Last updated 8/23/2013

The Ohio State University

History 2353: Middle East in the 20th Century

Autumn Semester 2013

**Instructor**: Patrick Scharfe, PhD Candidate, Department of History

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**Office hours**: Friday, 12pm-2pm (and by appointment)

**Class meetings**: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3pm-3:55pm; Caldwell Hall 0277

**Course Description**

In this course we explore the sweeping historical changes that transformed the Middle East from the late nineteenth century to the rise of nationalism and Islamic revivalism. We trace the key processes that reshaped the politics, cultures, religion, and economies of Middle Eastern societies. Our geographic focus will be primarily, although not exclusively, on Turkey, Iran, and the Arab societies of North Africa and the Middle East. No prior knowledge of Islam or its history is assumed although students with background knowledge are welcome.

**Objectives**

This course aims to introduce students to the history of the Middle East since the beginning of the 20th century while keeping in mind the effects of historical developments on the present day.

(1) Students acquire a perspective on Middle Eastern history and an understanding of the factors that shape society, politics, and religion over the last century (through lectures, readings, discussions, and papers).

(2) Students display knowledge about the origins and nature of contemporary issues and develop a foundation for future comparative understanding (through reading and writing, and through active participation).

(3) Students think, speak, and write critically about primary and secondary historical sources by examining diverse interpretations of past events and ideas in their historical contexts (through course readings, discussions, and writing assignments).

**Required Texts**

Course readings include the three following historical books, one on the modern Middle East in general and two focusing on Iran and Egypt respectively. These books are available at the University Book Store or through on-line book vendors. Additional required readings will also be available on Carmen.

James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A History*

Nikki Keddie, *Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution*

Steven A. Cook, *The Struggle for Egypt: From Nasser to Tahrir Square*

Additional readings will be available on Carmen.

**Course Requirements, Policies, and Grades**

**­Enrollment**: All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the semester. No requests to add the course will be approved by the department chair after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student.

**Format**: This class will include both lecture and discussion segments. Mondays will consist primarily of lecture, punctuated by shorter class discussions. Wednesdays will begin by continuing Monday’s lecture topic, but will then transition into class discussion of the readings. On Fridays, we will continue our discussion of the texts. Reading quizzes may be given throughout the week.

**Attendance**: Students are expected to attend all meetings of the course. The midterm and final examinations require knowledge of course lectures, discussions, and readings. Reading quizzes will take place during class time. This course is structured to reward students who come to class, read the assignments, participate in discussions, and stay on top of their work. In order to do well on quizzes and participation activities, students will have read and thought about the assigned reading before class.

In the event that you must miss class, you are responsible for the contents of the lecture

and/or discussion. Furthermore, if you miss class on the day of a quiz or participation grade, you will not be permitted to make it up without prior arrangement with the instructor.

Students who must miss class for religious observances must notify the instructor of their absence in advance.

**Participation and Quizzes**: To ensure that students are attentive to the details of the course and attending class, they will be asked to complete various reading quizzes as part of the lecture and discussion. One of these will be a map quiz.

**Reading and Time Management**: The readings for this class include three historical monographs as well as various readings assigned on Carmen. The amount of reading varies each week, but the average week's reading is about 80 pages. Individual weeks may exceed this reading load, but this will be offset by lighter workloads other weeks. As a general rule of thumb, students should plan to spend at least two hours studying and reading outside of class for every hour they spend in it. Thus for this course, students should allocate at least six hours per week to complete their assignments.

**Essay**: Students will write one essay during the course. Due dates are listed in the course plan below, and assignments for the paper will be handed out in class and made available on-line. These papers allow students to grapple with the material from the course and work on (and improve) their college writing.

**Submission of Work**: All written work is due at the beginning of class on the day

indicated on the syllabus. Please submit all papers in hard copy with all pages stapled. All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in a 12-point font. Your name should be on the first page and all pages should be numbered.

**Late Work**: All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the deadlines for

course assignments. Late work will be penalized five points per day. The only exception to this will be when you have explicit, advanced permission from your instructor. If you

anticipate a problem in completing or submitting your work on time, you must contact the instructor in a timely manner. If you do not hear back, you should assume that your work is due on the original date.

**Examinations**: The course will have in-class midterm and final examinations. Both will

have identifications and essay questions. Students must take the exams at the scheduled time. Make-up examinations will be allowed only for urgent reasons, such as medical or legal emergencies. Students are expected to inform the instructor of such emergencies in a timely manner. In accordance with departmental policy, the student will be expected to present proof of the emergency, such as an official statement from the University Medical Center. Students who qualify for make-up exams, must submit proof of the emergency to the instructor within nine days of the scheduled exam.

**Plagiarism and academic misconduct**: It is the responsibility of the Committee on

Academic Misconduct (COAM) to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed, illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Plagiarism is presenting another person's words, ideas, or sequence of arguments as your own without attribution. We will discuss what constitutes plagiarism and how to cite sources properly in this course. If at any point, however, you have a question about this, please ask.

If you are tempted to plagiarize or find yourself using material from the Internet or any other source and trying to pass it off as your own, stop working on the assignment and contact the instructor. It is better to submit work late than to violate the Code of Student Conduct. It is the instructor’s responsibility to report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487), and we take this responsibility seriously. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct

(<http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp>).

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services

will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>.

