

History 381
THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST
T 6:00pm-8:50pm 228 McIver

Instructor: Dr. Ann Saab
Office Hours: 223 McIver T 5:00-6:00pm or by appointment (334-5992 or 272-1024)
email: annsaab@earthlink.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. 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

Jan 13 Introduction: Land, Peoples, Language

Jan 20 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

Jan 27 Islam: The Way of Life Then O 25-47; Rumi, on reserve

Feb 3 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

Feb 10 The Ottoman Empire: The Political Heritage O 190-213; "Story of Bugach Khan"

Feb 17 FIRST HOUR EXAM

II. CONFRONTING MODERNITY

Feb 24 Torn States: Turkey and Iran O 393-414; 476-520; "Civilization's Spare Part;" "My Nephew"

Mar 2 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"

Mar 9 SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS

Mar 16 Cleft States: Lebanon and Afghanistan O 414-15; 433-7; 525-30; 626-38; THE ARAB WORLD: FORTY YEARS OF CHANGE, selection on reserve; BOOKSELLER OF KABUL, "A Broken Heart," selection on reserve

Mar 17 LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT PENALTY

Mar 23 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

Mar 30 SECOND HOUR EXAM

III. A CLASH OF WHAT?

Apr 6 Israel and the Palestinians to 1967 O 447-59; 533-53; "The Swimming Contest"

Apr 13 Israel and the Palestinians since 1967 O 556-79; "Room on the Roof"

Apr 20 War and Peace: Core-State Competition, Fault-Line Conflicts, and Great Power Hegemony O 656-65; "From a Sealed Room"

Apr 27 Islamism and Saudi Arabia O 696-715; "Open Letter by Hizb Allah"; WHAT WENT WRONG?
selection on reserve

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, May 11 at 10:00 pm