Modern Imperialism and the Making of the Middle East.

This course surveys how interaction with increasingly influential foreign interests, and responses to them, both assimilative and resistant, shaped leading currents in Middle Eastern experience from the late eighteenth century onwards. Themes include imperialism in historical interpretation, in perceptions and framings of the region, in forms of political, economic, cultural and social change, and in Middle Eastern intra-regional, international and global relations. Each session will feature a discussion on a theme preceded by suggested readings from course texts, related published documents, and specialized scholarly materials, to be provided. Students will each complete a research essay chosen from the latter, along with a number of smaller critical exercises, and a final examination.

Course texts:
The following are suggested as basic empirical primers. Each has its own style and emphases.


- Khater, Akram, *Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East*, (New York; Houghton Mifflin, 2010). This is a useful document collection, which we’ll be using frequently. There is a 2004 edition which is just as good and generally a bit cheaper. [ISBN – 13 978 0618958535: $77.70]

Our ten discussion topics will be:

1. The ‘New’ Imperialism and Historical Understanding: Theory, Literature and Debates.
2. Inventing the Middle East: Culture, Commerce, Geopolitics and Imperialist Categorizations of the Region.
4. The First World War as Formative Threshold of the Contemporary Middle East.

5. The Colonialist Moment and Its Discontents; Egypt and the Fertile Crescent, 1918-1941.

6. Oil and ‘Corporatist’ Modes of Empire; the Persian Gulf and Global Integration, 1901-1990.


**Learning Objectives:** students will understand the main events, context, currents and debates on outside power and influence in the formation of the modern Middle East. They will write an academic paper of about 4000 words on a selected topic, producing an original analytical synthesis based on current leading scholarship. They will also evaluate and discuss the context and significance of selected primary documents in translation, developing this into an appreciation of historiographic methods and discourse, as they relate to the region. They will thereby establish a robust foundation for further higher degree studies.

**Course Work and Assessment:** Course marks will be compiled as follows: Term paper, 40%; final examination, 40%; course work 20%. The latter will comprise attendance, contribution to class discussions and working atmosphere, and short document, article and book analyses in class.

**Research Essays.** Students must complete one, to be submitted no later than class session 13. The following twelve titles, with attached reading suggestions are recommended for students to choose from, although they may originate a title and sources of their own, by agreement with the course instructor.

1. How, why and with what consequences was the Middle East constructed as a geopolitical and cultural entity in the modern period?


   Behad, Ali *Belated Travelers: Orientalism in the Age of Colonial Dissolution.*


   Buheiry, Marwan R. *The Formation and Perception of the Modern Arab World.*

   Davison, R. H. "Where is the Middle East?" *Foreign Affairs,* (1960).

   Hopwood, Derek *Tales of Empire: The British in the Middle East, 1880-1952.*

   Hourani, Albert *Western Attitudes towards Islam.*


   Lewis, Benard, *Islam and the West.*


Mitchell, Timothy, *Colonizing Egypt.*

Said, Edward *Orientalism.*

Sharafuddin, M. *Islam and Romantic Orientalism: Literary Encounters with the Orient.*


2. **Assess the Challenges Faced by Middle Eastern Reformers and the Extent of Their Relative Success Up to 1918.**

Ahmad, Feroz, *The Young Turks: The Committee of Union and Progress in Turkish Politics*


Bakhash, Shaul, *Iran: Monarchy, Bureaucracy and Reform Under the Qajars, 1858-1896.*


Cetinsaya, Gokhan, *The Ottoman Administration of Iraq, 1890-1908.*

Cuno, Kenneth, *The Pasha’s Peasants: Land, Society, and Economy in Lower Egypt, 1740-1858.*


Kayali, Hasan, *Arabs and Young Turks: Ottomanism, Arabism, and Islamism in the Ottoman Empire, 1908-1918.*

Makdisi, Ussama, *The Culture of Sectarianism: Community, History and Violence in Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Lebanon.*


Owen, Roger, *The Middle East in the World Economy, 1800-1914.*

Quataert, Donald, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922.*
3. **What motives and policies drew the European powers into Middle Eastern affairs and with what main consequences by the end of the First World War?**