**Email**: Electronic mail is a valuable tool. I will, from time to time, send emails to the class. I am also happy to respond to your email messages provided you bear in mind the following points. In academic and professional settings, all emails should have a descriptive subject line ("Question about History 2353 assignment"), begin with a respectful salutation, and conform to standard English with proper punctuation and capitalization. For an excellent overview of how students can most effectively use email with their professors, "How to e-mail a professor" <http://mleddy.blogspot.com/2005/01/how-to-e-mail-professor.html>

**Grading**: Final course grades will be calculated according to the following rubric using the grading scale below.

Participation, 10%: participation, quizzes, other assignments

Quizzes, 25%: regular reading quizzes

Midterm Examination, 20%: administered October 14, 3pm

Paper, 25%: 5 pages; due 18 November

Final Examination 20%; December 6 at 4pm

Grading Scale: 93-100 = A; 90-92 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72 = C-; 67-69 = D+; 63-66 = D; 60-62 = D-; 0-59 = F

To do well in this course, come to class, read well, and synthesize course material for the midterm, paper, and final exams. Above all, ask questions if you do not understand something.

**Course Schedule**

The schedule indicates themes, lecture topics, readings, and deadlines.

***Week 1: Modernity in the Nineteenth-Century Middle East***

21-23 August: Introductions; 19th-Century Military and Political Reform in the Ottoman Empire

Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, 1-68

Map Quiz at the beginning of class August 26

***Week 2: Autocracy and Colonialism at the Turn of the Century***

26 August: British “Veiled Protectorate” in Egypt; French Algeria; Ottoman Sultan Abdülhamid II

28-30 August: Discussion

Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, 69-109, and “Algeria, Poetry of Loss,” 167-8

***Week 3: New Intellectual and Social Movements: Nationalism and Religion***

2 September: Young Turks; Iranian Revolution of 1906; Islamic Reform

4-6 September: Discussion

Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, 133-157

Muhammad ‘Abduh, “Theology of Unity,” 171-2 in Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*

Keddie, *Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution*, 1-72

***Week 4: World War I and Aftermath***

9 Sept: Young Turks at War against Britain; Egypt as a British Protectorate; The “Arab Revolt”

11-13 Sept: Discussion

Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, 180-207

On Carmen: Dawisha, *Arab Nationalism*, 14-49

***Week 5: The Turkish Republic and Pahlavi Iran***

16 Sept: Atatürk and the End of the Ottoman Empire; Westernizing Reforms; Reza Shah’s 1925 Coup and the Pahlavi Dynasty

18-20 Sept: Discussion

Keddie, *Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution*, 73-104

On Carmen: Pope, *Turkey Unveiled*, 36-70

***Week 6: The Interwar Arab World***

23 Sept: Saad Zaghlul and the Egyptian Revolution of 1919; The Mandate Territories in Syria and Iraq; Saudi Arabia

25-27 Sept: Discussion

On Carmen: Gershoni, *Egypt, Islam, and the Arabs*, 40-55

On Carmen: Dawisha, *Arab Nationalism*, 75-107

***Week 7: Zionism, Tension in Palestine, and the Birth of Israel***

30 Sept: Early Zionism; British Mandate Palestine; First Arab-Israeli War

2-4 October: Discussion

Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, 217-232, 283-293 (including source documents)

Cook, *The Struggle for Egypt: From Nasser to Tahrir Square*, 1-38

***Week 8: Arab Nationalism and Anti-Colonial Struggle***

7 October: Gamal Abdel-Nasser in Egypt; the short-lived United Arab Republic; Algerian War of Independence

9-11 October: Discussion

Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, 233-255

Cook, *The Struggle for Egypt: From Nasser to Tahrir Square*, 39-108

***Week 9: The Politics of Oil***

**Midterm Examination in Class October 14**

16 October: Mohammed Mossadegh in Iran; OPEC; Saudi Arabia and other Gulf monarchies

18-20 October: Discussion

Keddie, *Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution*, 105-131

Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, 256-265

***Week 10: Twentieth-Century Islamism in the Shadow of Nationalism***

21 October: The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt; Turkish Nurcu Movement of Said Nursi

23-25 October: Discussion

“Sayyid Qutb: Milestones,” 315-318, in Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*

Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, 307-318

On Carmen: Mitchell, *Society of Muslim Brothers*, 1-34

***Week 11: The Iranian Revolution***

28 October: Iran under the last Shah; the Iranian Revolution; Ayatollah Khomeini

30 October – 1 November: Discussion

Keddie, *Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution*, 132-239

***Week 12: Late Twentieth-Century Arab Dictatorships***

4 November: Anwar al-Sadat’s Opening Toward the West and Israel; Baathist Dictatorships

6-8 November: Discussion

Cook, *The Struggle for Egypt*, 108-210

***Week 13: Wars in the Persian Gulf***

11 November: Iran-Iraq War; Persian Gulf Wars

13-15 November: Discussion

Keddie, *Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution*, 214-284

On Carmen: Anthony Shadid, *Night Draws Near:* *Iraq’s People in the Shadow of America’s War*, 13-32

***Week 14: Global Islamist Movements***

18 November: Islamic Global Flashpoints: Palestine, Afghanistan; Al-Qaeda and Extremism

20-22 November: Discussion

On Carmen: Abdel Bari Atwan, *Secret History of Al-Qaeda*, 15-89

***Week 15: The Arab Spring***

25 November: The Arab Spring in Tunisia and Egypt

27 November: Discussion and Review

Cook, *The Struggle for Egypt*, 210-307

***Week 16: Review***

2 December: Final Exam Review

**Final Examination Friday December 6, 4pm-5:45pm**

**Concluding Notes**

This syllabus is subject to revision as the quarter proceeds. Announcements will be made in class or via OSU email accounts. Students are responsible for being aware of any changes. If you have any questions about the content or conduct of the course, please do not hesitate to contact me at [scharfe.1@ osu.edu](mailto:scharfe.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu).