

THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST THROUGH LITERATURE AND FILM

Loyola University Maryland
HN/HS-449-01, Fall 2014
T TH, 12:15pm-1:30pm, Humanities Center, Room 322B

Instructor: Dr. Sara Scalenghe
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays,
11am-12pm, and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide a nuanced historical understanding of the political, economic, social, and cultural changes that have occurred in the modern Middle East through the lenses of literature and film. We will engage in critical analysis of short stories, poems, novellas, novels, and films produced in the Middle East or about the Middle East in order to understand how the lived experiences of women and men have been affected by European colonialism, the rise of nationalism and the creation of the modern nation state, authoritarian regimes, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the politics of oil and U.S. hegemony in the region, the rise of Islamist movements, and the 2011 Arab uprisings. Geographically, our main focus will be the Arab lands of the Middle East, i.e., Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel/Palestine, the Arabian Peninsula, and Egypt. No prior knowledge of Middle Eastern history is required. This course satisfies Loyola University's Diversity Course Requirement.

LEARNING AIMS

Students who have completed this course shall be able to:

- Demonstrate a solid foundation in modern Middle Eastern history.
- Place current events in the Middle East in a broader historical perspective.
- Comprehend different historical methodologies.
- Conceptualize and develop an argument based on research and drawing on historiographical precedence.
- Conduct extensive research using both primary and secondary sources with the goal of completing a serious research paper on a sophisticated topic of each student's choosing.
- Carry on an intellectual debate in a seminar format by referring to a related set of readings, offering critical appraisal of the readings, and reacting to the ideas of their fellow students.
- Be able to state, in elegant prose, the argument of any article or book assigned to them in a History class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) *Attendance and Participation* (20%). All readings must be completed prior to coming to class, and you must be prepared to both answer and pose questions about them. The grade will be calculated as follows. If you participate regularly and thoughtfully: 90-100% (A-/A/A+); if you participate occasionally but thoughtfully: 80-89% (B-/B/B+); if you rarely participate: 70-79% (C-/C/C+); if you never participate: 50-69% (F-/D-/D/D+). In order to participate, you must obviously be present. Class attendance is therefore mandatory and will be recorded. If you are absent due to sickness, you must bring me a note from your doctor or the Student

Health Center. Do not be late for class, as it is disrespectful and disruptive to me and to your classmates and will lower your grade. If you miss one class without documentation your participation grade will automatically drop to 90% (A-); 2 missed classes: 85% (B); 3 missed classes: 75% (C); 4 missed classes: 65% (D); 5 or more missed classes: 50% (F).

2) *Weekly assignments* (20%). On most (but not all) weeks you will be asked to submit a written assignment on Moodle. The type of assignment will vary and may include questions for discussion, answers to specific questions assigned by the instructor, or a response paper.

3) *Leading discussion* (20%). Each student will co-facilitate class discussion twice in the course of the semester.

4) *Test* (10%). There will be a test on Tuesday, September 16.

5) *Paper* (30%). A 15-page research paper is due on Friday, December 12. Detailed instructions will be provided separately.

GRADING SCALE

94-100 = A	84-86 = B	74-76 = C	64-66 = D
90-93 = A-	80-83 = B-	70-73 = C-	0-63 = F
87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	

COURSE POLICIES

Laptop policy

I discourage the use of laptops. If you must use one, you may bring it to class for the exclusive purpose of taking notes. I reserve the right to ban laptop use if I see that you are checking your email, Facebook, etc.

About returning papers and exams

While I make every effort to return your work in a timely fashion, usually within two weeks, please understand that it may not always be possible for me to do so.

Moodle

Assignments, PowerPoint presentations, outlines, readings, primary sources, and study guides will be posted on Moodle.

Turnitin.com

Papers and extra credit assignments must be submitted both as hard copies in class and to turnitin.com before coming to class. If you do not already have one, you will need to create a New Student Account. When you log onto the website for the first time you will need to "Create a user profile" (upper right hand corner). Select "Student" and follow the instructions.

Email

The best way to reach me outside of class and office hours is by email at sscalenghe@loyola.edu. I do my best to respond within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours during the weekend. Given the high volume of emails I receive daily, please write to

me only if there is an urgent matter that cannot wait until the next class or office hours. For example, if you are absent, please refrain from emailing me to ask what was covered in class (check the syllabus, Moodle, or ask your classmates instead).

