The Making of the Modern Middle East

Course Description:
The course will provide a survey for students so that at the end they will understand the major themes and developments in the history of the Middle East starting from the end of the 18th century to the last decades of the 20th century. The course will specifically track the development of the modern state in the Middle East through the reforms of the late Ottoman Empire in the 19th century, to the creation of the mandate system after WWI, and to the rise of the Arab nationalist states and Gulf monarchies during the cold war. Throughout the course students will encounter the entangled histories of state-making in the Middle East and the various areas in which these histories intersect with discussions about Islam, orientalism, colonialism, imperialism, oil, and gender. All this aims to provide students with a comprehensive basis for understanding the modern Middle East.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is mandatory. Even one absence can significantly affect the student’s ability to keep up. Therefore, Attendance is 20% of the final grade the maximum allowed per Yale College regulations. There are no dean’s excuses during the summer. If a student has multiple absences, it may be necessary for the dean to impose a cut restriction. Any further absences might result in the student’s involuntary withdrawal from the course.

Plagiarism Policy:
You must document all of your source material. If you take any text from somebody else, you must make it clear the text is being quoted and where the text comes from. You must also cite any sources from which you obtain numbers, ideas, or other material. If you have any questions about what does or does not constitute plagiarism, ask! Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be treated lightly. Fortunately, it is also easy to avoid and if you are the least bit careful about giving credit where credit is due you should not run into any problems. Yale punishes academic dishonesty severely. The most common penalty is suspension from the university, but students caught plagiarizing are also subject to lowered or failing grades as well as the possibility of expulsion. Please be sure to review Yale’s Academic Integrity Policy in the Yale Student Handbook. You can find a fuller discussion of using sources and avoiding plagiarism on the Writing Center Website (https://ctl.yale.edu/writing/using-sources)

Grading:
Participation: 20%
Map Quiz 5%
Midterm: 15%
Final Essay Outline: 10%
Final Essay: 25%
Final Exam: 25%
Assignments:
Final Essay: The course will end with a final writing assignment of 8-10 pages. The final essay should analyze one of the following themes tracking the theme and change over time following the timeline of the course using the readings from the course (Popular Political Movements, Rise of Nationalism, Religion and Politics, The Colonial Encounter, Reform Movements and Modernity). A one-page outline of the essay must be turned in by the end of the third week. This outline is to include a detailed overview of the structure of your final paper, a short bibliography of the primary and secondary sources you will utilize and the argument you intend to put forth.

Course Readings:

All major required books can be found on reserve at the library or can be purchased at the bookstore. All other material will be posted on our course website. The Required Books are listed below:

- Şükrü Hanioğlu, A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010)

Week 1 Session 1: Introduction and Background
Lecture: Introduction and the Eighteenth-Century Middle East

- Şükrü Hanioğlu, A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010), pp. 6-58.

Week 1 Session 2: Reform in the Early Nineteenth Century: Istanbul and Cairo
Lectures:
Lecture: Napoleon’s Invasion of Egypt, Mehmed Ali, and Mahmud II
Readings:


**Week 2 Session 1: Tanzimat Reforms**

*Lecture:* The Tanzimat Reforms 1839-1856 and the Young Ottomans

*Readings:*

***Middle East Historical Map Quiz***

**Week 2 Session 2: Colonialism and North Africa**

*Lecture:* The Advent of Colonialism in the Middle East: The Case of North Africa

*Readings:*

***Review Session for Midterm: Time TBD***

**Week 3 Session 1: Impact of Imperialism**

*Short Lecture:* Impact of Imperialism: Iran under the Qajars

*Readings:*

***Midterm*** (Covering weeks 1-2)***
Week 3 Session 2: Constitutional Revolutions

*Lecture:* Constitutionalism in the Middle East, Istanbul, Cairo, and Tehran

**Readings:**

Week 4 Session 1: WWI and the Division of Empire

*Lecture:* WWI, Mandate States, and Nationalism

**Readings:**

***Outline of Final Essay Due***

***Option Object Viewing Session of Related Course Material at the YUAG or Beinecke Rare Books Library***

Week 4 Session 2: Israel-Palestine

*Lecture:* The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

**Readings:**


Week 5 Session 1: Arab Nationalism, Anti-Colonialism, and the Gulf States

Lecture: Arab Nationalism, Anti-Colonialism, and the Gulf States

Readings:


• Optional Jill Crystal, Oil and Politics in the Gulf: Rulers and Merchants in Kuwait and Qatar, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990), 1-14.

Week 5 Session 2: Popular Protest: 1979 and Beyond

Lecture: Popular Protest: 1979 and Beyond

Readings:


***Review Session for Final TBD***

***Final Exam TBD***

***Final Essay Due one week from Final Exam***