

HS 489D: AMERICA IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Loyola University Maryland
Spring 2015
T, 3:05-5:35pm
Humanities Building, Room 322B

Instructor: Dr. Sara Scalenghe
Office Hours: T TH 1pm-3pm, and by
appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This senior seminar explores the complex history of America's interaction with the Middle East. Chronologically, the course begins with early missionary encounters in the nineteenth century and ends with the United States-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The topics we will examine include Protestant Christian missionary activity, the American brand of Orientalism, the United States' involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Arabian Gulf and the politics of oil, and cultural encounters and exchanges. We will also analyze different types of primary sources, including diplomatic documents and other official records, missionary reports, newspapers, memoirs, literature, art, and advertising. This course satisfies Loyola's diversity course requirement (Global Awareness). Prerequisites: one HS 100-level course, one HS 300-level course, and written permission of the instructor.

LEARNING AIMS

Students who have completed HS 400-level courses shall be able to:

- Recognize the varieties of historical analysis and the existence of historiographical precedence.
- Conceptualize and develop an argument based on research and drawing on historiographical precedence.
- Conduct and complete 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* (10%). Class attendance is mandatory. If you are absent due to sickness, please bring me a note from your doctor or the Student Health Center. This is a reading-intensive course structured around group discussion. Therefore, active participation is essential.

2) *Weekly assignments* (20%). On most weeks you will be asked to submit a written assignment (a book review, a response paper, or answers to specific questions).

3) *Tests* (15%). There will be two tests, on January 20 (10%) and on February 10 (5%).

4) *Seminar leader* (10%). Each student will be responsible for helping to lead class discussion once in the course of the semester.

5) *Paper proposal and annotated bibliography* (10%), due on February 27.

6) *Research Paper* (15%). A 20-25-page research paper based on primary sources is due on Monday, April 27. Detailed instructions will be provided separately. A draft of the paper (10%) is due on Friday, April 10.

7) *Peer reviews* (10%). Each student will write a detailed review of two of his/her classmates' drafts. The reviews are aimed at identifying a paper's strengths and weaknesses and should address content, organization, and style. The peer reviews are due on April 14 and April 21.

GRADING SCALE

94-100 = A

90-93 = A-

87-89 = B+

84-86 = B

80-83 = B-

77-79 = C+

74-76 = C

70-73 = C-

67-69 = D+

64-66 = D

0-63 = F

COURSE POLICIES

Laptop policy

This is a seminar, and thus I discourage you from using laptops. If you absolutely must use one, talk to me first.

Moodle

Assignments, readings, and primary sources will be posted on Moodle.

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

Students are expected to be familiar with Loyola University's policies on academic integrity, which is explained in the Student Honor Code (<http://www.loyola.edu/academic/honorcode/>). Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students

caught plagiarizing, or violating the Honor Code in any way, should expect to fail the course and to be reported to the Honor Council. If you submit any work with your name affixed to it, I assume that work is your own and that all sources are indicated and documented in the text (with quotations and/or citations). If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to me.

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/departments/dss.aspx>.

REQUIRED BOOKS

The following books should be purchased and are available at the Loyola bookstore. They have also been placed on reserve in the library.

Khater, Akram. *Inventing Home: Emigration, Gender, and the Middle Class in Lebanon, 1870-1920*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001. ISBN: 9780520227408.

Makdisi, Ussama. *Faith Misplaced: The Broken Promise of U.S.-Arab Relations, 1820-2001*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2010. ISBN: 9781586486808.

McAlister, Melanie. *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945*. Second edition. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005. ISBN: 9780520244993.

Riverbend. *Baghdad Burning: Girl Blog from Iraq*. New York: Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2005. ISBN-13: 9781558614895.

Strunk, William Jr., and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth edition. Longman, 1999. ISBN-13: 978-0205309023.

Vitalis, Robert. *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier*. New updated edition. Verso, 2009. ISBN: 9781844673131.

Not required but highly recommended for background: Cleveland, William, and Martin Bunton. *A History of the Modern Middle East*. 5th edition. Boulder: Westview Press, 2013. ISBN: 9780813348339.

All other readings, including primary sources, will be posted on Moodle.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Please note that the schedule is subject to change at any time

January 13	Introduction to the Course Required reading: Dona Stewart, <i>The Middle East Today: Political, Geographical and Cultural Perspectives</i> , second edition (New York: Routledge, 2013), pp. 23-65.
January 20	Early Missionary Encounters Makdisi, <i>Faith Misplaced</i> , 1-117. ⇒ Test 1. Maps and questions based on the lecture on January 13 and on Stewart's <i>The Middle East Today</i> .
January 27	The U.S. and the Middle East from WWI to 1948 Makdisi, <i>Faith Misplaced</i> , 118-203.
February 3	U.S.-Arab Relations since 1948 Makdisi, <i>Faith Misplaced</i> , 205-365.
February 10	Workshop: How to do research papers and write book reviews ⇒ Test 2, on <i>The Elements of Style</i> .
February 17	Cultural Encounters: How America Views the Middle East McAlister, <i>Epic Encounters</i> , entire.
February 24	Arab Experiences of America, Part I Khater, <i>Inventing Home</i> , entire.
March 3	Spring Break

March 10	<p>Arab Experiences of America, Part II</p> <p>1) Kamal Abdel Malak, <i>America in an Arab Mirror: Images of America in Arabic Travel Literature, 1668 to 9/11 and Beyond</i> (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), selections.</p> <p>2) Rasheed El-Enany, <i>Arab Representations of the Occident: East-West Encounters in Arabic Fiction</i> (London: Routledge, 2006), selections.</p> <p>3) Sarah Gualtieri, "Becoming 'White': Race, Religion, and the Formation of Syrian/Lebanese Ethnicity in the United States," <i>Journal of American Ethnic History</i> 20 (2001): 29-58.</p> <p>4) Salim Tamari, "A Miserable Year in Brooklyn: Khalil Sakakini in America, 1907-1908," <i>Jerusalem Quarterly</i> 17 (2003): 19-40.</p>
March 17	<p>"A Special Relationship:" Oil</p> <p>Vitalis, <i>America's Kingdom</i>, entire.</p>
March 24	<p>The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict</p> <p>1) Joel Beinin and Lisa Hajjar, "Palestine, Israel, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Primer," <i>MERIP</i> (2014), http://www.merip.org/palestine-israel_primer/intro-pal-isr-primer.html</p> <p>2) Rashid Khalidi, <i>The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood</i> (Boston, Beacon Press, 2006), Introduction, Chapters 4 and 6.</p> <p>3) Benny Morris, <i>The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited</i> (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004), Introduction and Conclusion.</p>
March 31	<p>The U.S. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan</p> <p>1) Cleveland and Bunton, <i>A History of the Modern Middle East</i>, Chapters 22 and 25.</p> <p>2) Council on Foreign Relations-U.S. War in Afghanistan http://www.cfr.org/afghanistan/us-war-afghanistan/p20018</p> <p>3) Graeme Wood, "What ISIS Really Wants," The Atlantic, February 2015.</p> <p>4) Graeme Wood, "'What ISIS Really Wants:' The Response," The Atlantic, February 24, 2015.</p> <p>5) Sohaira Siddiqui, "Beyond Authenticity: ISIS and the Islamic Legal Tradition," Jadaliyya.</p>
April 7	Riverbend, <i>Baghdad Burning</i> , entire.
April 14 and 21	Peer reviews