Academic Integrity

This is a joint Honors/History course. The Honors Program regards academic dishonesty as the antithesis of scholarship, learning, collegiality, and responsible citizenship. Academic (or scholarly) dishonesty includes the following: cheating, stealing, lying, forgery, plagiarism, duplicate submission (without prior permission from both instructors), and the failure to report a violation. The program defines plagiarism as any unacknowledged use of another's words or ideas. This definition applies to non-print media, including the Internet, as well as to books, magazines, journals, newspapers, or any other print media. Definitions of the other offenses listed above can be found in the "Community Standards Handbook."

It is the student's responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty and to avoid them in all assignments. Students should familiarize themselves with the sections in the Loyola Undergraduate Catalogue on "Academic Conduct," the "Honor Code" and "Intellectual Honesty." They should also consult the writing handbook, *Easy Writer*, for guidance on both correct citation of sources and avoiding plagiarism. Anyone having questions or uncertainties about scholarly dishonesty, including plagiarism, should consult with the instructor before submitting any assignment. Neither ignorance of the definition of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty nor the lack of the intention to deceive constitutes an acceptable defense in these matters.

Loyola Writing Center

I urge you to avail yourselves of the Loyola Writing Center, which offers writing tutoring and writing workshops for Loyola students. The Center's tutors work with writers at all stages of the writing process, including brainstorming, researching, drafting, and revising. Check out the Writing Center website: <http://www.loyola.edu/writingcenter> for more information and instructions for making an online appointment.

Student Athletes

If you are a student athlete, please provide me with your travel and game schedule indicating when you will need to miss class to participate in athletic events. While travel for athletics is an excused absence, you will need to make up any missed work. Please send me a reminder email before each missed class.

Students with Disabilities

I make every effort to support and accommodate students with disabilities. If you already registered with Disability Support Services (DSS) and requested an accommodations letter (and DSS has sent the letter to me via email), please schedule a brief meeting with me to discuss the accommodations you might need in this class. If you need academic accommodations due to a disability and have not registered with DSS, please contact the Disability Support Services Office (DSS) at 410-617-2750/2062 or at DSS@loyola.edu. I also encourage you to familiarize yourself with Loyola's DSS resources at <http://www.loyola.edu/department/dss.aspx>.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Cleveland, William, and Martin Bunton. *A History of the Modern Middle East*. 5th edition. ISBN: 9780813348339.

Gelvin, James. *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War*. 3rd edition. ISBN: 9781107613546.

Khedairi, Betool. *Absent*. ISBN: 9780812977424.

Mahfouz, Naguib. *Midaq Alley*. ISBN: 9780385264761.

Munif, Abdelrahman. *Cities of Salt*. ISBN: 9780394755267.

Yazbek, Samar. *A Woman in the Crossfire: Diaries of the Syrian Revolution*. ISBN: 9781908323125.

Sacco, Joe. *Footnotes in Gaza*. ISBN: 9780805092776.

CLASS SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTIONS

Sept. 2 (T) Introduction to the Course

Sept. 4 (TH) Dona Stewart, *The Middle East Today: Political, Geographical and Cultural Perspectives*, 2nd ed. (New York: Routledge, 2013), pp. 1-65.

THE MIDDLE EAST FROM THE RISE OF ISLAM TO THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Sept. 9 (T) The Rise and Expansion of Islam
1) Cleveland, ch. 1, pp. 4-17, and ch. 2, pp. 18-33.
2) Watch Parts I and II ("The Messenger" and "The Awakening") of the PBS documentary *Islam: Empire of Faith* (2001) (54 mins). The DVD is on reserve in the library. It may also be watched on YouTube; check Moodle for the link.

Sept. 11 (TH) The Ottoman Empire
1) Cleveland, ch. 3, pp. 34-52.
2) Watch Part III ("The Ottomans") of the PBS documentary *Islam: Empire of Faith* (2001) (53 mins). The DVD is on reserve in the library. It may also be watched on YouTube; check Moodle for the link.

EUROPEAN ENCROACHMENTS

Sept. 16 (T) The Ottoman Empire in the Nineteenth Century.
Cleveland, ch. 4, pp. 56-74 (skim); ch. 5, pp. 75-94 (skim); ch. 6, pp. 95-101 (skim).

