

21:510:361 RUTGERS-NEWARK FALL 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Reza Mortaheb (rm392@njit.edu)

# History of Modern Middle East



Class Meetings: Wed 11:30 AM-12:50 PM & Fri 11:30 AM-12:50 PM in Engelhard Hall 209

## Course Overview:

The interconnecting regions stretching from Northwest Africa to Southwest Asia and the Iranian Plateau, currently known as the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), have historically been the breeding ground for the world's greatest civilizations, thanks largely to the geographical positioning at an international crossroads where Mediterranean, Atlantic, African, European, and Asian histories met and commingled. With its porous and ever-shifting boundaries MENA has also acted, over the centuries, as an important conduit between and among adjacent communities, cultures, societies, and states. As such, since 1800 in tandem with the rest of the world and in response to both external and internal forces MENA underwent transformations in political, economic, social, and cultural realms — a series of processes which may collectively be called modernity.

This course surveys the various ways in which modernity arose, and was encountered, at different levels across MENA in the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As lived in daily life, embodied in the form of reforming policies, new state apparatuses and institutions, or even experienced as a set of worldviews, modernity assumed many guises ranging from new modes of knowledge production, communications and transportation, city planning and governance, to novel forms of entertainment and consumption patterns, and above all in ways of thinking about the natural world, the state, and religion as well as normative gender roles. Challenging the older scholarship's stereotypical representation of the region as a static, pre-modern universe situated outside of its contemporaneous historical processes, the course will

highlight the numerous ways in which modernity manifested itself across the region. Thematic and contextual issues, concepts and phenomena, such as imperialism, colonialism, Orientalism, capitalism, and nationalism— among others — drive content, and will be discussed in relation to significant historical developments that swept the region in the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth centuries.

### **Learning Objectives:**

Upon the completion of the course students will:

- 1) Learn various interpretative frameworks for approaching history in general and for understanding MENA in particular
- 2) Be able to recognize the diversity of MENA, and be able to evaluate common stereotypes about the peoples and communities of the region
- 3) Understand historical processes, and critically analyze events, individuals, periods, and concepts vis-à-vis broader political, economic, societal, cultural, and environmental contexts
- 4) Understand the nature of evidence in historical research and get familiar with a variety of primary and secondary sources
- 5) understand how the modern Middle East came into being and how this process is central to the underlying forces shaping current events across the region

### **Required Texts:**

- Clancy-Smith, Julia, and Charles D. Smith. *The Modern Middle East and North Africa: A history in Documents*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014 [Primary Source]
- Gelvin, James. *The Modern Middle East: A History*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011[Primary Text]
- Goldschmidt, Arthur, and Lawrence Davidson. *A Concise History of the Middle East*. 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. Westview Press, 2010. [Primary Text]

This course is a combination of lectures and in-class discussions which revolve around weekly assigned readings contributing to an overarching theme. While all students are required to carefully read the book chapters and the complementary journal articles assigned for each week, a group of students are responsible to present and discuss weekly journal articles. While the assigned chapters from the course's primary text books serve as the basis for lectures and map out the larger historical contexts, the accompanying journal articles provide students with a more

specific, and in-depth, understating of the historical processes discussed in the preceding lecture session.

The required text books are held on reserve at Dana Library and articles will be available in digital format on Blackboard under the relevant weekly session. Sources indicated with (\*) are optional.

### **Course Requirements & Evaluation Criteria:**

The course's final grade is divided into four "assignments" as follows:

- Alert attendance at weekly lectures and ACTIVE participation in weekly discussions, 15% of final grade
- Short-essay Assignments, 25% of final grade
- Midterm exam, 25% of final grade
- Final exam, 35% of final grade

**Grading:** Students' grades in this class are EARNED, not awarded. Students will receive numerical grades for each individual "assignment" and these, with weighted percentages, determine their final letter grades, as set by Rutgers policy. A =90-100, B+=86-89, B=80-85, C+=76-79, C=70-75, D=60-69, F= 59 or below. To pass this class, students must complete EVERY "assignment," but completion of an "assignment" does not guarantee a passing grade. Students can track their grades on Blackboard or with a calculator.

