COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys the history of the region of North Africa and West Asia between the Atlantic Ocean and Central Asia — commonly known as the Middle East — from the late 18th century until the present. One of the guiding questions of the course will be why do historians describe the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in region as its “modern” history. To answer this question, we will explore the integration of the Middle East into the global capitalist system and the rise of a new form of political association there—the nation-state. Related matters we will explore include the imposition of European colonial control over many parts of the region and formation of anticolonial nationalisms. The second half of our course will turn to events that followed the dismantling of Ottoman Empire by European powers after World War One and subsequent creation of the many nation-states of the Middle East. We will chart these newly created states’ continuing anticolonial struggles and their eventual conclusion after World War Two. With the demise of European colonialism, we will turn to another international rivalry over influence in the Middle East—the Cold War between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. We will pay close attention to the trajectory of Arab nationalism during the Cold War. Finally, we will turn to the eventual demise of Arab nationalism after the 1967 between Israel and its Arab neighbors, and the subsequent rise of Islamic political movements as the dominant forces in the region’s political struggles. This course will focus primarily on the political history of the region, but will dedicate attention to intellectual and cultural developments. Alongside the accounts of academically trained historians, we will also read excerpts from primary sources.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

I expect that each of you will dedicate at least six hours per week, in addition to attending class, to closely reading your textbooks and taking notes. While you read, I expect you to follow and understand the authors’ arguments and narratives. In the class room, I will mix lectures with frequent questions and discussions about these texts and other matters that may arise.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available for order at the university book store):


* Please note, this is a draft syllabus and is subject to change.

**GRADES:** Course grades will be based on the following formula: 25% participation; 35% midterm; 40% final.

**EXAMS:** There will be two exams; an in-class midterm (3/14) and a final during exam week (5/17).

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Course participation will be assessed based upon attendance, discussion in class, the submission of weekly short response paragraphs, and occasional quizzes. Attendance is required. Students are allowed two excused absences without penalty. Further absences will affect the course grade. Each week the instructor will compose questions to facilitate student reading and in class discussion on D2L. Students are required to write an approximately 300-word paragraph responding to one question composed by the instructor. Students must complete and submit their response paragraph by 11:59pm on each Sunday. Late assignments will not be accepted. Although students are required to respond in writing only to one question, they are expected to come to class prepared to discuss ALL questions.

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Readings [listed by week]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>MON. 1/22</td>
<td><em>What is the “Middle East”? What is “modern” history?</em></td>
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<td>WED. 1/24</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>READINGS: No readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>MON. 1/29</td>
<td>The Ottoman Empire on the Eve of Reform</td>
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<td>WED. 1/31</td>
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<td>READINGS: Gelvin, 1-57</td>
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<td>III</td>
<td>MON. 2/5</td>
<td>Imperialism and Defensive Developmentalism</td>
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<td>WED. 2/7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>READINGS: Hanıoğlu, 1-54</td>
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<td>IV</td>
<td>MON. 2/12</td>
<td><em>Iran on the Eve of Reform and Ottoman Tanzimat</em></td>
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WED. 2/14

READINGS: Gelvin 69-105; Hanioğlu, 55-72.

V MON. 2/19 Intellectual Transformations and Challenges to Reform

WED. 2/21

READINGS: Abrahamian, 1-34; Hanioğlu, 72-108.

VI MON. 2/26 Constitutionalism and World War One

WED. 2/28


VII MON. 3/5 Revolution in Iran and Ottoman Collapse

WED. 3/7

READINGS: Gelvin, 151-165, 189-204; Hanioğlu, 151-177.

VIII MON. 3/12 Forms of State Building

WED. 3/14 **MIDTERM**

READINGS: Abrahamian, 34-62; Hanioğlu, 177-202

IX MON. 3/19 No class, spring break

WED. 3/21

READINGS: No readings

X MON. 3/26 Nationalism and Israel-Palestine

WED. 3/28

READINGS: Abrahamian, 63-96; Gelvin, 205-219.

XI MON. 4/2 Cold War

WED. 4/4

XII  MON. 4/9 Oil and the Middle East in the International System
      WED. 4/11

XIII  MON. 4/16 Superpower Rivalry in the Middle East
      WED. 4/18
      READINGS: Gelvin, 288-316; Khalidi, 40-100.

XIV  MON. 4/23 Undermining Democracy in the Middle East
      WED. 4/25
      READINGS: Abrahamian, 123-154; Khalidi, 101-158.

XV  MON. 4/30 U.S Hegemony and Global War on Terror
      WED. 5/2
      READINGS: Abrahamian, 155-195; Khalidi, 159-200.

XVI  MON. 5/7 Arab Uprisings
      WED. 5/9
      READINGS Gelvin, 317-358; Khalidi, 201-246.