⇒ Test 1. Maps and questions based exclusively on the material covered on September 4.

- Sept. 18 (TH) Orientalism I
1) Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage, 1979), pp. 1-28.
2) Watch this interview with Edward Said:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVC8EYd_Z_g.
3) Linda Nochlin, "The Imaginary Orient," in *The Politics of Vision: Essays on Nineteenth-Century Art and Society* (New York: Harper & Row, 1989), pp. 33-59.
4) Documentary: *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People*, directed by Sut Jhally (2006). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyQYBxela4I>
- Sept. 23 (T) Orientalism II
1) *Description de l'Égypte* at <http://descegy.bibalex.org/index1.html>. **Ste** Familiarize yourself with the website and examine how French artists **Je** represented Egypt.
2) Anne Godlewska, "Map, Text, and Image. The Mentality of Enlightened Conquerors: A New Look at the Description de l'Égypte," *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 20, no. 1 (1995): 5-28.
3) Selections from *Napoleon in Egypt: Al-Jabarti's Chronicle of the French Occupation, 1798*.
4) Selections from Rifa`a al-Tahtawi, *An Imam in Paris: Account of a Stay in France by an Egyptian Cleric (1826-1831)*.
- Sept. 25 (TH) Zionism
James Gelvin, *The Israel-Palestine Conflict*, pp. 1-75.

WORLD WAR I AND ITS AFTERMATH

- Sept. 30 (T) Cleveland, ch. 9, pp. 137-158.
- Oct. 2 (TH) Film: *A Dangerous Man: Lawrence After Arabia*, directed by Christopher Menaul (1992).

THE PALESTINE MANDATE AND THE WAR OF 1948

- Oct. 7 (T) 1) James Gelvin, *The Israel-Palestine Conflict*, pp. 76-165.
2) Selection of short stories and poems.
- Oct. 9 (TH) Documentary: *Forget Baghdad*, directed by Samir (2002).

THE NASSER ERA IN EGYPT

- Oct. 14 (T) Cleveland, ch. 15, pp. 280-300.
- Oct. 16 (TH) Naguib Mahfuz, *Midaq Alley*.

AUTHORITARIANISM IN SYRIA AND IRAQ

- Oct. 21 (T) 1) Cleveland, ch. 11, pp. 189-197; ch. 12, pp. 201-208 and 211-214; ch. 16, pp. 301-307, and ch. 21, pp. 414-437.
2) Selections of short stories and poems from Syria and Iraq.
- Oct. 23 (TH) Documentaries: *Everyday Life in a Syrian Village* (1974) and *A Flood in Baath Country*, directed by Omar Amiralay (2003).

EGYPT AFTER NASSER

- Oct. 28 (T) 1) Cleveland, ch. 19, pp. 369-379, pp. 388-392.
2) Selection of Egyptian short stories.
- Oct. 30 (TH) Film: *The Yacoubian Building*, directed by Marwan Hamed (2006).

THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT SINCE 1948

- Nov. 4 (T) James Gelvin, *The Israel-Palestine Conflict*, pp. 166-268.
- Nov. 6 (TH) Joe Sacco, *Footnotes in Gaza*.

THE ARABIAN PENINSULA IN THE AGE OF OIL

- Nov. 11 (T) Cleveland, ch. 12, pp. 214-217, and ch. 20, pp. 393-413.
- Nov. 13 (TH) Abdelrahman Munif, *Cities of Salt*.

THE PERSIAN GULF WARS

- Nov. 18 (T) Cleveland, ch. 22, pp. 445-456; ch. 25, pp. 505-515.
- Nov. 20 (TH) Betool Khedairi, *Absent*.
- Nov. 25 (T) No class (MESA Conference) ⇒ Drafts of papers due
- Nov. 27 (TH) Thanksgiving (no class)

THE ARAB UPRISINGS

- Dec. 2 (T) 1) Cleveland, ch. 26, pp. 522-540.
2) *The Square*, a documentary by Jehane Noujaim (2013).
- Dec. 4 (TH) Samar Yazbek, *A Woman in the Crossfire: Diaries of the Syrian Revolution*.
- Dec. 9 (T) Paper presentations