

HI 381/Near & Middle East
UNC-Greensboro
Office Hours: By Appointment
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Spring 2007

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Overview of the course:

Through lectures, readings, a few videos, and class discussions, we will strive to develop a historical understanding of the social, cultural, political, religious, and economic history of the Middle East starting with World War I and the fall of the Ottoman Empire. We will also consider and develop a deeper knowledge and awareness of present-day events in the Middle East and the roots of those events in the past.

The purpose of this course is to provide a study of the modern region of the Near and Middle East. Although the religion of Islam and the language of Arabic are the dominant forces in the area, there are a number of minority groups that will be considered for a more well-rounded understanding of the area. In order to better understand the history of the Middle East (broadly defined as the region between Morocco and Iran), we will begin with a basic understanding of Islam and discuss Western influences both past and present through colonialism and the mandate system. We will then do a country-by-country breakdown of the region and also include discussions on Islamism, women, and various social issues within the Middle East.

Attendance is crucial for success in this course. Discussion is an important component of this course; obviously, you cannot benefit from that aspect of the course if you are not here. Much of the information discussed in class lecture is not necessarily in the textbooks; therefore, reading the texts is **not** a suitable substitution for coming to class. **I will take attendance every class period; because the class only meets once a week, only one unexcused absence (for whatever reason) is allowed.** In addition, **do your best to be on time.** Occasionally being late cannot be helped, but repetitive tardiness disrupts the class and annoys your professor. Multiple absences and/or tardiness will affect borderline grades at the end of the semester.

There will be a mid-term and a non-cumulative final exam (each worth 100 points), two short reports of three pages (50 points each), and a five-page book review (100 points). In addition, a possible 50 points is included for class attendance and participation for a total of 450 points possible for the course. Exams will be short answers and essays. Make-up exams will be entirely essay and must be done within one week of the original exam (no exceptions!).

The **short report** consists of a three-page paper, the first dealing with Jordan and due on February 20th and the second with Turkey due on March 20th. Preference can be given to social issues within each country and not just politics or religion. Go on the Internet (although be careful and document thoroughly!!) to look for articles or websites; however, **Wikipedia, Encarta, Yahoo, or any other online encyclopedia is not an acceptable academic source for this project.**

A 5-page, typed book review is due at the end of the semester on **April 10th**. Choose a history book (not fiction!) that deals with any topic within the scope of this class (from the end of World War I to the present). **All books must be OK'd by me in advance.**

Turn off all cell phones during class time.

Required textbooks:

Cleveland, William L. *A History of the Modern Middle East*. 3rd ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2004.

Aslan, Reza. *No god but God, The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*. New York: Random House, 2006.

Ali, Tariq. *The Clash of Fundamentalisms, Crusades, Jihads and Modernity*. London: Verso, 2002.

Optional textbooks:

Abdo, Geneive. *No god but God, Egypt and the Triumph of Islam*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Lumbard, Joseph, ed. *Islam, Fundamentalism, and the Betrayal of Tradition, Essays by Western Muslim Scholars*. Bloomington, IN: World Wisdom, Inc., 2004.

Several other required readings can be found on E-Reserves throughout the semester.

Class schedule:

January	9	Introduction to Course Islam 101 Aslan, Chs. 1-3
	16	Colonialism & the Mandate System Cleveland, Ch. 9 Aslan, Ch. 9
	23	Egypt Cleveland, Ch. 15; Ch. 18, pp. 373-382 Mahfouz novella (E-Reserve)
	30	Lebanon & Syria Cleveland, Ch. 12; Ch. 18, pp. 382-392 Cleveland, Ch. 19, pp. 397-407
February	6	Arab-Israeli Conflict I Cleveland, Ch. 13, 17 Ali, Chs. 11-12
February	13	Arab-Israeli Conflict II Cleveland, Ch. 22, pp. 474-478; Ch. 23

February	20	Jordan Cleveland, Ch. 13, pp. 213-215 Cleveland, Ch. 16, pp. 330-332 1st Short Paper Due--Jordan
	27	Mid-Term Exam
March	6	No class—Spring Break
	13	Saudi Arabia Cleveland, Ch. 21 Ali, Ch. 9
	20	Turkey Cleveland, Ch. 10, pp. 175-185 Cleveland, Ch. 14, pp. 277-288 2nd Short Paper Due--Turkey
	27	Islamism Aslan, Ch. 4 Ali, Ch. 20 or Lumbard, Ch. 5 (E-Reserve)
April	3	Afghanistan Ali, Ch. 17 Aslan, Ch. 10
	10	Iraq Cleveland, Ch. 11, pp. 204-213; 19, pp. 408-421 Book Review Due
	17	Iran Cleveland, Chs. 10, pp. 185-192; 14, pp. 288-299 Aslan, Ch. 7 Ali, Ch. 13
	24	Women & Social Issues Ali, Ch. 7 Bullock, Ch. 3 (E-Reserve)
May	1	Summing Up Last Day of Class

Useful Internet Links and Websites:

Newspapers

From Egypt:

www.egyptiancastle.com/live/newspapers/main.htm

www.egyptiangazette.net.eg

From Qatar:

www.aljazeera.com

From Kuwait:

www.arabtimesonline.com

From Lebanon:

www.lebanonundersiege.gov.lb/english

www.daralhayat.com (English link)

www.alanwar.com

www.dailystar.com.lb

www.naharnet.com

From Syria:

www.sana.org (English link)

Israeli Peace Movement websites:

www.icahdusa.org (Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions)

<http://zope.gush-shalom.org/home/en>

www.tikkun.org

www.nkusa.org

Miscellaneous websites:

www.csis.org/mideast/menc.cfm

www.futuretvnetwork.com

www.lebanon.com/radio

www.bbc.co.uk

www.arabtimes.com (English link)

www.memritv.org

www.lifebehindthewall.com/index.htm (Quaker peace movement site)