

## **HISTORY 185: SURVEY OF MIDDLE EAST HISTORY SPRING SEMESTER 2007**

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Office Hours: TTH 1:00-2:00 p.m. or by appointment

Class sessions are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 - 11:50 in MC 402. The course is worth four credits, and fulfills the Non-Western Civilization requirement and the Arts and Humanities requirement.

### **General Course Description**

How has the long history of the Middle East shaped modern conditions in the region? Historical eras and events such as the formative period of Islam, the glorious heights of Islamic civilization, the Crusades, the age of Western colonial empires, and the birth of the post-colonial nation states played a significant role in the development of Middle Eastern world views. And yet, most Westerners do not understand the important ways in which Middle Eastern perceptions of past events continue to influence the region.

This survey course examines Middle Eastern history from the great kingdoms of the pre-Islamic past to the troubling events of recent years, with a concentration upon historical trends in the modern Middle East. We will analyze recurrent themes, examine key problems in Middle Eastern history, investigate a wide variety of primary sources, and discuss critical issues that led to the creation of the modern Middle East.

The course is designed for lower division students who would like to better understand the history and culture of the Middle East. I assume that you have had no previous background in Middle Eastern history.

### **Course Goals**

When you have completed this class, you should be able to:

- 1) Recognize the diversity of Middle Eastern civilization, and be able to critically evaluate common stereotypes about Muslims and the Middle East.
- 2) Possess a basic familiarity with the most important events, individuals, periods, and concepts in Middle East history. You will be able to cite specific examples of historical events and the sources upon which your historical knowledge is based, and to discuss where these events fit within their broad historical context, going well beyond the simple compilation of facts, names, and dates.
- 3) Analyze primary and secondary sources on the Middle East and express your conclusions cogently in written format, both through essay exams and paper assignments. You will also demonstrate your analysis and understanding of the readings through assigned reading questions, in-class discussions, and historical role plays.
- 4) Understand current events and America's role in the Middle East in the light of historical realities originating in the recent and more distant past.
- 5) Understand and articulate diverse historical interpretations, and the manner in which basic historical concepts, methodology, and approaches apply to the history of the region.

## **Required Texts**

Arthur Goldschmidt Jr., Lawrence Davidson. *A Concise History of the Middle East*. Eighth Edition (Westview Press, 2005); ISBN: 0-813-34275-9

Marvin E. Gettleman and Stuart Schaar (Editors) *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader* (Grove Press, 2003); ISBN: 0-802-13936-1

Khaled Hosseini. *The Kite Runner*. (Riverhead Trade, 2004); ISBN: 1594480001

Bensalem Himmich, Roger Allen (translator). *The Theocrat*. (American University in Cairo Press, 2005), ISBN: 977424897X

All texts are available in the CSU bookstore and are on two hour reserve at the Library. Assigned readings will also include those on electronic course reserve, listed below.

## **Electronic Course Reserve**

(go to: [scholar.csuohio.edu/screens/m\\_course.html](http://scholar.csuohio.edu/screens/m_course.html))

Life of the Prophet (for January 23)

Excerpts from *The Life of Muhammad: A Translation of Ishaq's Sirat Rasul Allah*, translated by Alfred Guillaume (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002)

*The Constitution of Medina*

Byzantine Empire (for February 8)

"The Byzantine Empire" from *The Middle East: A History*, Sixth Edition, by William Ochenwald and Sydney Nettleton Fisher (McGraw Hill, 2004)

Crusades readings (for Case Study on February 13)

"The Speech of Urban" (several versions) and "The Fall of Jerusalem" (several versions) from *The First Crusade: The Chronicle of Fulcher of Chartres and Other Source Materials* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), edited by Edward Peters. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998).

