

**Swarthmore College
Department of History**

Shane Minkin

sminkin1@swarthmore.edu

Office Hours M 2-5 or by appointment

***History 6b: History of the Modern Middle East
from the Ottomans to the Iraq War***

Fall 2009

MWF 10:30-11:20

Trotter Hall 203

This course surveys the history of the Middle East with a focus on political and economic reforms. We will spend most of the semester on the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics covered include the late Ottoman Empire, European colonialism, the rise of nationalism and nation-states, Zionism and the Arab-Israeli conflict, oil, political Islam and the role of the U.S. in the region. Attention will be paid to the links between the history of the modern Middle East and current events.

Course Requirements:

This course will consist of two lectures and a discussion class each week.

You should finish – and process - the week's readings before discussion classes on Fridays. The discussion class will begin with presentations of relevant newspaper articles by students; everyone will present once during the semester. Newspaper articles must be posted on blackboard no later than 5pm the Wednesday before your presentation. Everyone is responsible for reading the articles before class. In addition to a brief discussion of the articles and their relevance to ongoing themes in our classroom, discussion sessions will consist of close readings of primary sources, questions from lecture, and group work in understanding the readings.

In addition, there will be two short written assignments during the semester as well as a map quiz at the start of the second week and a final.

The written assignments include 1) a 5-7 page paper based on one or more of the primary sources reviewed in this class and 2) a 5-7 page paper reviewing a recent Hollywood movie which focuses on the Middle East and/or one of the issues we discuss in class (i.e.: *Syriana*, *Rendition*, *The Kingdom*, *Body of Lies*, etc.) in light of what we have read and studied. You are encouraged to meet with me during my office hours to discuss possible document or movie choices for your papers. I will not be able to read rough drafts, but encourage you to use the Writing Center. Please note that papers are due in class on Monday October 26th and Monday December 7th.

The history department requires students to attend all classes; unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. In other words, if you're going to miss a class, please let me know ahead of time.

Finally, I reserve the right to change the syllabus if necessary. Any change will be announced in class and posted on blackboard.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Attendance - 10%

Participation in discussion sessions – 15%

Map quiz – 5%

Newspaper article – 5%

Movie review – 20%

Primary source paper – 20%

Final exam – 25%

The following books are available at the college bookstore and on reserve at the library. You may be able to find them used online at www.abebooks.com; www.half.com; and www.bn.com.

- Joel Beinin and Joe Stork *Political Islam*
- William Cleveland *A History of the Modern Middle East*
- James Gelvin *The Middle East: A History*
- Ghassan Kanafani *Men in the Sun*
- Akram Fouad Khater *Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East*

The remaining readings for this class can either be bought as a course pack or found on our course webpage in blackboard.

Week of August 31: The Middle East: Geography and Background

James Gelvin, *The Middle East: A History* (2007) pages 1-8

William Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East* (2004) pages 4-38

Week of September 7: Prelude to the Modern Middle East: The Ottoman and Safavid Empires **(Map Quiz)**

Gelvin, pages 9-59

Cleveland, pages 39-56

Week of September 14: 19th Century Politics and Economy in the Ottoman Empire

Cleveland, pages 57-98

Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700- 1922* (2005), pages 54-73

Hassan Kayali *Arabs and Young Turks: Ottomanism, Arabism and Islamism in the Ottoman Empire, 1908-1918* (1997), pages 1-16.

Akram Fouad Khater *Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East* (2004), chapter 1, documents 1, 2, and 3

Week of September 21: European Colonialism: The British in Egypt

Albert Hourani *A History of the Arab Peoples* (2003) pages 265-298

Cleveland, pages 99-104

Evelyn Baring Cromer *Modern Egypt Volume II* (1908) Part IV pages 123-167

Khater, Chapter 2, documents 2, 3, and 4

Week of September 28: The Young Turks: Rise of Nationalism, Division of Empire in the Prelude to World War I

Cleveland, pages 113-139

Hassan Kayali *Arabs and Young Turks: Ottomanism, Arabism and Islamism in the Ottoman Empire, 1908-1918* (1997) pages 52-141

Week of October 5: World War I: The British and French Mandates and the Division of the Ottoman Empire

Cleveland, pages 140-160

David Fromkin, *A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East* (2001) pages 15-22, 146-199, 558-568.

Elizabeth Thompson, *Colonial Citizens: Republican Rights, Paternal Privilege and Gender in French Syria and Lebanon* (2000) pages 1-14, 58-70.

Khater, chapter 4, document 3, 5, 9, 11

Week of October 19: The Middle East in the Interwar Period: Rise of Nationalist Movements and Independent States

Cleveland, pages 161-221.

Gelvin, pages 175-205

Rashid Khalidi “Arab Nationalism: Historical Problems in the Literature” in *The American Historical Review*, 96/5 (1991) 1363-1373

Khater, chapter 5, documents 3, 4, 10, and 11

Week of October 26: Israel, Palestine and Zionism
Primary Source paper due.

Cleveland, pages 222-256

Khalil al-Sakakini, selections from *Such am I, O World*

David Ben Gurion, selections from *Memoirs: David Ben Gurion*

Khater, chapter 4, document 4; chapter 5, document 2;

Week of November 2: Israel Palestine and Zionism Cont.
Guest Lecture: Sarah Anne Minkin, PhD Candidate at Berkeley

Charles D. Smith *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents* (2004), pages 89-93, 151-156, 207-214, 252-257, 294-298, 336-341, 387-392, 435-441, 479-485, 532-541.

Ghassan Kanafani, *Men in the Sun*.

Week of November 9: The Socialist Republics and Baath Revolutions: Focus on Egypt, Syria and Iraq

Cleveland pages 257-323

Hanna Batatu, *The Egyptian, Syrian and Iraqi Revolutions: Some Observations on Their Underlying Causes and Social Character*, 1-27

Gamal Abd al Nasser’s speech announcing the nationalization of the Suez Canal

Week of November 16: The Middle East Oil Boom

David Yergin, *The Prize: the Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power* (1992) pages 11-55.

Rashid Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America’s Perilous Path in the Middle East*, (2005) “The Middle East, Geostrategy and Oil” pages 74-117.

Week of November 23: Political Islam
Film: The Yaqoubian Building

(I will be at a conference this week)

Cleveland, pages 398-421

Joel Beinin and Joe Stork, *Political Islam: A Reader* (1996) pages 3-32, 71-82, 97-119, 339-354.

Khater, Chapter 8, document 1

Week of December 2: The US in the Middle East, Iraq and Israel

Cleveland, pages 422-452

Charles Tripp, *A History of Iraq* (2007) pages 1-8, 277-322.

Rashid Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East*, (2005) pages v- xvi, 37-73, 152-176.

December 7: Wrap Up and Review
(Movie Review due)

TBD: Final Exam