

HIST 248-002 Introduction to Middle Eastern History Fall 2008

T & F 9:55 – 11:10, Ward 6

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Middle East escapes any single definition; it has no readily-defined geographic, ethnic, religious, or political boundaries. This course surveys the historical experiences, institutions, and events that have connected the region's diverse peoples from the rise of Islam to the present.

*Last day to drop this course without a "W": Mon, Sep.8

*Last day to drop this course with a "W": Fri, Oct.24

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

1. Topic Description and Annotated Bibliography, 20%, Fri, Oct.3
2. Midterm Exam, 20%, Tues, Oct.14
3. Term Paper, 25%, Tues, Dec.2
4. Final Exam, 25%, Fri, Dec.12, 08:30-11:00am
5. Class preparation, 10%
 - i. Participation
 - ii. Attendance

Topic description, annotated bibliography, and term paper: Build a clear, convincing argument supported by historical evidence. Utilize the writing conventions practiced by professional historians, including the citing of sources and the use of footnotes in the Chicago Style format. I will furnish detailed instructions as to how this works, via blackboard and in class. Your paper must be between 10-12 pages in length; include a title and a bibliography page, and follow the instructions posted on our blackboard site. If you have any questions or difficulties, please see me right away. The key to a good paper is to start early! You may also wish to draw on the services offered by the Writing Center (Battelle-Tompkins 228) and the Library. When footnoting, follow the Chicago Style for the humanities ("Notes-Bibliography Style") as shown in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago*

Style for Students and Researchers. Seventh Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0226823379. \$12 These footnoting conventions are also presented, in abbreviated form, at the following Web site:
<http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagonotesgd.php> Meet with me and Jayne while defining your paper topic. You can also find paper topic suggestions on our blackboard pages.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam. These will consist of identification questions, short-answer, and essay questions drawing on assigned readings. A make-up exam will be offered only under exceptional circumstances (which do not include “prior travel arrangements”).

Participation and attendance: I will do everything in my power to help you learn. However, how much you learn in this class (and how successful you will be in terms of your final grade) depends largely on you and the amount of work and time you will commit to it. The better prepared you are for each class meeting, the more you will get out of this course. Good preparation means completing the assigned readings and taking notes on them: what questions do the readings answer? What conclusions can we draw, based on what evidence? What questions do the readings leave unanswered? In class, take notes, participate in discussion, and ask questions. Absences will affect your final grade. I assume that any class you miss will be because of an illness or an emergency. Six or more absences, for whatever reason, will result in an F-grade for the course. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class, please arrive on time. Always have the day’s reading handy during class!

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

I take plagiarism and academic dishonesty very seriously, and I am required to report cases to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, whose policy is to fail students for the course. Please read the university's Academic Integrity Code closely, and be sure to ask me if you have any questions. The code is available online at <http://www.american.edu/academics/integrity/index.htm>.

In writing papers, you must properly cite all sources (1) directly quoted, (2) paraphrased, or (3) consulted in any fashion. Sources include all printed material as well as the Internet. Proper citation means using a standard citation format; for this course: Chicago Style for Humanities (Notes-Bibliography Style). See Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Seventh Edition* (ISBN above) or an online guide, such as The Ohio State University’s at <http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagogd.php>

It is also considered plagiarism if you merely rework source material, placing an author's thoughts in other words without contributing your own ideas. For that reason, you must include some kind of source note whenever drawing on someone else's interpretation. A source note can be a sentence or more in your paper, or it can be a footnote. A source note should clarify the extent to which your interpretation is indebted to your source, explaining both (1) what you use and (2) where you depart or differ from the source.

It is also considered plagiarism to submit drafts, papers, and other assignments without properly citing sources and acknowledging intellectual debts. Failure for the course is the typical sanction in such cases.

You must receive prior permission from me if you want to submit a paper or part of a paper that you have written for a previous class.

I expect all work that you do to be your own work. Consulting with and sharing answers with other students without so acknowledging violates the Academic Integrity Code.

GRADING

96– 100 = A

90 – 95 = A-

88 – 89 = B+

83- 87 = B

80 – 82 = B-

78 – 79 = C+

73 – 77 = C

70 – 72 = C-

65 – 69 = D

<65 = F

WHAT DO THE GRADES MEAN?

A range: mastery of the subject matter: demonstrates control over the major issues, formulates arguments supported by rich body of evidence, refers freely to the main themes and events, integrates discussion of historical interpretation and historiography, meets all deadlines for reading and writing assignments and does not miss more than two class sessions

B range: solid grasp of the subject matter: able to refer freely to major themes and to formulate arguments based on detailed evidence, with some original observation of the material, problems of interpretation, and historiography, meets all deadlines for reading and writing assignments and does not miss more than two class sessions

C range: basic grasp of the subject matter: able to summarize and repeat the main points of readings and lectures, able to formulate arguments based on general observations supported by factual evidence, misses three or more class sessions

D-F range: poor grasp of the subject matter: unable to discuss the main points of readings and lectures, unsteady class attendance

CLASS POLICIES

Accommodation: Please meet with me during the first week of classes if you require disability accommodation. The Department of Disability Services for Students will issue appropriate documentation prior to adjustment of any academic work.

Late assignments and extensions: Assignments handed in past the time they are due will be lowered by 8 points for each twenty four hour period they are late. I will grant extensions under exceptional circumstances only. Please contact me immediately if you think you will require an extension.

Professionalism: All of us in the classroom are entitled to a learning environment free of disturbance. Arrive before class allowing enough time to settle into your seat and leave only once class has ended. Turn off and put away cell phones; do not monitor your cell phone for incoming calls or messages. In other words, maintain a behavior that is considerate of your fellow students and that contributes to our ability to learn and exchange ideas.

