POSC 245: The Making of the Modern Middle East II (1918-1967)

Carleton College - Winter 2015

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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday 11:00 am – 12:30pm, and by appointment.

Course Description

This course studies the making of the Modern Middle East, from the fall of the Ottoman Empire to the Arab-Israeli war of 1967. The lectures are divided into three parts: The first part covers major events in the last years of the Ottoman Empire, and the Middle East strategies of the European imperial powers. The second part covers the making of the new Arab states, and the struggles for independence. The third part is essentially centered on the rise of the Arab authoritarian order and the political roles of Arab armed force. Different aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict will be discussed throughout the three parts of the course. Overall, the course has two main goals: 1) - To sharpen the students’ understanding of the historical origins of contemporary Middle Eastern dilemmas. 2) - To encourage students to develop their own ideas and opinions as per the current events, and hone their political and analytical skills.

Required Texts


Course Requirements

*Class attendance and participation (25 % of your final grade)*

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session. Each student starts the class with 10 attendance point. You will lose 1 point from your attendance grade every time you are absent. For instance, if you miss 4 classes you will receive 6 instead of 10 attendance points. Only documented absences will be accepted (e.g. doctor’s note).

Students are expected to participate actively in the class. I will be asking you to contribute to class discussions and will invite you to offer your opinion on required readings or on related events unfolding as the course goes on.
**Quizzes (10% of your final grade)**

Throughout the term you will take two quizzes. They will have several components such as multiple choice questions, short answers, true/false questions and so forth. You will be tested to see whether you understood the general line of an argument, or the main events that shaped the outlook of a historical turning point.

**Mid-term (25 % of your final grade)**

The Mid-term will be divided into two parts: 1) A series of questions to which you will be expected to reply with short answers. The questions will cover all the material discussed in class from the first lecture to the last. 2) An essay you will be asked to write and which will test your ability to think critically on the material we covered. Reading the material and taking notes in class is indispensable to do well in the exam, but it takes more than just that. You must demonstrate an ability to reflect analytically on the topic and express your own opinions and ideas.

**Term paper (40% of your final grade)**

We will discuss the topics you could work on for the final paper in class, or in office hours.

**What is expected of you as you do the readings?**

The readings assigned for the course deal with the most critical events pertaining to the making of the contemporary Middle East. As you read, you will be expected to think critically on the articles by asking yourselves the following questions:

1) What is the author’s main argument?
2) Do I find that argument convincing or not? Why?
3) What alternative explanations can be thought of for the author’s evidence?
4) What are the implications of the argument made by the author?

In addition to the required readings, you are encouraged to keep yourself informed about current issues related to Middle Eastern politics. Consulting newspapers helps a great deal, namely national newspapers following closely Middle Eastern events such as *The New York Times, The International Herald Tribune, The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*. You can also read magazines such as *The Economist* and *Newsweek*. Two flagship academic journals are particularly important in the field of Middle Eastern politics, namely, *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies (IJMES)* and *Middle East Journal*. Also, keep an eye on the *Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP)*.
Reading assignments

Monday, January 5: Introduction

We will discuss the Syllabus in class.

Part I: Death of the Ottoman Order

Wednesday, January 7: Twilight of the Ottoman Empire

Cleveland: pp 149-170.
Fromkin: pp 15-76.

Friday, January 9: Arab Nationalism and The Great Arab Revolt of 1916

Fromkin: pp 173-187
Fromkin: pp 216-228

Monday, January 12: The Sykes-Picot Agreement

Fromkin: pp 188-199

Wednesday, January 14: Herzl, Zionism and the Balfour Declaration

Fromkin: pp 263-301

Friday, January 16: (In-class BBC documentary discussion)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1zLTXgYLbw

(Lawrence of Arabia)
Part II: Mandates, Independence, and the Rise of the New Arab States

Monday, January 19: The Making of Modern Lebanon
Salibi: 151 - 191
Zamir: 1- 37

Wednesday, January 21: The Making of Modern Lebanon
Zamir: 38 -96

Friday, January 23: The Making of Modern Syria
Longrigg: 3 - 108

Monday, January 26: The Making of Modern Syria
Khoury: 28-94

Wednesday, January 28: The Making of Modern Syria
Khoury: 583-618
Longrigg: 293 - 368

Friday, January 30: The Making of Modern Iraq
Sluglett: 1-92

Monday, February 2: The Making of Modern Iraq
Sluglett: 93-192

Wednesday, February 4: The Making of Modern Iraq
Dodge: 63 - 171

Friday, February 6:
In-class review session for the Mid-Term

Monday, February 9
Mid-Term Break
**Wednesday, February 11**

Mid-Term

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**Friday, February 13: Palestine/Israel under the British Mandate**

Herzel: 11- 20
Herzel: 69 - 157

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**Monday, February 16: Palestine/Israel under the British Mandate**

Lockman: 21 - 57
Morris: 1 -36
Cleveland: 239 – 271.

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**Wednesday, February 18: Palestine/Israel under the British Mandate**

Morris: 37 – 112
Morris: 375 – 420

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**Part III: Armies, Authoritarianism and War**

**Friday, February 20: The Era of coups in Syria**

Seal: 25 – 99
Seal: 148 - 163

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**Monday, February 23: The Era of coups in Syria**

Seal: 307- 326
Rabinovitch: 1-74

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**Wednesday, February 25: The Era of coups in Iraq**

Marr: 37 - 138
Friday, February 27: Nasser and the Free Officers in Egypt

Kandil: 1 -13
Cleveland: 301 - 322
Cook: 27 - 91

Monday, March 2: Nasser and the Free Officers in Egypt

Kandil: 14-69

Wednesday, March 4: The 1967 war: prelude and aftermath

Seal (2): 104 – 141
Kandil: 69 - 97

Friday, March 6: The 1967 war: prelude and aftermath

Seal (2): 142 - 168
Cook: 91-132

Monday, March 9:
Documentary

Wednesday, March 11:

In-class review session for the final exam