

Utah State University
History 3410
Modern Middle East
Fall 2008

Instructor Contact info: debra.baldwin@usu.edu

Office hours: T/TH 12:30 – 1:15 PM

Required Text: *A History of the Modern Middle East*, William Cleveland, 2004 ed.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Marhaba! (Welcome!) Over the course of the past 10 years, a knowledge of the Middle East, its history, culture, religion and people, has become vital to understanding our world's political situation and especially the recent events that affect our daily lives. An understanding of the Modern Middle East will therefore provide a background and broadened perspective of these facets through readings, classroom lectures, visual and audio media. We will discuss and apply the religious, historical, geographical and ethnographical highlights within the modern cultural context and try to focus on the reasons why rather than just the facts or historical events.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Developing informed awareness of Islamic concepts, culture and thought that have shaped Middle Eastern politics, lifestyle and structural formation.
- Becoming conversant with the vocabulary of Islam and the Middle East through the Arabic language.
- Expanding personal knowledge and opinion of current events in the light of Middle Eastern cultural understanding.
- Gaining an awareness of the historical, philosophical, aesthetic, religious, sociological and gender related issues that shape Islamic lifestyles today.
- Increasing personal motivation to study Middle Eastern issues beyond the scope of this course as they relate to present and future events in our society.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

- You will be expected to attend all classes, do all readings, outlines, presentations and quizzes, and turn in all assignments, papers and exams on time. There is no penalty for turning in work late except in the cases of quizzes, oral presentations, the midterm and final exams, for which there are NO late exceptions- you MUST complete these on time and on the date due to get any credit.
- You will have question-type outlines, mapping, grids and summaries to fill out for each of the chapter readings from the book which will serve as a study guide as well as help in answering quiz and test questions.
- Quizzes will be objective in format (T/F, multiple choice, short one-word answers) and come from the outline questions for the chapters listed. Since they are used for attendance and class preparation purposes only, there are NO make-ups. You may do extra credit at the end of the semester to make up for missing points if you wish.

- You will have two topic papers to write. Please refer to the paper assignment sample at the end of this syllabus for specific details about format and check your syllabus for due dates. I grade heavily on mechanics, so PLEASE follow the paper guidelines!
- Your midterm and final exams will be a combination of objective non-cumulative items (T/F, multiple choice, matching, etc.) as well as short answer and essay questions. They are open-book tests, so you may use your outlines, book and notes to answer questions. Please note that you must answer the question using book sources only rather than anything you find on the internet as the web is not in our course of study. Because they are open-book, you may find the tests more challenging, especially in trying to remember where you can find the answers from the book or your class notes. The midterm exam is done during class time as scheduled. The final exam is in lieu of a term paper, so the essay questions will take you a long, long time to complete if done properly (my last class told me the average time was 8 hours, just to give you a heads up!) You will receive the test five days in advance of the final exam due date during finals week to have adequate time to work on it. Please make sure to answer the essay questions FULLY (an essay is not just one sentence or abbreviated group of words- I expect at least a full paragraph!). Points will be deducted from essay answers that are too short. You will also be asked to synthesize some answers based on information you have studied during the course. They are thinking tests, not just parroting back of simple information. I believe a test should be something that teaches you more and helps you to summarize and apply what you have learned. So try to ENJOY them as a further learning experience ☺
- There is an Islamic Geography map assignment where you do research on your own to find out locations of important cities and countries. This will help orient you to the places your book is talking about historically.
- You will have a short oral presentation of 5 minutes to the class on one person or chapter from the book. You will be asked to give a summary of the most important contributions of that person's life or most important points from the chapter and answer any student questions asked about the information you present. You will be expected to have a one-page handout to give to the class that summarizes your research and main points. The assigned person/ chapter will be given to you during the first week of the semester.
- Extra credit: Due the last day of class. There are no outlines to fill out for chapters 4 – 8 in the book, so for extra credit, you may do a 3 page paper from each chapter, summarizing the important points, worth 20 points per chapter. Please note that **THE LAST DAY OF CLASS IS THE LAST DAY THAT ANY WORK CAN BE SUBMITTED!**
- In order to read the book and not be hung up by every Arabic name and word that comes your way, I have included an Arabic alphabet pronunciation guide to help you know how to pronounce things. Arabic is a phonetic language, so once you know what the sounds are, you can pretty much figure out how to say the words. Keep in mind that the language uses a different script than English, so any English spellings are done phonetically and may vary from chapter to chapter (for example, it can be Muhammad or Mohammed, Quran or Koran, etc.) Going

through the guide is one of the first things you will do on the course, so it should help you with the Arabic words you encounter.