**Attendance:** According to Rutgers attendance policy "all undergraduates are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes." This means that students must attend all lectures, arriving on time and staying until the course period is over. Students must notify me in advance via email if they plan to miss class and a determination will be made if this absence will be excused. Absences are excused only for religious observances, athletic events, emergencies, or other documented and approved circumstances—and require a face-to-face explanation. Students who are responsible for weekly article discussion should not miss class. If students are too sick to attend class they must email me before class begins and bring in a doctor's note the following class; otherwise their absence will NOT be excused. 4 unexcused absences may result in students losing a full grade. It should also be noted that the History Department employs a blanket policy for students who miss eight or more classes – whether through any combination of excused and/or unexcused absences. Such students will not earn credit in this class and should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

**Short-essay Assignments:** Throughout the semester students will be asked to submit a series of short analytical essays on selected topics. Each paper would be 3-4 pages in length and should draw mainly on course texts.

**Academic Integrity:** Rutgers University treats cheating and plagiarism as serious offenses. Cheating is both a moral and an ethical offense. It violates both your own integrity and the ethics of group commitment: when you cut corners and cheat, you undermine those students who took the time to work on the assignment honestly. As a standard minimum penalty, students who are suspected of cheating or plagiarism are reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Pending investigation, further penalties can include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University. All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination / assignment."

Students may only use the texts (books and journal articles) assigned in this syllabus to complete the assignments and exams. Resist the urge to cut and paste, either literally or figuratively by using other people's ideas. If I find that you have used other people's ideas (including excerpts from Wikipedia, Amazon reviews, book jacket descriptions, etc.), I will not accept the assignment because I will not be able to consider it your own work. As a minimum, you will receive a failing grade (0 points) for that assignment and will not be able to make it up.

**Disability Services:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please contact Kate Torres at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting [odsnewark@rutgers.edu](mailto:odsnewark@rutgers.edu).

**Classroom Etiquette:** Students are required to actively participate in class by listening to lectures, taking notes, raising questions, etc. Unless special permission is granted, cell phones

and laptops are not allowed inside the class. Students should bring to the class the printouts of weekly discussion material. In this case, students may use tablets to read a digital version of the assigned journal articles. Students should avoid any behavior during the class that might be disruptive to other classmates.

## **Schedule:**

### **Week 1: European Interests and the Emergence of Imperialism**

*Wednesday (September 7)*

- Introduction

*Friday (September 9)*

- James Gelvin, Chapter 3, "The Middle East & the Modern World System," pp.33-44 & Part II, "The Question of Modernity", pp.69-70
- Goldschmidt & Davidson, Chapter 10, "European Interests and Imperialism," pp.147-157
- Clancy-Smith & Smith, Chapter 1, "European Imperialism," pp.19-42; pp.44-48; pp.51-54

### **Week 2: Displaying the "Orient"**

*Wednesday (September 14)*

- Clancy-Smith & Smith, Chapter 1, "World Fairs and Tourism: Imperial Portraits of the Oriental and the Oriental Response," pp.48-50
- Turan, Gülname. "Turkey in the Great Exhibition of 1851." *Design Issues* 25, no. 1 (2009): pp.64-79.

*Friday (September 16)*

- Çelik, Zeynep, and Kinney Leila. "Ethnography and Exhibitionism at the Expositions Universelles." *Assemblage*, no. 13 (1990): pp.35-59.
- Daniel A. Lowe, "Colonial Knowledge: Lorimer's Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf, Oman and Central Arabia", *Qatar Digital Library*. <http://www.qdl.qa/en/colonial-knowledge-lorimer%E2%80%99s-gazetteer-persian-gulf-oman-and-central-arabia>

### **Week 3: Westernization or Defensive Developmentalism?**

*Wednesday (September 21)*

- James Gelvin, Chapter 5, "Defensive Developmentalism," pp. 71-86
- Arthur Goldschmidt & Lawrence Davidson, Chapter 11, "Westernizing Reform in the Nineteenth Century," pp. 159-173
- Clancy-Smith & Smith, Chapter 2, "Between Old and New," pp.61-73; pp.84-93

Friday (September 23)

- Maryam Ekhtiar. "Nasir Al-Din Shah and the Dar Al-Funun: The Evolution of an Institution," *Iranian Studies* 34, no. 1/4 (2001): pp.153-63.
- Cronin, Stephanie. "Importing Modernity: European Military Missions to Qajar Iran," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 50, no. 1 (2008): pp.197-226.
- \*Young, T. Cuyler. "The Problem of Westernization in Modern Iran," *Middle East Journal* 2, no. 1 (1948): pp.47-59.