Bobrof, Ronald, *Roads to Glory: Late Imperial Russia and the Turkish Straits.*


Busch, Briton C., *Britain and the Persian Gulf, 1894-1914.*


Fromkin, David *A Peace to End All Peace: Creating the Modern Middle East, 1914-1922.*


Kent, Marian, (Ed.), *The Great Powers and the End of the Ottoman Empire.*

Idem., *Moguls and Mandarins: Oil, Imperialism and the Middle East in British Foreign Policy, 1900-1914.*

McKale, Donald, *War By Revolution: Germany and Britain in the Middle East in the Era of World War One.*

McMurray, Jonathan, *Distant Ties: Germany, the Ottoman Empire and the Construction of the Baghdad Railroad.*

Paris, Timothy, *Britain, the Hashemites and Arab Rule; the Sherifian Solution.*

Siegel, Jennifer, *Endgame: Britain, Russia and the Final Struggle for Central Asia.*

Stanwood, F., *War, Revolution and British Imperialism in Central Asia.*


4. **How did varying forms of imperialism, nationalism, and traditionalism try to reconstruct the Middle East between 1918 and 1948?**

Baron, Beth, *Egypt as a Woman: Nationalism, Gender and Politics.*


5. To what comparative extent was the course of Zionism to 1952 a fulfillment of or a liberation from imperialist and colonialist projections?


Kleman, Aaron (ed.) Zionist Evidence Before the Peel Commission, 1936-1937.


Morris, Benny, The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Crisis Revisited.

Ovendale, Ritchie Britain, the United States and the End of the Palestine Mandate, 1942-1948.

How were ideas of ‘an unselfish American policy’ juxtaposed with self-interest in United States approaches to the Middle East during and after the Second World War, and with what results?


Bill, James *The Eagle and the Lion: The Tragedy of American-Iranian Relations.*


Hahn, Peter, *Crisis and Crossfire: The United States in the Middle East Since 1945.*

Karlsson, Svante *Oil and the World Order: American Foreign Oil Policy.*

Little, Douglas, *American Orientalism; the United States in the Middle East Since 1945.*

Lucas, Scott, *Divided We Stand; Britain, the United States and the Suez Crisis.*
7. What were the main premises of national liberation under secular revolutionary Arab leaders and parties and what were the main challenges facing them under post-war regional and global circumstances?

Beattie, Kirk, *Egypt During the Nasser Years: Ideology, Politics and Civil Society.*


Dawisha, Adeed, *Arab Nationalism in the Twentieth Century: From Triumph to Despair.*


Dodge, Toby and Simon, Steven (eds.), *Iraq at the Crossroads: State and Society in the Shadow of Regime Change.*


Heikal, Mohamed, *Cutting the Lion’s Tail: Suez Through Egyptian Eyes.*

Hinnebusch, Raymond, *Syria: Revolution From Above.*

Jankowski, James, *Nasser’s Egypt, Arab Nationalism and the United Arab Republic.*


Luciani, Giacomo, (ed.), *The Arab State.*


Mayfield, James, *Rural Politics in Nasser’s Egypt.*

Mufti, Malik, *Sovereign Creations: Pan-Arabism and Political Order in Syria and Iraq.*

Sluglett, Marion-Farouk, and Sluglett, Peter, *Iraq Since 1958: From Revolution to Dictatorship.*

Springborg, Robert, *Mubarak’s Egypt: Fragmentation of the Political Order.*


Waterbury, John, *The Egypt of Nasser and Sadat: The Political Economy of Two Regimes.*
8. **What formative influence did imperialist interventions and local reactions to them have on state building, development and revolutionary currents in Iran after 1890?**

Abrahamian, Ervand, *Iran Between Two Revolutions.*

Idem., *The Iranian Mojahedin.*

Amuzegar, Jahangir, *Iran’s Economy Under The Islamic Republic.*


Elm, Mostafa, *Oil, Power and Principle; Iran’s Oil Nationalization and its Aftermath.*


