The great majority of the modern Middle East was born in the aftermath of WWI and breakdown of the Ottoman Empire. Iran was an exception as it lay outside the Ottoman fold, but in many respects its modern history developed in tandem as it reacted to the same influences. This course examines the state and society in the Middle East from the early nineteenth century to the present. Particular attention is paid to Turkey, Iran and Egypt, three major Middle Eastern societies that are here approached comparatively. The material is written for the most part by historians, but the course attempts a more analytical, sociological reading.

Grading:

3 short quizzes (20%), dates to be announced

Participation and presentation (20%). You are expected to actively participate in class discussions. In addition, you will be responsible for a 15 minute presentation of your paper topic to hear questions and comments. As you feel ready, you can communicate your desire for presentation so that a time can be scheduled.

Final Paper: You are expected to write a research paper of about 15 pages, double spaced, which constitutes 60% of your grade. The final proposal is due on Thursday, May 1, and the paper is due on June 3, the last day of class. The presentations may take place before or after the May 1 deadline.

All the reading material, with the exception of the books below, may be found at Moodle.

Books


Ervand Abrahamian A History of Modern Iran (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008)
Tuesday April 1, **Introduction**

Thursday April 3, **Middle East and the Ottoman Empire**


Tuesday April 8 **Middle East and the Ottoman Empire**, continued

Itzkowitz *The Ottoman Empire and the Islamic Tradition* pp. 63-85.

Thursday April 10, **Defensive Reforms, the early 19th century**

Cleveland *Modern Middle East chapter 4*. “Forging a New Synthesis: The Pattern of Reforms, 1789-1849”


Tuesday April 15, **Defensive Reforms, the second half of the 19th century**

Cleveland *A History of the Modern Middle East* chaps 5, 6.

Hourani, “Ottoman Reform and the Politics of Notables,” 83-109

Thursday April 17, **Precursors to the Young Turk Revolution in the Ottoman Empire**

Sohrabi “Revolution and the neo-patrimonial state” in *Revolution and Constitutionalism in the Ottoman Empire and Iran* pp. 33-71

Tuesday April 22, **Precursors to Revolution in Iran**

Sohrabi “Reform and Patrimonialism in Comparative Perspective” pp. 287-334.

Thursday April 24, **Constitutional Revolution in the Ottoman Empire**

Tuesday April 29, *Constitutional Revolution in Iran*
Sohrabi *Revolution and Constitutionalism* pp. 335-406.

Thursday May 1, *World War I and its Aftermath*
Gelvin, James *The Modern Middle East* pp. 171-205
Cleveland *A History of the Modern Middle East* Chaps 9, 10, 11

Tuesday May 6, *Birth of Israel, Arab-Israeli conflict*
Cleveland *A History of the Modern Middle East* chap. 13
Gelvin *The Modern Middle East* pp. 206-221.

Thursday May 8, *Democracy and Authoritarianism in Turkey, Iran and Egypt*
Cleveland *A History of the Modern Middle East* chap. 14
Abrahamian, Ervand *A History of Modern Iran* chap. 4, 5

Tuesday May 13, *Nasser, Arab Nationalism*
Cleveland *A History of the Modern Middle East* chap. 15, 16, 17

Thursday May 15, *Oil and the United states*
Gelvin *The Modern Middle East* pp. 247-267
Gheissari, Ali “The U.S. Coup of 1953 in Iran, Sixty Years On”

Tuesday May 20, *Iranian Revolution and the Islamic Republic*
Mottahedeh *The Mantle of the Prophet* chap. 9, pp. 337-356.

Abrahamian *A History of Modern Iran* chap 6

Persepolis, a movie

Thursday May 22, **Islamist Movements, Globalization**

Gelvin *The Modern Middle East* pp. 290-306


Tuesday May 27, **The Aftermath of the Cold War**

Rogan, Eugene *The Arabs* “After the Cold War,” pp. 439-482

Thursday May 29, **Turkey and the turn away from secularism**

Hakan Yavuz – Islamization in Turkey

Tuesday June 3

Summing up