The History of the Modern Middle East (1800-Present)
University of West Georgia

CRN 82896 – HIST 3313 – Fall 2018
Monday/Wednesday: 12:30-1:45 PM
Room: Nursing Building, # 121

Instructor: Dr. Aimee Genell
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Tel.: (678) 839-6031
Office Hours: Mon./Wed. 2:00-4:00 PM and by appointment
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Gamel Abdel Nasser and the Suez Canal on the cover of al-Musawwar, August 1956
**Course Description:**
This course is an introduction to the political and intellectual history of the modern Middle East from the late eighteenth century to the present. The primary geographic focus will be the lands of the Ottoman and Qajar Empires and their post World War I successor states and mandates, including Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, mandate Palestine, Israel and the states of the Arabian Peninsula. Subjects covered include: the rise and fall of constitutionalism, ideas of institutional and political reform, the role of religion in political and social life, imperialism, nationalism, post-colonialism, development, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the impact of the Soviet Union and United States in the region. We will also discuss the rise of political Islam and popular challenges to the post-imperial secular state and conclude with a discussion of the US invasion and occupation of Iraq, the Arab Spring and the rise of ISIS.

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance is mandatory. All students are expected to have completed the week’s readings prior to each lecture. If you are unable to attend a discussion section, send me an email before class. Three or more unexcused absences will result in automatic failure.

**Additional Issues:** The use of cell phones, especially text messaging, is strictly prohibited. If you are found to be text messaging during class, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the day and marked absent. I prefer that students take notes by hand, if you require the use of a computer please see me.

**Academic Honesty:** Students are required to abide by the University’s Honor Code. Plagiarism or cheating will result in the automatic failure of the course. The code can be found here: https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/assets/docs/2016-2017-code-of-conduct.pdf

Student Resources: Students should meet with me at least once during the semester to discuss your final papers. If you have any questions about the readings, material covered in lectures or the written assignments, please send me an email or visit me in my office. For assistance with writing, please make use of the University Writing Center (UWC) located in TLC 1201: https://www.westga.edu/academics/coah/writing/. For assistance with developing study skills and time management please visit the Center for Academic Success (CAS) located in UCC 200: https://www.westga.edu/student-services/cas/index.php.

**Evaluation:**
Class participation: 20% (includes weekly primary source analyses and map quiz)
Please submit a short (1-2 paragraph) typed primary source analysis for each class
Writing assignment: 20%
Midterm: 30%
Final exam: 30%

**Required Readings:**
Fethiye Çetin, *My Grandmother: A Turkish-Armenian Memoir*
*This text is on order at the bookstore, but can be purchased online
All other readings are available on CourseDen.

**Weekly Syllabus:**

**Wed. August 15 – Is there a Middle East?**
Course introduction

**Mon. August 20 – The Paradigm of Decline?**
Cemal Kafadar, “The Question of Decline,” *Harvard Middle East and Islamic Review*

Document: “How to Read Primary Sources: A Handy, Quick Guide”
**Please use this document to model your primary analyses throughout the semester**

**Wed. August 22 – The Ottoman Empire in the Eighteenth Century - The Reforms of Selim III**
Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire 1700-1922*, chap. 4, “The Nineteenth Century,” p. 54-72

Document: Janissary Song

**Mon. August 27 – Napoleon in Egypt**
Juan Cole, *Napoleon’s Egypt* (2007), selection


**Wed. August 29 – Egypt and the Rise of Mehmet Ali**


**Mon. September 3 – LABOR DAY – NO CLASS**

**Wed. September 5 – The Tanzimat**
Donald Quataert, “The Nineteenth Century,” *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*

Document: Namık Kemal “Progress” (1872)

**Mon. September 10 – “Civilization” and the Suez Canal**

Document: Suez Canal Postcards
**Wed. September 12 – Abdülhamid II and Pan-Islam**


**Mon. September 17 – Nasir al-Din Shah and the Qajar Empire**
Ervand Abrahamian, “Royal Despots”: State and Society under the Qajars” in *A Modern History of Iran*