Excerpts from the *Autobiography* of Usama ibn Munqidh and "Saladin and the Third Crusade" (written by Saladin's officials, Baha ad-Din and Imad ad-Din), from *Arab Historians of the Crusades*, selected and translated from the Arabic sources by Francesco Gabrieli and translated from the Italian by E.J. Costello. New York: Dorset Press, 1989.

Ottoman Empire (for February 20)

Excerpts from *The Turkish Letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, Imperial Ambassador at Constantinople, 1554-1562*, trans. By Edward E. Foster (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1927)

Napoleon in Egypt readings (for Case Study on March 1)

*Napoleon in Egypt: Al-Jabarti's Chronicle of the French Occupation, 1798*, translation

by Shmuel Moreh. Princeton: Markus Weiner Publishing, 1993. Includes:  
1) Introduction by Robert L. Tignor; 2) Excerpts from *Tarikh muddat al-Faransis bi Misr* by Abd al-Rahman al-Jabarti; 3) Excerpts from the memoirs of Antoine Fauvelet de Bourrienne (Napoleon's private secretary).

“British views of Napoleon in Egypt and Ottomans.”

Paris Peace Conference Readings (for Case Study on March 27)

“Memorandum on Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia: Reflections of Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, 11 August 1919” in Woodward and Butler, *Documents on British Foreign Policy*, I, 4:340-49

*The Israeli-Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*, fourth revised and updated edition, edited by Walter Laqueur and Barry Rubin (New York: Penguin Books, 1984), 6-11, 18-33.

“Amir Faysal's Memorandum to the Supreme Council at the Paris Peace Conference, 1 January 1919”

*The Climax of French Imperial Expansion* by Christopher M. Andrew and A.S. Kanya-Forstner, 152-179.

Iranian Revolution readings (for Case Study on April 19)

Ruhollah Khomeini, “The Need for an Islamic State and the Rule of the Jurisprudent,” from *Islamic Fundamentalism: An Introduction* by Lawrence Davidson (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2003); “Anniversary of the Uprising of Khurdad 15” from *Islam and Revolution: Writings and Declarations of Imam Khomeini (1941-1980)* translated by Hamid Algar (Mizan Pr, 1981), pp 268-274

Mehdi Bazargan, “Religion and Liberty,” from *Liberal Islam: A Sourcebook*, edited by Charles Kurzman (Oxford University Press, 1998), pp 73-84.

“The Unraveling of American Strategy” and “No End of Crises” from *The Carter Years: Toward a New Global Order* by Richard C. Thornton (New York: Paragon House, 1991)

Clash of Civilizations readings (for Case Study on May 3)

“Where Do We Go from Here?” from *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam* by John L. Esposito. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Sayyid Qutb, “Islam is the Real Civilization;” Ruhollah Khomeini, “Islamist visions of the Islamic State,” Document 4; Usama bin Laden, “Statements and Declarations”

Excerpts from *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* by Samuel R. Huntington. Simon & Schuster, 1998.

**Suggested Readings**

For background information on Islam, see the following texts on reserve in the library.

*An Introduction to Islam*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition by David Waines. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003)

*Al-Qur'an: A Contemporary Translation* by Ahmed Ali. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984)

**Requirements and Grade Distribution**

**Course requirements** include: regular attendance and participation in class, five source summaries (two double-spaced, typed pages), five case study debates, a mid-term, and a final exam. It is also important that you arrive to class on time. Students who filter into class late disrupt the rest of the class. Repeated tardiness may impact your final grade.

The final grade will be determined based upon the following percentages:

1) Case Study debates (five, worth 4% each)	20%
2) Papers (two, 5-6 pages, worth 15% each)	30%
3) Class participation	15%
4) Mid-term exam	15%
5) Final exam	20%

The purpose of **case studies** is to examine historical issues from the viewpoint of participants as much as possible. The class will be divided into two or more groups, each one representing a different side in a historical debate. Thought questions for case study assignments will be handed out one week in advance, so that you will have time to prepare for discussion as you do your readings. You will be asked to submit a one-page summary of your position as part of the case study assignments.

