Course Description: This course will survey the political history of the modern Middle East. The focus of most of the class will be on the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics covered include the history of political Islamic movements, the late Ottoman Empire, colonialism, the rise of nation-states and nationalism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, oil, authoritarianism as well as with the United States’ involvement in the region in the second half of the 20th century. We will also spend time considering the various ways in which historians and scholars have approached their analysis of the Middle Eastern and Islamic history, exploring the charged politics of scholarship.

Course Requirements
The course will consist of background lectures, films, and discussion. It will be necessary for you to prepare each week’s reading in advance of class. History department policy requires students to attend all classes for the successful completion of the course. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.

Written requirements for the course include:

1) Mid-term Examination
2) One 5-7 page paper on an aspect of women’s history in the Middle East
3) One 5-7 page paper based on a primary source document assigned in the course
4) Final examination

I will be happy to provide suggestions for specific paper topics, although I encourage you to explore and develop a topic of your choice. I do require that you discuss your paper topics with me well before they are due.

In addition to readings posted on blackboard (*), the following books are available for you at the College Bookstore:

William Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East
Nikki Keddie, Women in the Middle East: Past and Present
Akram Khater, Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East
Rashid Khalidi, Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East
Zachary Lockman, Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism
Week One:

1/23   Introduction to Course and the Middle East: Geography and Ethnography

Readings: Cleveland 1-80, Keddie 1-59

1/25   The Ottoman Empire in the Age of Reform

Readings:  Cleveland 81-102, Keddie 60-74
          Albert Hourani, “Ottoman Reform and the Politics of Notables”*
          Uriel Heyd, “The Ottoman `Ulema and Westernization in the Time of
          Selim III and Mahmud II”*
          Khater, 10-20

Week Two:

1/30  19th Century Transformations: Politics and Society in the Empire

Readings:  Cleveland 103 – 117
          Roger Owen, “Egypt and Europe: from French Expedition to British
          Occupation”*
          Charles Issawi, “Middle East Economic Development, 1815-1914: the
          General and the Specific”*
          Khater, 38-64

2/1   Middle Eastern Modernities: Islamism, Constitutionalism, and Feminism

Readings:  Cleveland 119-148, Keddie 60-74
          Albert Hourani, Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 103-160*
          Khater, 29-34, 66-108

Week Three:

2/6   World War I, Mandates, and Middle Eastern States

Readings:  Cleveland 193-237
          Elizabeth Thompson, Colonial Citizens, 15-70*
          Khater, 182-192, 200-218

2/8   End of Empire and the rise of Nationalisms

Readings:  Cleveland 149-192
          Joel Beinin and Zachary Lockman, “1919: Labor Upsurge and National
          Revolution”*
          Khater, 136-174
**Week Four:**

2/13  The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood  
Readings: Richard Mitchell, *The Society of the Muslim Brothers*, 1-79*  
Khater, 175-181

2/15  Oil and the Middle East  
Readings: Yergin, *The Prize*, 134-206*  

**Week Five:**

2/20  The Palestine Mandate: the Roots of Conflict  
Readings: Cleveland 239-271  
Ted Swedenburg, “The Role of the Palestinian Peasantry in the Great Revolt (1936-1939)”*  
Khater, 109-135, 193-199, 233-246

2/22  Michael Adas visiting – Technowar in the Gulf  
Readings: Michael Adas, *Dominance by Design*, 339-384*

**FIRST PAPER DUE**

**Week Six:**

2/27  Shi`ism  
Readings: Jaun Cole, *Sacred Space and Holy War*, 173-188*  
Yitzhak Nakash, *Reaching for Power*, 72-98*

3/1  Egypt and the rise of Nasser
Readings: Cleveland 301-322
Joel Gordon, *Nasser’s Blessed Movement*, * Gelvin, 307*

**Week Seven:**

3/6 Arab Nationalism and the Radicalization of Politics
Readings: Cleveland 323-344

3/8 MID-TERM EXAM

**Week Eight: SPRING BREAK**

**Week Nine:**

3/20 1967: Political and Ideological Turning Point
Readings: Cleveland 373-382
Gilles Kepel, *The Trail of Politics Islam*, 61-80
Elizabeth Picard, “Arab Military in Politics: from Revolutionary Plot to Authoritarian State”*
Khater, 276-285, 302-305
Gelvin, 315-317*

3/22 Iraq, Ba’thism, and Saddam Hussein
Readings: Cleveland 408-421
M.R. Izady, “Between Iraq and a Hard Place: The Kurdish Predicament”, 71-99*
Khater, 263-266

**Week Ten:**

3/27 Palestine and Israel after 1967
Readings: Cleveland 345-367
Gelvin 311*

3/29 Oil Boom and Bust: The Gulf in the 1970s-1980s
Readings: Cleveland 451-472  
Khater, 323-330

Week Eleven:

4/3 Revolution in Iran

Readings: Cleveland 423-450  
Vali Nasr, *The Shia Revival*, 119-146*  
Khater, 286-288, 298-301, 331-344

4/5 Civil Wars in Lebanon and Algeria

Readings: Cleveland 382-392  
Gilles Kepel, *The Trail of Political Islam*, 159-184*  
Khater, 289-297, 306-308

Week Twelve:

4/10 The United States and the Cold War in the Middle East

Peter Hahn, “National Security Concerns in U.S. Policy Toward Egypt, 1949-1956”*  
Erika Alin, “U.S. Policy and Military Intervention in the 1958 Lebanon Crisis”*  
Malik Mufti, “The United States and Nasserist Pan-Arabism”*  
Khalidi, Chapter One

4/12 Gulf Oil: Toward the Carter Doctrine

Gary Sick, “The United States in the Persian Gulf: From Twin Pillars to a Dual Containment”*  
Khalidi, Chapters Two and Three

SECOND PAPER DUE

Week Thirteen:
4/17 Wars in the Gulf

Readings: Cleveland 478-497
F. Gregory Gause III, “From ‘Over the Horizon’ to ‘Into the Backyard’: The U.S.-Saudi Relationship and the Gulf War”*
Vali Nasr, *The Shia Revival*, 185-226*

4/19 NO CLASS

Week Fourteen:

4/24 American Jihad

Readings: Mahmood Mamdani, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim*, 119-177*
Khater, 359-365

4/26 The United States, Palestine, and Israel

Readings: Cleveland 473-478, 499-517
Douglas Little, *American Orientalism*, 267-306*
Khalidi, Chapters Four and Five

Week Fifteen:

5/1 The History of Orientalism

Readings: Lockman, 1-147

5/3 Edward Said and his Critics

Readings: Lockman, 148-272
Said, *Orientalism*, selections
Lewis-Said exchange
Martin Kramer, *Ivory Towers in the Sand*