Document: Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran Digital Archive

**Wed. September 19 – Constitutional Revolution in the Ottoman Empire**
Bedross Der Matossian, *Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire*, chap. 2 “Debating the Future of the Empire”

Document: Ottoman Party for Administrative Decentralization political claims

**Mon. September 24 – Libya and the Balkan Wars**

Document: “Revenge!” Map published by the Society of Muslim Refugees from Rumeliya,

Select Paris Peace Conference Pamphlet for presentation – details available in class

**Wed. September 26 – Jihad and the Ottoman First World War**
Mustafa Aksakal, “The Ottoman Empire” in *Empires at War, 1911-1923*, p. 17-33

Start to read Fethiye Çetin’s *My Grandmother*

**Mon. October 1 – Talaat Paşa and the Armenian Genocide**
Fethiye Çetin, *My Grandmother* (please read the entire book)

**Wed. October 3 – The Post-World War I Settlements**

Documents: Husayn-McMahon Correspondence & Sykes-Picot Agreement

**Mon. October 8 - 1919 Revolutions and the Fall of Faysal’s Arab State**
Document: Paris Peace Conference Pamphlets

**Wed. October 10 - IN CLASS MIDTERM**

**Mon. October 15 – The Republic of Turkey**
M. Şükrü Hanioğlu, *Atatürk: An Intellectual Biography*, chap. 6

Document: Halide Edib Adivar, “Turkey Faces West,” in *Modernist Islam: A Sourcebook*

**Wed. October 17 – Reza Shah’s Iran**
Houchang Chehabi, “Dress Codes for Men in Turkey and Iran” in *Men of Order: Authoritarian Modernization Under Atatürk and Reza Shah*

Introduction to writing assignment “Nationalism and Revolution in the Middle East”

**Mon. October 22 - The French Mandates: Syria and Lebanon**


**Wed. October 24 - The British Mandate in Palestine**
Gelvin, *The Arab-Israeli Conflict: 100 Years of War*, p. 92-116

The Balfour Declaration

Document: Jewish National Fund Posters

**Mon. October 29 – The War for Palestine: From the Great Revolt to the 1948 War**
Gelvin, *The Arab-Israeli Conflict: 100 Years of War*, p. 117-144

Document: UNSCOP Report, excerpt

**Wed. October 31 – Development and Secularizing States in the Middle East**
Laura Bier, “The Family is a Factory, Regulating Reproduction” in *Revolutionary Womanhood: Feminisms, Modernity, and the State in Nasser's Egypt*

Document: Document: Nasser’s Suez Canal Speech

**Mon. November 5 – Pan-Arabism and the Arab-Israeli Conflict**
Gelvin, *The Arab-Israeli Conflict: 100 Years of War*, p. 166-198

Document: Palestinian Liberation Organization National Charter

**Wed. November 7 - Ba'athism and Authoritarian Regimes in Syria and Iraq**
Rogan, *The Arabs*, p. 277-300


**Mon. November 12 – Oil and the Making of Saudi Arabia**
Robert Vitalis, “The Wizards of Dhahran,” in *America’s Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier*

Document: Aramco Pamphlets

**Writing assignment, “Nationalism and Revolution in the Middle East” DUE IN CLASS!!!!**

**Wed. November 14 - The Islamic Revolution in Iran**

**November 19-23 THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS**

**Mon. November 26 - Modern Islamic Movements**
Cemil Aydin, “Resurrecting Muslim Internationalism” in *The Idea of the Muslim World*

Document: The Hamas Charter

**Wed. November 28 - The Gulf Wars**
Mamdani, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim*, chap. 3

Document: Usama bin Laden, “Declaring War against the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Places”

**Mon. December 3 – From the Arab Spring to the Arab Winter**
Roger Owen, *The Rise and Fall of Arab Presidents for Life*, chap. 10 “The Sudden Fall,” p. 172-191

Document: Articles debating intervention in Syria (2013)

**Wed. December 5 – Conclusions**

**December 8-14 - FINALS WEEK**