**Week 4: Imperialism in Practice**

Wednesday (September 28)

- James Gelvin, Chapter 6, "Imperialism", pp. 87-99
- Khater, Akram Fouad. """House" to "Goddess of the House": Gender, Class, and Silk in 19th-Century Mount Lebanon," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 28, no. 3 (1996): pp.325-48.
- Cutler, Brock. "Imperial Thirst: Water and Colonial Administration in Algeria, 1840-1880," *Review of Middle East Studies* 44, no. 2 (2010): pp.167-75.

Friday (September 30)

- Heggoy, Alf Andrew. "Education in French Algeria: An Essay on Cultural Conflict," *Comparative Education Review* 17, no. 2 (1973): pp.180-97.
- Volodarsky, Mikhail. "Persia and the Great Powers, 1856-1869," *Middle Eastern Studies* 19, no. 1 (1983): pp.75-92.
- \*Yarshater, Ehsan. "The Qajar Era in the Mirror of Time," *Iranian Studies* 34, no. 1/4 (2001): pp.187-94 (probably include something on the British intervention in Mesopotamia)

- **Film: Lawrence of Arabia.**

Watch the trailer here: [http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0056172/?ref =nv\\_sr\\_1](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0056172/?ref =nv_sr_1)

## **Week 5: Integration and Peripheralization**

Wednesday (October 5)

- Soli Shahvar. "Concession Hunting in the Age of Reform: British Companies and the Search for Government Guarantees; Telegraph Concessions through Ottoman Territories, 1855-58." *Middle Eastern Studies* 38, no. 4 (2002): pp.169-93.
- \*Shahvar, Soli. "Iron Poles, Wooden Poles: The Electric Telegraph and the Ottoman-Iranian Boundary Conflict, 1863-1865." *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 34, no. 1 (2007): pp.23-42.
- Foran, John. "The Concept of Dependent Development as a Key to the Political Economy of Qajar Iran (1800-1925)." *Iranian Studies* 22, no. 2/3 (1989): pp.5-56.
- Galbraith, John S. "British Policy on Railways in Persia, 1870-1900." *Middle Eastern Studies* 25, no. 4 (1989): pp.480-505.

Friday (October 7)

- Shahbaz Shahnava, "Karun River." *Encyclopædia Iranica* (2011). Online Access: [http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/karun\\_3](http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/karun_3)
- Gilbar, Gad G. "The Opening Up of Qājār Iran: Some Economic and Social Aspects." *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London* 49, no. 1 (1986): pp.76-89.
- \*Ashraf, Ahmad. "The Roots of Emerging Dual Class Structure in Nineteenth-Century Iran." *Iranian Studies* 14, no. 1/2 (1981): pp.5-27.

## **Week 6: Nationalism**

Wednesday (October 12)

- Arthur Goldschmidt & Lawrence Davidson, Chapter 12. "The Rise of Nationalism", pp.177-195
- James Gelvin, Chapter 10, "Constitutionalism", pp. 150-177
- Juan R. I. Cole, and Kandiyoti Deniz. "Nationalism and the Colonial Legacy in the Middle East and Central Asia: Introduction." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 34, no. 2 (2002): pp.189-203.

Friday (October 14)

- Keddie, Nikki R. "Religion and Irreligion in Early Iranian Nationalism." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 4, no. 3 (1962): pp.265-95.
- Greaves, Rose Louise. "Some Aspects of the Anglo-Russian Convention and Its Working in

Persia, 1907-14--II." *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London* 31, no. 2 (1968): 290-308.

- \*Philipp, Mangol Bayat. "Mīrzā Āqā Khān Kirmānī: A Nineteenth Century Persian Nationalist." *Middle Eastern Studies* 10, no. 1 (1974): 36-59.

