

Course Syllabus: The History of the Modern Middle East: 1800-Present

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Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to examine the history of the Modern Middle East since 1800. Geographically, the region will encompass the core area which today represents the nation states of the former Ottoman Empire (Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt), Saudi Arabia, and Iran.

Course Requirements:

1. This course meets Monday and Wednesdays 4:30-5:45. Regular attendance is expected. I will be based out of Uvalde, Texas so if you are located in Del Rio or Eagle Pass, or another location, regular internet connection will be needed as well as video and speaker technology to facilitate the successful learning of the course material.
2. Punctual attendance is also expected, it is difficult to learn a subject when you are walking 15 minutes into the lecture.
3. There will be five exams, each exam will consist of four essay questions. The exams will be worth 100 points each. At the end of the semester. I will add up the five exam grades and divide them by five.

90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59-F

Required Readings:

A History of the Modern Middle East by William Cleaveland, 6th Edition, Routledge University Press, 2016, ISBN # 978-0813349800

Course Outline:

The first section of the textbook: Part One-The Development of Islamic Civilization to the Eighteenth Century and includes three chapters:

1. The Rise and Expansion of Islam,
2. The Development of Islamic Civilizations to the Fifteenth Century

The Ottoman and Safavid Empires; A New Imperial Synthesis;

These chapters and section will not be covered in the course as we are limited by time and also, the focus of this course is the 19th century to the present (hence the term-the Modern Middle East 1800-the present)

HOWEVER, I strongly recommend reading these chapters on your own for you own edification as the themes in this course are rooted in earlier historical developments and the Islamic faith-particularly the Sunni and Shiite branches of Islam and their historical role in shaping the region.

Part One. The Beginnings of the Era of Transformation: The Ottoman and Safavid Empires; 1800-1918.

In your textbook, this is Part Two and includes the following chapters:

4. Forging a New Synthesis: The Patterns of Reform 1789-1849.
5. The Ottoman Empire and Egypt During the Age of the Tanzimat.
6. Egypt and Iran in the Late Nineteenth Century.
7. The Response of Islamic Society.
8. The Era of the Young Turks and the Iranian Constitutionalists.
9. World War One and the End of the Ottoman Empire.

Exam # 1 will cover these topics-four essays worth 25 points each.

Part Two: The Struggle for Independence: The Interwar Era to the End of World War Two.

In your textbook, this is Part Three and covers the following chapters:

10. Authoritarian Reform in Turkey and Iran.
11. The Arab Struggles for Independence: Egypt, Iraq, and Trans-Jordan from the Interwar Period to 1945.
12. The Arab Struggles for Independence: Syria, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia from the Interwar Era to 1946.
- 13, The Palestine Mandate and the Birth of the State of Israel 1917-1948.

Exam # 2 will cover these topics-four essays worth 25 points each.

Part Three: The Independent Middle East from the End of World War Two to the 1970s.

In your textbook, this is Part Four and covers the following chapters:

- 14. Democracy and Authoritarianism in Turkey and Iran.**
- 15. The Middle East in the Age of Nasser: The Egyptian Base.**
- 16. The Middle East in the Age of Nasser: The Radicalization of Arab Politics.**
- 17. Israel and Palestine from 1948 to the 1970s.**

Exam # 3 will cover these topics-four essays worth 25 points each.

Part Four: The Resurgence of Islam: The Middle East from the 1970s to the 1991 First Gulf War

In your textbook, this is Part Five and covers the following chapters:

- 18. The Iranian Revolution and the Revival of Islam.**
- 19. Changing Patterns of War and Peace: Egypt and Lebanon in the 1970s and 1980s.**
- 20. The Arabian Peninsula in the Petroleum Era.**
- 21. The Consolidation of Authoritarian Rule in Syria and Iraq.**

Exam # 4 will cover these topics-four essays worth 25 points each.

Part Five: Challenges to the Existing Order: The Middle East in the 1990s and 2000s.

In your textbook, this is Part Six and includes the following chapters:

22. The Palestinian Intifada and the 1991 Gulf War.

23. A Peace So Near and a Peace So Far: Palestinian and Israeli Relations Since the 1991 Gulf War.

24. Patterns of Continuity in Turkey, Iran, and Lebanon.

25. America's Troubled Moment in the Middle East.

26. The 2011 Arab Uprisings and their Aftermath.

Exam # 5 will cover these topics and will also cover the current regional war that has engulfed the region since October 7, 2023. Four essays worth 25 points each.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students who need accessibility services should contact Rebecca Wren at 432-837-8691; Ferguson Hall Room 112.

Marketability Skills of a History Major

SLO 1—The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.

Marketable skills---Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.

Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.

Students can make written presentations to various audiences.

SLO 2—The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.

Marketable skills---Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.

Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.

Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.

SLO 3—The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.

Marketable Skills---Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.

Students can discharge responsibilities in an adequate manner.

Students can manage the absorption of data.