**Class participation** grade will be based upon participation in small group class discussions held on various days throughout the semester, usually focused upon the readings in Gettleman or ECR. I will verify your participation by collecting your notes from discussion. Discussions will sometimes be held at the beginning of class and sometimes at the end. You will not be able to make up discussions if you miss them.

I will hand out **paper assignments** in class two weeks before they are due. Papers are due at the beginning of class on their scheduled due dates (check course calendar for paper due dates). Any papers received after the due date will be considered late and your grade will be marked down. Please note: If you choose to send a paper by email attachment, I must receive it prior to the beginning of class on the scheduled due date. Otherwise, the paper will be considered late and will be marked down. I will send a response confirming reception of the paper by attachment. If you don't receive the confirmation, assume that I didn't get the paper. I am willing to review drafts of papers no later than three days prior to the assignment due date.

**Using someone else's ideas or phrasing and representing those ideas or phrasing as our own, either on purpose or through carelessness, is a serious offense known as plagiarism.** "Ideas or phrasing" includes written or spoken materials, of course – from

whole papers and paragraphs to sentences, and, indeed, phrases – but it also includes statistics, lab results, art work, etc. “Someone else” can mean a professional source, such as a published writer or critic in a book, magazine, encyclopedia, or journal; an electronic resource, such as material we discover on the World Wide Web; another student at our school or anywhere else; a paper-writing “service” (online or otherwise) which offers to sell written papers for a fee. (Source: Capitol Community College’s guide to plagiarism: <http://webster.comnet.edu/mla/plagiarism.shtml>). Students caught plagiarizing material may lose credit for that assignment or even fail the course.

The **mid-term** will cover materials from the first half of the course and will consist of one essay question (choose one out of three) and ten map IDs. The **final exam** will cover all of the course material, and will be held on August 11. It will consist of one essay question (choose one out of three) and ten short ID’s. Possible mid-term and final exam questions will be distributed the week before the exams, to help guide your study. “Blue books” are required for the exam. They are available at the bookstore for about 30 cents. I will bring a few to the exam, but will charge \$1.00 each and will require correct change.

**Extra credit** can be earned in a variety of ways, including attending events related to course subject matter during the semester and writing a one-page summary/analysis of the event. I will announce extra credit possibilities in class throughout the semester. See me for prior approval if you wish to attend an event that you think might apply for extra credit. You can also receive extra credit for rewriting papers (although I will not change the original paper grade). To receive credit for a paper rewrite, you must attach the original paper along with the rewrite.

Late assignments will receive an automatic grade reduction without a documented excuse and advance notice.

## **Tentative Course Calendar**

Readings are listed below according to the following format : Goldschmidt readings are listed according to chapter, Gettleman and Fromkin readings according to pages.

Example: Goldschmidt 4, Gettleman 12-21 refers to Goldschmidt chapter four and Gettleman pages 12-21.

**Readings should be completed prior to class.**

### **Week One (Foundations of the Middle East)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

1/16 Course Introduction

1/18 The Ancient and Classical Middle East (Goldschmidt 1, 2)

**Film:** “Lost Worlds of the Middle East” (1/16)

### **Week Two (Establishment of the Arab Empire)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

1/23 Muhammad and the Beginnings of Islam (Goldschmidt 3-4, Gettleman 12-21, ECR: Life of the Prophet readings)

1/25 The Early Arab Conquests (Goldschmidt 5)

**Film:** Excerpts from “Islam: Empire of Faith” (1/25)

### **Week Three (The Age of the Caliphs)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

1/30 The Glory Years of the Caliphate (Goldschmidt 6, Gettleman 21-26)

2/1 The Empire Breaks Up (Goldschmidt 7)

**Film:** Excerpts from “Islam: Empire of Faith” (2/1)

### **Week Four (The Heights of Islamic Civilization)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

2/6 Medieval Islamic Civilization (Goldschmidt 8, Gettleman 26-33)

