

History 381  
THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST  
T 4:00pm-6:50pm 225 McIver

Instructor: Dr. Ann Saab  
Office Hours: 223 McIver T 3:00-4:00pm or by appointment (334-5992 or 272-1024)  
email: annsaab@bellsouth.net

Texts: W. Ochsenswald and S.N. Fisher, THE MIDDLE EAST: A HISTORY, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Ochsenswald) 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

Jan 11 Introduction: Land, Peoples, Language

Jan 18 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 25 Islam: The Way of Life Then O 25-47; Rumi, on reserve

Feb 1 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 8 The Ottoman Empire: The Political Heritage O 190-213; "Story of Bugach Khan"

Feb 15 FIRST HOUR EXAM

## II. CONFRONTING MODERNITY

Feb 22 Torn States: Turkey and Iran O 393-414; 476-520; "Civilization's Spare Part;" READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN, selection on reserve (pp. 81-102)

Mar 1 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 8 SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS

Mar 16 LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT PENALTY

Mar 15 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

Mar 22 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 29 SECOND HOUR EXAM

### III. A CLASH OF WHAT?

Apr 5 Israel and the Palestinians to 1967 O 447-59; 533-53; "The Swimming Contest"

Apr 12 Israel and the Palestinians since 1967 O 556-79; "Room on the Roof"

Apr 19 War and Peace: Core-State Competition, Fault-Line Conflicts, and Great Power Hegemony O 656-65; "From a Sealed Room"

Apr 26 Islamism, Saudi Arabia and Oil O 696-715; "My Son the Fanatic" on reserve

FINAL EXAM: Take-home Exam to be given out at the end of the last class on Apr 26 and to be handed in at any time up to Saturday, May 7 at 6:30 pm