the Bricklayer," "My Nephew," "Civilization's Spare Part"

Apr 30 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 May 14 8:50pm