RUTGERS UNIVERSITY NEWARK DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

MODERN MIDDLE EAST

21:510:361 Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:50PM

Professor Leyla Amzi-Erdogdular
leyla.amzi@rutgers.edu
Virtual office hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course situates the Middle East and North Africa region within modern world history and focuses on the diverse political, economic, and cultural developments from the late Ottoman era – roughly the turn of the twentieth century to the present. We analyze events, ideas, and movements including colonialism, cultural modernism, post-colonial revolutionary movements, nationalisms, migrations, and contestations over class and gender through latest research, primary sources, art, literary fiction, and film. By contextualizing the events that shaped the Middle East over the past century, this course will provide an understanding of the region and its inhabitants in a comparative global framework.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students in this class will be able to:
• Demonstrate knowledge of key figures, events, and institutions associated with the modern Middle East
• Think of complex historical processes that shaped the region as an interplay of internal and external power relations
• Consider the role of social, economic and political interests in the modern constructions of class, ethnicity, and gender and their variations across the region
• Critically read primary sources and familiarize themselves with the methodology for interpreting them
• Understand historical factors that have contributed to the development of institutions and values of today’s world

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Students are expected to complete the readings before class and be ready to participate in class discussion. In addition to two exams, two primary source analyses and a film review (one page each) should be submitted through Canvas. Emailed or late papers are not acceptable. Written assignments will be graded based on
content and accuracy, evidence used to support the analysis and interpretation, grammar, spelling, punctuation, clarity of thinking and writing, organization, and presentation. Short videos and quizzes in the module section of Canvas (Types of Sources; Academic Integrity) should be completed in the first two weeks and will count toward the final grade. There will be no use of devices of any kind during class time. Per the University’s Course Attendance policy (10.2.7), students are responsible for communicating with their instructors regarding absences. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify extended absences: (973) 353-5063 or deanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

PRIVACY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STATEMENT

Lectures and materials utilized in this course, including but not limited to videocasts, podcasts, visual presentations, assessments, and assignments, are protected by United States copyright laws as well as Rutgers University policy. As the instructor of this course, I possess sole copyright ownership. You are permitted to take notes for personal use or to provide to a classmate also currently enrolled in this course. Under no other circumstances is distribution of recorded or written materials associated with this course permitted including to any internet site or similar information-sharing platform without my express written consent. Doing so is a violation of the university’s Academic Integrity Policy. Similarly, these copyright protections extend to original papers you produce for this course. In the event that I seek to share your work further, I will first obtain your written consent to do so. Finally, as the instructor for this course, I have the responsibility to protect students’ right to privacy. Classroom recordings will therefore be treated as educational records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the U.S. federal law that governs access to educational information and records. No audio, image capture, video or any other type of recordings of Instructors and students are to be taken without explicit written consent of all participants.

GRADING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>90-100 % A (outstanding)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Sources</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80-89 % B (above average)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>70-79 % C (comprehension at a university level)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>60-69 % D (unsatisfactory performance, barely passing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Below 60% F (failure)</td>
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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University’s educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/

ACCOMODATION AND SUPPORT

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support: Students with Disabilities: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be
completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

**Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

**Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/.

**Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu.

**Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

**Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. To submit an incident report: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does NOT have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or run.vpva@rutgers.edu.

**Food:** PantryRUN, the campus food pantry, helps students who have difficulty affording enough healthy food to remain focused on their studies and stay healthy. You can find hours and information here: https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/pantryrun.

**RESOURCES**

OIT-Newark Help Desk https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/
Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services) https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center
Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops) nwc@rutgers.edu
https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center

**REQUIRED TEXTS**


All other readings, primary sources, and media links are mandatory and can be found on Canvas. Syllabus is subject to change.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1.**

September 2

What is the Middle East?  
*What is a Document? How to read a Document.*  
Gelvin, *Modern Middle East: A History*, Introduction, Part I, Ch. 1, 2 + primary sources 1, 2, 3

**WEEK 2.**

September 7 & 9

Gelvin, Ch. 3, 4 + primary sources 4, 5  
Burke & Yaghoubian, *Struggle and Survival in the Modern Middle East*, Ch. Shemsigul: A Circassian Slave in mid-nineteenth century Cairo
### WEEK 3.

**September 14 & 16**
- Gelvin, Part II, Ch. 5, 6 + primary sources 1, 2, 3, 4
- Burke & Yaghoubian, *Journeymen Textile Weavers in Nineteenth Century Damascus; Assaf: A Peasant of Mount Lebanon*

### WEEK 4.

**September 21 & 23**
- Gelvin, Ch. 7, 8 + primary sources 5, 6, 7
- Burke & Yaghoubian, *The Shaykh and His Daughter: Coping in Colonial Algeria; Mohand N’Hamoucha: A Middle Atlas Berber*

### WEEK 5.

**September 28 & 30**
- Gelvin, Ch. 9 + primary source 8
- Burke & Yaghoubian, *Bibi Maryam: A Bakhtiyari Tribal Woman*
- Cemil Aydin, *The Idea of the Muslim World*

### WEEK 6.

**October 5 & 7**
- Gelvin, Ch. 10 + primary source 9, 10
- Faiz Ahmed, *Afghanistan Rising*
- Primary source 1 due

### Week 7.

**October 12 & 14**
- Gelvin, Part III + Ch. 11 + primary source 1, 2
- Burke & Yaghoubian, *Hagob Hagobian: An Armenian Truck Driver in Iran; Abu Ali al-Kilawi: A Damascus Qabaday*

**MIDTERM EXAM - October 21**

### Week 8.

**October 19 & 21**
- Gelvin, Ch. 12 + primary sources *Egyptian protests; Oum Kulthum*
- Burke & Yaghoubian, *M’hamed Ali: Tunisian Labor Organizer; Migdim: Egyptian Bedouin Matriarch*
- Film: *The Blazing Sky (1954); Man in our House (1961); Son of the Nile (1951)*

### Week 9.

**October 26 & 28**
- Gelvin, Ch. 13 + primary source *Taha Hussein*
- Burke & Yaghoubian, *Naji: An Iraqi Country Doctor*
- Film: *The Battle of Algiers (1966)*

### Week 10.

**November 2 & 4**
- Gelvin, Ch. 14 + primary sources 3, 4, 5, UN242
- Burke & Yaghoubian, *Abu Jamal: A Palestinian Urban Villager; June Leavitt: West Bank Settler*
- Ziad Abu-Amr, “Hamas: A Historical and Political Background”
- Film: *Rana’s Wedding (2002); Divine Intervention (2002)*

### Week 11.
November 9 & 11
Gelvin, Ch. 15 + primary sources 1, 2, S.H.’s public purge
Burke & Yaghoubian, *Rostam: Qashqa’i Rebel; An Iranian Village Boyhood*
Ussama Makdisi, “The Modernity of Sectarianism in Lebanon”

**Week 12.**

November 16 & 18
Gelvin, Ch. 16 + primary sources *Abadan, Mossadegh*
Burke & Yaghoubian, *Talal Rizk: A Syrian Engineer in the Gulf; Haddou: A Moroccan Migrant Worker*
Timothy Mitchell, *Cycle of Oil and Arms, Carbon Democracy*

**WEEK 13.**

November 23
Gelvin, Ch. 17 + primary sources *Gulf War, Soldiers of Reddit*
Charles Hirschkind & Saba Mahmood, “Feminism, the Taliban, and Politics of Counter-Insurgency”

**WEEK 14.**

November 30 & December 2
Gelvin, Ch. 18 + primary sources 3, 4, 5
Burke & Yaghoubian, *Nasir: Sa’idi Youth Between Islamism and Agriculture; Nadia: “Mother of the Believers”*
Oliver Roy, *Islamizing Radicalism*
Film: *Persepolis* (2007)
Film Review Due

**WEEK 15.**

December 7 & 9
Gelvin, Conclusion + primary sources 6, 7
Joseph Hinks, “A Decade After the Arab Spring”
Suzanne Schneider, “Getting off the Merry-Go-Round: Approaching Religious Violence”
*George Floyd in Iran, Syria, and Afghanistan: Visual Commentaries in Islamic Land*

Primary source 2 due

**FINAL EXAM** - December 23, 11:45am-2:45pm