

History 160

HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST FROM 600 TO PRESENT

Spring 2018
MW, 11:10 - 12:35 PM
MD-316

Instructor: Dr. Travis Ritt
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W 12:35-2:30;
Any other times by appt

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to provide students with a basic overview of the development and history of various civilizations in the Middle East, with a considerable emphasis on the impact of religion on the region and a primary focus on Islam. The primary objective of the course will be to understand the historical and cultural background of the major problems facing the Middle East today; this includes the development of religion, social institutions, and eventually nationalism. Rather than fact-laden and comprehensive, this course offers a series of perspectives on the region through both lecture and popular media, by means of the news, documentaries and popular movies. By the end of this course students should be able to define key terms, identify and evaluate Middle Eastern institutions, identify and describe the major tenets of Islam, and have an overall working knowledge of the political situation in the Middle East today.

1. Identify the basic tenets of the development and history of various civilizations in the Middle East, with a considerable emphasis on the impact of religion on the region and with a primary focus on Islam;
2. Understand the historical and cultural background of the major problems facing the Middle East today;
3. Trace the development of religion, social institutions, and eventually nationalism;
4. Identify and evaluate Middle Eastern institutions, both secular and religious;
5. Identify and describe the major tenets of Islam;
6. Develop an overall working knowledge of the political situation in the Middle East today.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Accurately interpret the history of the Middle East through the use of primary and secondary sources
2. Demonstrate college level writing in assessing and interpreting Middle Eastern history.
3. Evaluate and interpret major patterns and trends in modern Middle Eastern history with a particular focus on causation, continuities, and change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. 2 Map quizzes
2. Three exams (including final exam)
3. Primary Document paper (1500 words)
4. Feminism Paper (1200 words)

TEXTBOOKS

Required – James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, 4th edition

Required – John Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*, 5th edition

Required – Omar Ali – *Islam in the Indian Ocean World, A Brief History with Documents*

EXAMS

The three exams (including the final exam) will be comprised of multiple choice, true and false, and matching questions. **The final exam will not be cumulative. Make-up Exams.** If you miss the exam due to a documented legitimate excuse, see me to schedule a make-up exam. Make-up exams will **NOT** follow the same form as the regular class exam.

The map quizzes will consist of North Africa and the core Middle East consisting of the Arabian Peninsula, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel. Students will be given a blank map and be required to fill in no less than 10 significant geographical locations, including but not limited to: cities, rivers, bodies of water, and mountain ranges.

PAPERS

You will be required to write two (2) papers over the course of the semester. One of these papers will be concerned with the analysis of primary sources concerning the expansion of Islam into the Indian Ocean world (1500 words) while the other will examine feminism in modern Egypt using the novel *Woman at Point Zero* (1200 words). More complete instructions to follow.

I highly encourage you to bring me rough drafts.

Papers must be submitted through Canvas by the beginning of class on the due date. Late papers will be accepted with the penalty of **A Full Letter Grade** for each day that the paper is late. If the paper has not been submitted to Canvas at the start of class, it will be considered late. Late papers cannot be rewritten for a higher grade.

GRADING

2 Map Quizzes @ 25 pts = 50 pts	A = 540 – 600
3 Exams @ 100 pts each = 300 pts	B = 480 – 539
Analysis Paper @ 100 pts	C = 420 – 479
Feminism Paper @ 100 pts	D = 360 – 419
Attendance @ 50 pts	F = 359 and below
Possible Total = 600 pts	

EXTRA CREDIT

All students will start the semester with ten (10) points of extra credit to be applied at the end of the term to their final grade. However, every time that a cell phone rings during class or I see someone texting or off task on a computer, a point will be subtracted from the **entire** class.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be taken at every class; any student not present will have 5 points deducted (no matter what the excuse – barring medical emergencies or death in the family, of course). Students should keep track of absences and missed assignments so that students will know at all times where they stand academically in the class. If students are not sure of their records, they may verify their records with the instructor.

You are expected to maintain an attendance rate of 80%. This means that you may miss SIX (6) class sessions for any reason. Once you miss SIX class sessions, including exam days, you will be dropped from this class. If the drop date has passed, you will receive an “F” for the class unless you choose to initiate a withdrawal from the class and receive an “FW.”

- **NOTE:** If you are receiving certain kinds of financial aid, you may be dropped from the class after the regular Drop Date. **Under these circumstances I will NOT authorize a change of grade from a "Drop" to an "F."**

If a student comes to class after the instructor has taken attendance, it is that student's responsibility to let the instructor know that he/she is in class at the end of the class period. If the student fails to let the instructor know that he/she is in attendance **that day**, the record of that student's absence stands and **WILL NOT CHANGE**.

If a student misses a lecture, it is their responsibility to obtain notes from another student. The instructor will under no circumstances give notes to a student.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

Cheating / Plagiarism: Essentially, plagiarism is defined as any of the following:

- a. Verbatim copying without proper acknowledgement.
- b. Paraphrasing without proper acknowledgement
- c. Putting together a "patchwork" paper from diverse sources, without proper acknowledgement of those sources.
- d. Unacknowledged appropriation of information or of someone else's ideas.

Cheating on exams is defined as any of the following:

- a. Drawing answers from anyone other than yourself.
- b. Having access to both a copy of the exam and/ or its answers prior to it being administered. (cont.)
- c. Having access to exam answers during the exam via a "cheat sheet" or any other document that was created before the exam was administered.

Any student caught engaging in any of these acts will be subject to a grade of "F" for both that assignment and the course as well as being subject to expulsion from the college. A fulfilling academic and learning experience helps to be ensured when students do their own work.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and/ or me during the first week of class.

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Topic 1	Course introduction
Topic 2	Background
Topic 3	Pre-Islamic Period: Judaism, Christianity and the Arabian Peninsula
Topic 4	Muhammad and Islam (Esposito: 1-41)
Topic 5	The Orthodox Caliphs (Esposito: 42-62)
Topic 6	Empire (Esposito: 92-147)
Topic 7	The Fatimids and Islamic Spain
Topic 8	The Crusades (Esposito: 63-66)
Topic 9	The Ottomans and the Safavids (Esposito : 67-91 ; Gelvin: 1-184)
Topic 10	World War I (Gelvin: 189-219, 248-255)
Topic 11	Nationalism and Zionism (Esposito: 148-300; Gelvin: 220-229)
Topic 12	Iran: World War II to the Revolution
Topic 13	The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Gelvin: 230-247)
Topic 14	The Gulf Wars (Gelvin: 259-370)
Topic 15	The Middle East Today

Important Dates:

Monday, January 29 th :	1 st Day of Class
Monday, February 5 th :	Map quiz #1
Monday, February 19 th :	Washington's Birthday: No class!
Monday, March 5 th :	Exam #1
Monday, March 12 th :	Indian Ocean Analysis paper due
March 26 th – 28 th :	Spring Break – No Class!
Monday, April 16 th :	Exam #2
Wednesday, April 18 th :	Map quiz #2
Monday, April 23 rd :	Feminism Paper due
Monday, May 21 st :	Exam #3
Wednesday, May 23 rd :	Wrap up day