## **Week 7: Modernity, Culture and everyday life**

Wednesday (October 19)

- James Gelvin, Chapter 7, "Wasif Jawhariyyeh and the Great Nineteenth-Century Transformation", pp. 100-109 and "Photo Essay: The Great Nineteenth-Century Transformation and its Aftermath", pp. 110-132
- Mahdavi, S. 2012. "Everyday Life in Late Qajar Iran." *Iranian Studies* 45, no. 3: 355-370. *Arts & Humanities Citation Index, EBSCOhost* (accessed July 9, 2016).

Friday (October 21)

- **Midterm Exam**

## **Week 8: Modernity, Intellectuality and Systems of Thought**

Wednesday (October 26)

- James Gelvin, Chapter 8, "The Life of the Mind", pp. 133-142
- Clancy-Smith & Smith, Chapter 1, "Al-Afghani and Azoury," pp.57-60
- Keddie, Nikki R. "The Pan-Islamic Appeal: Afghani and Abdülhamid II." *Middle Eastern Studies* 3, no. 1 (1966): 46-67.
- \*\*\*Symposium of the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies minor: The symposium will have two panels. The first will be the historical panel from 2:30-3:50. The second Modern Middle East, from 4:00-5:20. [Extra credit will be awarded for attending the symposium, in particular the second one, and providing a short synopsis of important highlights]

Friday (October 28)

- Matthee, Rudi. "Jamal Al-Din Al-Afghani and the Egyptian National Debate." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 21, no. 2 (1989): 151-69.
- Keddie, Nikki R. "Culture Traits, Fantasy, and Reality in the Life of Sayyid Jamāl Al-Dīn Al-Afghānī." *Iranian Studies* 9, no. 2/3 (1976): 89-120.
- \*Nikki R. Keddie, "Afgani, Jamal-al-din," *Encyclopædia Iranica*, I/5, pp. 481-486; an updated version is available online at <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/afgani-jamal-al-din>



## **Week 9: Empire and the Politics of Oil**

Wednesday (November 2)

- Clancy-Smith & Smith, Chapter 1, "Iran and the European Powers: Oil Concessions and Territorial Partitioning," pp.54-56.
- Jack, Marian. "The Purchase of the British Government's Shares in the British Petroleum Company 1912-1914." *Past & Present*, no. 39 (1968): pp.139-68.
- \*Millspaugh, A. C. "The Persian-British Oil Dispute." *Foreign Affairs* 11, no. 3 (1933): pp.521-25.
- Cronin, Stephanie. "The Politics of Debt: The Anglo-Persian Oil Company and the Bakhtiari Khans." *Middle Eastern Studies* 40, no. 4 (2004): pp.1-31.

Friday (November 4)

- Mejcher, Helmut. "Oil and British Policy towards Mesopotamia, 1914-1918." *Middle Eastern Studies* 8, no. 3 (1972): pp.377-91.
- Stephenson, J. F. E. "Persian Gulf Oil Concessions." *The International Law Quarterly* 4, no. 4 (1951): pp.503-06.
- \*Fitzgerald, Edward Peter. "France's Middle Eastern Ambitions, the Sykes-Picot Negotiations, and the Oil Fields of Mosul, 1915-1918." *The Journal of Modern History* 66, no. 4 (1994): 697-725.

## **Week 10: WWI and Its Aftermath**

Wednesday (November 9)

- Clancy-Smith & Smith, Chapter 3, "World War I and Its Aftermath, C. 1914-1923," pp.97-105; pp.109-117; pp.119-135
- Sarkar, Benoy Kumar. "The Reshaping of the Middle East." *The Journal of Race Development* 9, no. 4 (1919): pp.332-43.
- Satia, Priya. "Developing Iraq: Britain, India and the Redemption of Empire and Technology in the First World War." *Past & Present*, no. 197 (2007): pp.211-55.

Friday (November 11)

- Khalidi, Rashid I. "The Economic Partition of the Arab Provinces of the Ottoman Empire before the First World War." *Review (Fernand Braudel Center)* 11, no. 2 (1988): pp.251-64.
- Hopper, Bruce. "The Persian Regeneration: Key to Politics in the Middle East." *Foreign Affairs* 13, no. 2 (1935): pp.295-308.