2/8 The Byzantine Empire (Byzantine Empire ECR reading)

**Film:** Excerpts from “Islam: Empire of Faith” (2/6)

### **Week Five (Invaders from the Outside)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

2/13 Crusades Case Study (ECR: Crusades Readings)

2/15 The Age of Ibn Battuta (Goldschmidt 9, Gettleman 48-58)

**Assignment (2/13):** Case Study Writeup (due Tuesday Feb 13, 10:00 a.m.)

### **Week Six (The Gunpowder Empires)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

2/20 The Ottoman Empire (ECR: Busbecq)

2/22 The Safavid Empire of Persia (Gettleman 58-65)

**Assignment:** Paper #1: The Theocrat (due Thursday Feb 22, 10:00 a.m.)

**Film:** Excerpts from “Islam: Empire of Faith” (2/20)

### **Week Seven (Change in the Balance of Power)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

2/27 A Change in the Balance of Power (Goldschmidt 10)

3/1 Napoleon in Egypt Case Study (Napoleon in Egypt ECR readings)

**Assignment (3/1):** Case Study Writeup (due Thursday Mar 1, 10:00 a.m.)

### **Week Eight (The Middle East to 1798)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

3/6 Themes in the history of the pre-modern Middle East

3/8 **Mid-term examination**

3/10-3/18 **Spring Recess**

### **Week Nine (The Long Nineteenth Century)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

3/20 19<sup>th</sup> Century Reforms and Transitions (Goldschmidt 11-12, Gettleman 80-99)

3/22 From Great Game to Great War (Goldschmidt 13, Gettleman 113-118, 169-173)

### **Week Ten (A New Order in the Middle East)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

3/27 Paris Peace Conference Case Study (Paris Peace Conference ECR readings)

3/29 A Tale of Two Nationalists (Goldschmidt 14-15, Gettleman 125-132, 138-143)

**Assignment (3/27):** Case Study Writeup (due Tuesday Mar 27, 10:00 a.m.)

### **Week Eleven (The Age of Nasser)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

4/3 WWII and the End of Empire (Goldschmidt 16, Gettleman 165-169, 173-193)

4/5 The High Tide of Arab Nationalism (Goldschmidt 17, Gettleman 132-135, 198-203, 262-265, 289-291)

**Film:** Excerpts from “Nasser 56” (4/5)

### **Week Twelve (Conflicts in the Arab World)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

4/10 Six Days that Changed the Middle East (Gettleman 293-296)

4/12 The Turbulent 70s (Goldschmidt 18, Gettleman 193-203, 291-296)

**Film:** Excerpts from “The Fifty Years War” (4/10)

**Assignment:** Paper #2: The Kiterunner (due Thursday Apr 12, 10:00 a.m.)

### **Week Thirteen (The Rise of Political Islam)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

4/17 The Rise of Political Islam (Goldschmidt 19, Gettleman 296-306)

4/19 Iranian Revolution Case Study (Iranian Rev ECR readings, Gettleman 253-261)

**Assignment (4/19):** Case Study Writeup (due Thursday Apr 19, 10:00 a.m.)

### **Week Fourteen (Conflicts in the Persian Gulf)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

4/24 War and Peace in the 80s and 90s (Goldschmidt 20, Gettleman 266-271)

4/26 The Middle East in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Gettleman 203-234, 310-313, 324-353)

### **Week Fifteen (America’s Moment in the Middle East)**

#### **Lectures & Readings:**

5/1 America’s Moment in the Middle East (Goldschmidt 21, Gettleman 244-253, 271-274)

5/3 Clash of Civilizations Case Study (Clash of Civilizations ECR readings)

**Assignment (5/3):** Case Study Writeup (due Thursday May 3, 10:00 a.m.)

**FINAL EXAMINATION: Thursday, May 10, 8:30-10:30 a.m.**