- You will be expected to become conversant with about 50 words from the Arabic language that are necessary to know for any study of the Middle East. They are used frequently throughout the book and in any discussion of aspects of Islam or Islamic history, so please take note when they appear on your outlines. There will also be sections that incorporate those words on both the midterm and final, so please familiarize yourself with them as well as their definitions and applications.
- And one note about the book, *A History of the Modern Middle East*. Since it is 500 pages, it is a rather challenging read because of all the minutia of details you have to wade through to get to the important concepts. You will find the language challenging in places & you will find some of the minor points uninteresting in the extreme. On the other hand, it contains everything you will likely ever need to know about the formative years that make up the modern Middle East as it is today and it will be a great reference book for the future. The chapter outlines will help you focus on what is pertinent to remember and the rest will be good background information to understand context. I would ask that you DO read all of the chapters and not just look for answers to the questions. The other information presented will help you form a better picture of how everything fits together and will explain many reasons why something happened or is happening today. Alternatively, I have tried to include DVD's and slideshows into the curriculum to give you a little break from reading and to present some of the material in a visual way for those of you who are visual learners ☺
- Blackboard Vista: Your grades will be entered on Blackboard for you to keep up to date on them. Additionally, there are some handouts and an Arabic word list with definitions.

COURSE GRADING POINT BREAKDOWN:

Two topic papers (2 x 100 points each)	=	200 points
Book Chapter Quizzes (11 x 20 points each)	=	220 points
Oral Presentation to class (plus handout)	=	50 points
Geography Map Assignment	=	30 points
Chart Assignment	=	40 points
Interwar Era Outline	=	60 points
Midterm Exam	=	150 points
Final Written Exam	=	<u>250 points</u>
		TOTAL: 1000 points

Letter grades are given by strict percentage as follows:

94 – 100%	A	73 – 76%	C
90 – 93%	A-	70 – 72%	C-
87 – 89%	B+	67 – 69%	D+
83 – 86%	B	60 – 66%	D
80 – 82%	B-	Under 60%	F
77 – 79%	C+		

HISTORY 3410 CLASS SCHEDULE FALL 2008

DATE	QUIZ/PRESENT	LECTURE TOPIC
Tues	Aug 26	Course introduction & syllabus
Thurs	Aug 28	Arabic language, period review/geography map assignment
Tues	Sep 2	Map due A visual tour of Middle East geography
Thurs	Sep 4	Ch 1-3 Inside Islam Pt 1
Tues	Sep 9	Inside Islam Pt 2
Thurs	Sep 11	(Ch 4-6) Student Presentations
Tues	Sep 16	(Ch 7-8) Student Presentations
Thurs	Sep 18	Ch 9 Middle East in WWI / Interwar Era assignment (Ch 10-12)
Tues	Sep 23	Blood and Oil Pt 1
Thurs	Sep 25	Interwar due Blood and Oil Pt 2
Tues	Sep 30	Ch 13/17 Palestine and the State of Israel
Thurs	Oct 2	Ch 23 Palestine and the State of Israel
Tues	Oct 7	Guest Speaker: Imam Muhammed Mehtar
Thurs	Oct 9	The Search for Peace
Tues	Oct 14	MIDTERM EXAM
Thurs	Oct 16	FOLLOW FRIDAY CLASS SCHEDULE- NO CLASS
Tues	Oct 21	Paper #1 TBA
Thurs	Oct 23	(Ch 15-16) Age of Nasser & chart assignment
Tues	Oct 28	Ch 18/chart Egypt & Sadat
Thurs	Oct 30	Ch 19 Saddam Hussain
Tues	Nov 4	Ch 22 The Gulf War
Thurs	Nov 6	Hidden Wars in the Middle East
Tues	Nov 11	Ch 20 The Iranian Revolution
Thurs	Nov 13	Resurgence of Islam
Tues	Nov 18	Ch 21 Saudi Arabia & the Petroleum Era
Thurs	Nov 20	Ch 24 Current Trends
Tues	Nov 25	Epilogue Osama Bin Laden & Fundamentalism
Thurs	Nov 27	THANKSGIVING NO CLASS (just lots of food) ☺
Tues	Dec 2	The Road to 9-11
Thurs	Dec 4	Paper #2 Course Review/ End Notes/ Final Exam given out
Tues	Dec 9	Final Exam Due 11:30 – 1:20 PM

PAPER TITLE GOES HERE IN BOLDED CAPS

In order to get full points, you will need to be aware of several things. First, you will need an introductory sentence that leads into your writing, like above. Also, please notice the use of the tab bar to indent the first line of a paragraph. You should have at least three paragraph indents per page. Make sure to use caps at the beginning of all your sentences. This is standard 12 point size font in New Roman Times. Please use it on your papers (it is usually the default setting on Microsoft Word). Please notice that the lines are double spaced. If you are using a template (at the computer lab) that does more than double space, especially between paragraphs, you will need to write an additional half page in length to make up for the spacing deficit.

Please, also use your spell check, grammar check and most importantly of all, proofread your paper when you are done. The computer does not catch wrong word use or missing words most of thyme. The emphasis on these papers is for you to express your own opinions rather than just quoting things or giving facts. Be sure to make it the appropriate page length (which means going to the bottoms of the pages). You can spill over onto another page if you need more room to summarize or end your writing, but do NOT end shorter than the minimum three-page requirement. Be sure to use quote marks for “other people’s words” and give the references afterwards, either by footnote or parentheses with citation information. (Baldwin, 2008) You should also have another page added after your writing on which you give your sources, listing the book and author, date and publisher in a standard referencing format. Please include internet references as well.

You can see by this little example exactly what your entry should look like visually when you finish it. Please be sure to use commas as they will feel badly if you ignore them and your teacher will have cross-eyes when she is done reading your paper from trying to figure out what your sentence means from having long run-on sentences like this or sentence fragments when you do not finish your . Good luck and have fun writing!

Paper Assignment #1
ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

Minimum length: 3 pages

INSTRUCTIONS: After reading chapters 13, 17 & 23 and viewing *The Search for Peace*, choose a **current** (as in this year 2008) newspaper or magazine article that deals with some part of the ongoing conflict today. Answer all the questions below in your paper:

1. Write an analysis of the problem based upon what you now know of the origins of the conflict from your book.
2. What are the underlying issues at hand?
3. How does the situation of the article you chose relate to these issues?
4. What can you add to what is stated in the article about possible sources of the conflict or issue and any solutions presented? (Please use your book & quote any pertinent passages using standard quote/referencing citations from your paper format guide.)
5. Do you have any suggestions for ending the conflict that would help lead to peace for both sides?

Remember that you need to write 3 full-to-the-bottom pages according to your paper guidelines in the syllabus. Also, please be SURE to do a spell/grammar check!

Further help for writing proper papers can be found on Professor Mark Damen's *Guide to Writing in History and the Classics* found on

<http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/WritingGuide/00intro.htm>

Paper Assignment #2

US INVOLVEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Minimum length: 3 pages

INSTRUCTIONS: After reading chapter 24 and the epilogue of the book, answer the following questions in your paper:

1. Summarize the United States' involvement in the Middle East from the end of WW 2 onward.
2. What are the stated and real reasons behind our presence there?
3. Why have we involved ourselves in the wars and political regimes of Arab countries?
4. Why have we given billions of dollars of aid and arms to some countries and not others?
5. Why have we intervened in certain cases to protect groups, but ignore others who need our help?
6. End your paper by stating your opinion of our foreign policy in the Middle East as it stands today.
7. What suggestions, if any do you have for what we can/ should do in the future regarding the Middle East?

Remember that you need to write minimum 3 full-to-the-bottom pages according to your paper guidelines in the syllabus. Also, please be SURE to do a spell/grammar check!

Further help for writing proper papers can be found on Professor Mark Damen's *Guide to Writing in History and the Classics* found on <http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/WritingGuide/00intro.htm>