## **Week 11: Israel and the Question of Palestine**

Wednesday (November 16)

- Clancy-Smith & Smith, Chapter 1. "Zionism: Its Origins and Objectives", pp.43-44; Chapter 3. "Promises to Keep: Britain, Palestine, and the Zionist Movement", p.118; Chapter 5. pp.181-197
- Arthur Goldschmidt & Lawrence Davidson, Chapter 16. "The Contest for Palestine", pp.271-292

*Friday (November 18)*

- Arthur Goldschmidt & Lawrence Davidson, Chapter 17. "Israel's Rebirth and the Rise of Arab Nationalism", pp.293-326
- James Gelvin, Chapter 14, "The Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian Dispute", pp. 217-231

## **Week 12: The Rise of Modern Nation States I**

*Wednesday (November 23)*

- Clancy-Smith & Smith, Chapter 5. "From the Great War to World War II, c.1923-1950", pp.153-174
- Arthur Goldschmidt & Lawrence Davidson, Chapter 14. "Modernizing Rulers in the Independent States", pp.215-242

*Friday (November 25)*

- **Thanksgiving break- no class!**

## **Week 13: The Rise of Modern Nation States II**

*Wednesday (November 30)*

- James Gelvin, Chapter 11, "State-Building by Decree", pp. 184-195 & Chapter 12, "State-Building by Revolution and Conquest", pp.196-208
- Atabaki, Touraj. "The Caliphate, the Clerics and Republicanism in Turkey and Iran: Some Comparative Remarks." pp. 44-64. in Touraj Atabaki and Erik Jan Zürcher (eds.). *Men of Order: Authoritarian Modernization under Ataturk and Reza Shah*. London & New York: I.B. Tauris & Co. Ltd, 2004.
- \*Bryson, Shareen Blair. "A Very British Coup: How Reza Shah Won and Lost His Throne." *World Policy Journal* 24, no. 2 (2007): pp.90-103.

*Friday (December 2)*

- Atabaki, Touraj. "Time, Labour-Discipline and Modernization in Turkey and Iran: Some Comparative Remarks." pp. 1-16. In Touraj Atabaki (ed.). *The State and the Subaltern: Modernization, Society and the State in Turkey and Iran*. London & New York: I.B. Tauris & Co. Ltd, 2007.
- Cronin, Stephanie. "Reza Shah and the Paradoxes of Military Modernization in Iran." *Oriente*

*Moderno* 23 (84) (2004): pp.175-203.

- \*Cronin, Stephanie. "Popular Politics, the New State and the Birth of the Iranian Working Class: The 1929 Abadan Oil Refinery Strike." *Middle Eastern Studies* 46, no. 5 (September 2010): pp.699-732.

## **Week 14: Oil and Modernity**

Wednesday (December 7)

- Fuccaro, Nelida. "Shaping the Urban Life of Oil in Bahrain: Consumerism, Leisure, and Public Communication in Manama and in the Oil Camps, 1932 – 1960s." *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, & The Middle East* 33, no. 1 (April 2013): pp. 59-74.
- Alissa, Reem. "The Oil Town of Ahmadi since 1946: From Colonial Town to Nostalgic City" *Comparative Studies Of South Asia, Africa, & The Middle East* 33, no. 1 (April 2013): pp. 41-58.

Friday (December 9)

- Bet-Shlimon, Arbella. "The Politics and Ideology of Urban Development in Iraq's Oil City: Kirkuk, 1946 – 58" *Comparative Studies Of South Asia, Africa, & The Middle East* 33, no. 1 (April 2013): pp. 26-40.
- Damluji, Mona. "The Oil City in Focus: The Cinematic Spaces of Abadan in the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's Persian Story" *Comparative Studies Of South Asia, Africa, & The Middle East* 33, no. 1 (April 2013): pp. 75-88.

## **Week 15: Final Remarks**

Wednesday (December 14)

- Review

Friday (December 16)

- Make-up Exam

## **Week 16: Exam Week**

Wednesday (December 21) 11:45-2:45.

- Final Exam