SUPPORT

There a number of important sources of support available to you on campus. If you think you would benefit from these services, schedule an appointment: they are here for you!

The Academic Support Center (x3360, MGC 243) offers study skills workshops, individual instruction, tutor referrals, and services for students with learning disabilities and ADHD.

The Counseling Center (x3500, MGC 214) offers counseling and consultations regarding personal concerns, self-help information, and connections to off-campus mental health resources.

Disability Support Services (x3315, MGC 206) offers technical and practical support and assistance with accommodations for students with physical, medical, or psychological disabilities. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please notify me at the beginning of the semester with a letter from the Academic Support Center or Disability Support Services so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

The Writing Center (x2991, Battelle 228) provides expert help; tutors will assist with the organization, grammar, and style of your paper. They will also assist you in citing sources using Chicago Style.

BLACKBOARD

Visit our Blackboard pages regularly for assignments, instructions, and announcements, including changes to the syllabus. Go to <https://blackboard.american.edu>

REQUIRED TEXTS

- (1) Choueiri, Youssef M. *Companion to the History of the Middle East*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008 Paperback edition. ISBN: 978-1-4051-8379-6 pbk
- (2) Karabell, Zachary. *Peace Be upon You: The Story of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish Coexistence*. New York: Vintage reprint, 2008; 2007. Paper, ISBN: 978-1400079216
- (3) Rifaat, Alifa. *Distant View of a Minaret*. Portsmouth, NH: Heineman, 1983. ISBN: 0-435-90912-6
- (4) Additional readings via <https://blackboard.american.edu>

These are available for purchase in the AU Campus Store and for two-hour loan at the Bender Library reserves window.

COURSE OUTLINE

Complete the readings for the day with which they are listed. I will announce changes to this schedule as necessary.

WEEK ONE: Introduction to the Course

1 Tuesday, Aug.26

*Syllabus

2 Friday, Aug. 29

*Marylin Robinson Waldman, "The Meandering Mainstream: Reimagining World History," pp.87-97, Blackboard, pdf

*William O. Swinton, "Outlines of General History," pp.16-17, Blackboard, pdf

*Jacob Neusner, "It is time to stop apologizing for Western Civilization and to start analyzing why it defines world culture," pp.104-6, Blackboard, pdf

*Donald Kagan, "Why we should study Western Civilization," pp.51-57, Blackboard, pdf.

WEEK TWO: A bird's eye view of Middle Eastern History I

3 Tuesday, Sep.2

*Karabell, pp.3-86

4 Friday, Sep.5

*Karabell, pp.87-157

WEEK THREE: A bird's eye view of Middle Eastern History II

5 Tuesday, Sep.9

*Karabell, pp.158-221

6 Friday, Sep.12

*Karabell, pp.222-291

WEEK FOUR: Your research paper

7 Tuesday, Sep.16

*Choosing and defining a topic

*Finding the right sources

*Writing an annotated bibliography

8 Friday, Sep.19

*Library day

WEEK FIVE: The formative period

9 Tuesday, Sep.23

*Hawting, *Companion*, pp.9-27

*Donner, *Companion*, pp.28-51

10 Friday, Sep.26

*Kennedy, *Companion*, pp.52-67

WEEK SIX: Cultural traditions and social structure

11 Tuesday, Sep.30

*Ghazzal, *Companion*, pp.71-86

*Gleave, *Companion*, pp.87-105

12 Friday, Oct.3

*Topic description and annotated bibliography due

WEEK SEVEN: Imperial Structures and dynastic rule

13 Tuesday, Oct.7

*Chamberlain, *Companion*, pp.135-53

*Holt, *Companion*, pp.154-69

14 Friday, Oct.10

*Review

WEEK EIGHT: MIDTERM EXAM

15 Tuesday, Oct.14

*Midterm Exam

Oct.17: fall break: no class today

WEEK NINE: A new Middle Eastern System

16 Tuesday, Oct.21

*Kunt, *Companion*, pp.191-205

*Raymond, *Companion*, pp.206-26

17 Friday, Oct.24

*Lutfi, Blackboard, pdf

WEEK TEN: The Middle East and the new world order

18 Tuesday, Oct.28

*Rafeq, *Companion*, pp.229-47

*Sluglett, *Companion*, pp.248-65

19 Friday, Oct.31

*Research day

WEEK ELEVEN: Independence and nation building I

20 Tuesday, Nov.4

* Murphy, *Companion*, pp.269-90

*Choueiri, *Companion*, pp.291-312

21 Friday, Nov.7

*Grigoriadis and Ansari, *Companion*, pp.313-33

*Hinnebusch, *Companion*, pp.334-54

WEEK TWELVE: Independence and nation building II

22 Tuesday, Nov.11

*Stansfield, *Companion*, pp.355-71

*Murden, *Companion*, pp.372-89

23 Friday, Nov.14

*Bonine, *Companion*, pp.393-406

*Stevens, *Companion*, pp.407-24

WEEK THIRTEEN: Nation building and violence

24 Tuesday, Nov.18

*Rifaat, *Distant View of a Minaret*

25 Friday, Nov.21

*Moghadam, *Companion*, pp.424-43

*Rifaat, *Distant View of a Minaret*

WEEK FOURTEEN: Imperialism or globalization?

26 Tuesday, Nov.25

*Final paper due

Friday, Nov.28 – Thanksgiving break: no class today

WEEK FIFTEEN: Final Thoughts

27 Tuesday, Dec.2

*Milton-Edwards, pp.444-61

*Storm, pp.462-85

28 Friday, Dec.5

Review

FINAL EXAM: Friday, Dec.12, 08:30-11:00am