Foran, John (ed.), *A Century of Revolution: Social Movements in Iran.*


Keddie, Nikki, *Roots and Results of Revolution: An Interpretative History of Modern Iran.*

Milani, Moshen, *The Making of Iran’s Islamic Revolution: From Monarchy to Islamic Republic.*

Rahnema, Said and Schrab, Behdad, *Iran after the Revolution: Crisis of an Islamic State.*

9. **Evaluate the character and effectiveness of the Palestine Arab polity’s response to incipient Zionist ascendancy in its historic homeland.**

Aburish, Said, *Cry Palestine: Inside the West Bank.*

Al Haj, Majid, *Arab Local Government in Israel.*
10. How far was the collapse of the Lebanese State into Civil War after 1975 Determined by Historical Legacies of Imperial and Colonial Rule?

Abraham, A.J. The Lebanon War.

Corm, Georges Géopolitique du Conflit Libanais: Étude Historique et Sociologique.
Choueri, Youssef (ed.), State and Society in Syria and Lebanon.
Fisk, Robert, Pity the Nation: Lebanon at War.
Hamizrachi, Beate, The Emergence of the South Lebanon Security Belt: Major Saad Haddad and the Ties with Israel.
Hanf, Theodor, Coexistence in Wartime Lebanon: Decline of a State and Rise of a Nation.
Hiro, Dilip, Lebanon: Fire and Embers: a History of the Lebanese Civil War.
Khalaf, Samir, Civil and Uncivil Violence in Lebanon: A History of the Internationalization of Communal Conflict.
Picard, Elizabeth, Lebanon: A Shattered Country: Myths and Realities of Wars in Lebanon.
Jansen, Michael, The Battle of Beirut: Why Israel Invaded Lebanon.
Traboulsi, Fawwaz, A History of Modern Lebanon.
Zamir, Meir, The Formation of Modern Lebanon.

11. ‘Wallowing in oil money and medieval stupor, a seed-bed for Islamic fundamentalists’: how far is this a meaningful summation of how Arabian Peninsula was left by the replacement of British with systemic American hegemony in the 1960s?

Brunson, Rachel, Thicker Than Water: America’s Uneasy Partnership With Saudi Arabia.
Carapico, Sheila, Civil Society in Yemen: the Political Economy of Activism in Modern Arabia.
Crystal, Jill, Oil and Politics in the Gulf; Merchants and Rulers in Kuwait and Qatar.
Dresch, Paul, A History of Modern Yemen.
Gause, F. Gregory, Oil Monarchies: Domestic and Security Challenges in the Arab Gulf States.


Longva, Anh Nga, *Walls Built on Sand: Migration, Exclusion and Society in Kuwait.*

Rasheed, Madawi, Al-, *A History of Saudi Arabia.*

Idem. (ed.), *Transnational Connections and the Arab Gulf.*


Smith, Simon C., *Britain’s Revival and Fall in the Persian Gulf: Kuwait, Qatar and the Trucial States, 1951-71.*


12. What are the main ideological currents contesting the contemporary Middle East and with what main implications?


Ahmed, Leila, *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate.*


Burke, Edmund, and Yaghoubian, David, (eds.), *Struggle and Survival in the Middle East.*

Doumato, Eleanor, et al. (eds.) *Women and Globalization in the Arab Middle East: Gender, Economy, and Society.*


Horowitz, Dan, and Lissak, Moshe, *Israel in Trouble in Utopia: The Overburdened Polity of Israel.*

Kepel, Gilles, *Beyond Terror and Martyrdom: the Future of the Middle East.*


Larbi, Sadiki, *The Search for Arab Democracy.*

Posusney, Marsha, and Angrist, Michelle, (eds.), *Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Regimes and Resistance.*


Salt, Jeremy, *The Unmaking of the Middle East: A History of Western Disorder in Arab Lands.*

Shafik, Nemat. (ed.), *Economic Challenges Facing Middle Eastern and North African Countries.*


Zubaida, Sami, *Islam, the People and the State: Political Ideas and Movements in the Middle East.*

Simon Davis, April 2012.