Modern Imperialism and the Making of the Modern 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, perceptions and framings of the region, 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 journal articles assigned for discussions on each topic. Students will each complete a research essay chosen from a number of given titles and reading lists, a number of smaller critical exercises and a final examination.

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

- Cleveland, William, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, (Boulder, CO; Westview, 2008). Topically wide-ranging, touches usefully on most relevant topics, but is a little woolly on evidentiary specifics, despite its length. [ISBN – 13 9780813340487]

Our ten discussion topics will be:

1. **The ‘New’ Imperialism and Historical Understanding: Theory, Literature and Debates.**

   Preparatory Readings: (via JSTOR unless otherwise noted)

2. **Inventing the Middle East: Culture, Commerce, Geopolitics and Imperialist Categorizations of the Region.**

Preparatory Readings:


Mills, Amy, ‘Critical Place Studies and Middle East Histories: Power, Politics, and Social Change,’ *History Compass*, 10, 10 (2012):


Deringil, Selim, " 'They Live in a State of Nomadism and Savagery': The Late Ottoman Empire and the Post-Colonial Debate,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 45, 2 (2003).

3. **Exchange Across Oriental Frontiers: Movement, Materialization and the Transformation of Imperial Relationships, 1789-1914.**

Preparatory Readings:


4. **The First World War as Formative Threshold of the Contemporary Middle East.**

Preparatory Readings:


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

Preparatory Readings:


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

Preparatory Readings:


7. **Zionism and Its Consequences in Colonialisit and Post-Colonialist Context, 1918-1993.**

Preparatory Readings:


8. **‘Contested Space’: the Second World War and its Implications – Britain’s ‘Decline Revival and Fall’, Nationalist Horizons and Superpower Rivalry, 1938-1971.**

Preparatory Readings:


Preparatory Readings:


Preparatory Readings:


**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 be 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, 38,* 4 (1960).


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

Hourani, Albert *Western Attitudes towards Islam.*

Khalil, Osamah, *America’s Dream Palace: Middle East Expertise and the Rise of the National Security State*


Lewis, Bernard, *Islam and the West.*


Mitchell, Timothy, *Colonizing Egypt.*

Mills, Amy, ‘Critical Place Studies and Middle East Histories: Power, Politics, and Social Change,’ *History Compass, 10,* 10 (2012):


Said, Edward *Orientalism.*

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

Smith, G.C., ‘The Emergence of the Middle East,’ *Journal of Contemporary History,* 3, 3 (1968).

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.*
Aksakal, Mustafa, The Ottoman Road to War in 1914: The Ottoman Empire and the First World War.
Bakhash, Shaul, Iran: Monarchy, Bureaucracy and Reform Under the Qajars, 1858-1896.
Barkey, Karen, Empire of Difference: The Ottomans in Comparative Perspective.
Cetinsaya, Gokhan, The Ottoman Administration of Iraq, 1890-1908.
Cuno, Kenneth, The Pasha’s Peasants: Land, Society, and Economy in Lower Egypt, 1740-1858.
Fahmy, Khaled, All the Pasha’s Men: Mehmed Ali, His Army, and the Making of Modern Egypt.
Fortna, Benjamin C., Imperial Classroom: Islam, the State and Education in the Late Ottoman Empire.
Hanioglu, M. Sükrü, A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire.
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.
Mentzel, Peter, Transportation Technology and Imperialism in the Ottoman Empire, 1800-1923.
Owen, Roger, The Middle East in the World Economy, 1800-1914.
Provence, Michael, The Last Ottoman Generation and the Making of the Modern Middle East.
Rogan, Eugene, The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East.

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.
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.*


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

5.  


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

Laqueur, Walter Z.  
*A History of Zionism.*

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

Mann, Barbara,  
*A Place in History: Modernism, Tel Aviv, and the Creation of Jewish Urban Space.*

Naor, Arye,  

Pappe, Ilan,  
*The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine.*

Penkower, Monty N.  
*The Emergence of Zionist Thought.*

Piterberg, Gabriel,  
‘The Zionist Colonization of Palestine in the Comparative Context of Settler Colonialism,’ in *The Returns of Zionism: Myths, Politics and Scholarship in Israel.*

Roberts, Nicholas H.,  
‘Re-Remembering the Mandate: Historiographical Debates and Revisionist History in the Study of Palestine,’ *History Compass,* 9, 3 (2011).

Rogan, Eugene and Shlaim, Avi, (eds.)  
*The War For Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948.*

Rodinson, Maxime,  
*Israel: A Colonial Settler State?*

Shamir, Ronen,  
*Colonies of Law: Colonialism, Zionism, and Law in Early Mandate Palestine.*

Shindler, Colin,  

Shafir, Gershon  

Shapira, Anita,  
*Land and Power: The Zionist Resort to Force, 1881-1948.*

Sternhell, Ze’ev,  
*The Founding Myths of Israel: Nationalism, Socialism, and the Making of the Jewish State*

Simons, Chaim  

Sufian, Sandra,  
*Healing the Land and the Nation: Malaria and the Zionist Project in Mandatory Palestine, 1920-1947.*

Vital, David  
*Zionism, the Formative Years.*

Idem.,  
*Zionism, the Crucial Phase.*

6. 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?

Abrahamian, Ervand,  
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.*

Gordon, Joel,  
*Nasser: Hero of the Arab Nation.*

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

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

Kienle, Eberhard,  
*Ba’ath vs. Ba’ath: The Conflict Between Syria and Iraq.*

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

Makiya, Kanan,  

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

Mejcher, Helmut, et al. (eds.)  
*The Struggle for a New Middle East in the 20th Century: Studies in Imperial Design and National Politics.*

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.*

Tripp, Charles,  
*The Power and the People: Paths of Resistance in the Middle East.*

Van Dam, Nikolaos,  

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.*

Alvandi, Roham,  
*Nixon, Kissinger, and the Shah: The United States and Iran in the Cold War.*

Ansari, Ali,  
*Modern Iran: The Pahlavis and After.*

Anwzegar, Jahangir  
*The Dynamics of the Iranian Revolution: The Pahlavis’ Triumph and Tragedy.*


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

Farazmand, Ali *The State, Bureaucracy and Revolution in Modern Iran: Agrarian Reforms and Regime Politics.*

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


Katouzian, Homa *Mussadiq and the Struggle for Power 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 Schrabor, Behdad *Iran after the Revolution: Crisis of an Islamic State.*


9. **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.*


Choueri, Youssef (ed.), *State and Society in Syria and Lebanon.*


Firro, Kais, *Inventing Lebanon – Nationalism and the State under the Mandate.*

Fisk, Robert, *Pity the Nation: Lebanon at War.*

Hamizrachi, Beate, *The Emergence of the South Lebanon Security Belt: Major Saad Haddad and Ties with Israel.*

Haugbolle, Sune, *War and Memory in Lebanon.*

Hanf, Theodor, *Coexistence in Wartime Lebanon: Decline of a State and Rise of a Nation.*


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.*


10. ‘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 final withdrawal of British presence by 1971?


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.*


11. What are the main ideological currents contesting the post-colonial 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*.
Norton, Augustus, *Hezbollah: A Short History*.
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*.
Wictorowich, Quintan, (ed.), *Islamic Activism: A Social Movement Theory Approach*.
Zubaida, Sami, *Islam, the People and the State: Political Ideas and Movements in the Middle East*.

Simon Davis,
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