

## HIS 355: MODERN MIDDLE EAST SPRING 2016

**Instructor:** William Wood

**Office:** Colt 113

**Phone:** 849-2689 (office)

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**Hours:** Generally, between 2:30 and 5:00, M-F (or anytime you can catch me)

### Course Objectives

In this course we will explore the history of the Middle East since 1800. While “Middle East” can be defined in a number of different ways, for our purposes we will consider our geographical boundaries to extend from Turkey in the north to the Arabian Peninsula in the south, and from Egypt in the west to Iran in the east. Not a day goes by without news reports concerning events in this part of the world and their potential impact on our lives. To understand what we see and hear in the media, we need to have a better grasp of the historical background to the many difficult issues which plague the region. You will attempt to accomplish this task (or at least begin the process) in this semester by studying in detail the historical processes which shaped the region, reflecting on various presentations of Middle Eastern events, and exploring in depth at least one of the disputed issues in the modern Middle East.

### Texts

Cleveland, William L. and Martin Bunton. *A History of the Modern Middle East*. Fifth Edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2013.

Clancy-Smith, Julia, and Charles D. Smith. *The Modern Middle East and North Africa: A History in Documents*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

\*Wright, Lawrence. *Thirteen Days in September: The Dramatic Story of the Struggle for Peace*. New York: Vintage Books, 2014.

### Assignments and Expectations

1. Regular (as in every class) attendance is expected. Poor attendance and lack of participation in discussions will adversely affect your grade (up to one full letter grade).
2. There will be two major exams: a mid-term and a final. Both exams will be a mixture of short answers and essay questions.
3. Numerous quizzes will be given covering names, dates, terms, geography, etc. These may be weekly, they may be both announced and unannounced, and they may be drawn from term sheets handed out in class, your assigned readings, or other sources (including the New York Times!). There will definitely be a map quiz.
4. All students will keep a “journal” during this semester in which you will both summarize and reflect on materials related to your assigned topic which you encounter in various formats. More details on this assignment will be given separately.
5. All students will submit a 3-4 page reflection paper on the Wright book as part of your “journal” assignment. More details later.

6. The final meetings of the semester will be devoted to in class presentations by students. These will consist of 10-15 minute presentations where you will present a particular perspective on an issue which is currently (or has recently) impacted the Middle East. In addition to your oral presentation, you will turn in to me a 7-10 page annotated bibliography and summary of the sources you used to put together your presentation. This will be due on the day you make your presentation.

7. Now, what you really want to know: how your grade will be calculated. Approximately as follows:

-Mid-term	20 %
-Final exam	20 %
-Quizzes	5 %
-Journal	20 %
-Wright paper	5 %
-Presentation/Annotated Bibliography	20 %
-Participation	10 %

### Course Calendar

Week 1	1/14	Introduction & setting (Cleveland, 1-33)
Week 2	1/19 1/21	The Ottomans and Safavids (Cleveland, 34-52) The 19 <sup>th</sup> century & European penetration (Cleveland, 53-74)
Week 3	1/26 1/28	Reforms in the Ottoman Empire and Egypt (Cleveland, 75-94) Egypt and Iran in the late 19 <sup>th</sup> c. (Cleveland, 95-108)
Week 4	2/2 2/4	The Response of Islamic Society (Cleveland, 109-121) Young Turks and Iranian Constitutionalists (Cleveland, 122-136)
Week 5	2/9 2/11	The end of the Ottoman world order (Cleveland, 137-158) Authoritarian Reform in Turkey and Iran (Cleveland, 159-178)
Week 6	2/16 2/18	The Arab Struggle for independence I (Cleveland, 179-200) The Arab Struggle for independence II (Cleveland, 201-220)
Week 7	2/23 2/25	Birth of Israel (Cleveland, 221-251) Turkey and Iran after World War II (Cleveland, 253-279)
Week 8	3/1 3/3	(catch-up and review?) <b>Mid-term Exam</b>
Week 9	3/15 3/17	Egypt under Nasser (Cleveland, 280-300) Radicalization of Arab politics (Cleveland, 301-321)
Week 10	3/22	Israel and the Palestinians (Cleveland, 322-343)

Week 11	3/29 3/31	The Arab States after 1970 (Cleveland, 369-413) Authoritarian rule in Syria and Iraq (Cleveland, 414-437)
Week 12	4/5 4/7	The Iranian revolution & resurgent Islam (Cleveland, 345-368) Palestinian intifada and the 1991 Gulf War (Cleveland, 439-462)
Week 13	4/12 4/14	Palestine and Israel since 1991 (Cleveland, 463-486) Continuity and Change in recent history (Cleveland, 487-504)
Week 14	4/19 4/21	9/11 and the U.S. in the Middle East (Cleveland, 505-521) The Arab Spring 2011 (Cleveland, 522-540)
Week 15	4/26 4/28	Student Presentations Student Presentations

**Final Exam:** Tuesday, May 3, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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Week 1	1/14	Introduction & setting (Cleveland, chapters 1 & 2)
Week 2	1/19-21	The Ottomans and Safavids (Cleveland, chapter 3)
Week 3	1/26-28	The 19 <sup>th</sup> century & European penetration (Cleveland, chps. 4 & 5)
Week 4	2/2-2/4	The Response of Islamic Society (Cleveland, chapters 6 & 7)
Week 5	2/9-11	The end of the Ottoman world order (Cleveland, chapters 8 & 9)
Week 6	2/16-18	Turkey and Iran (Cleveland, chapter 10)
Week 7	2/23-25	The Arab struggle for independence (Cleveland, chapters 11 & 12)
Week 8	3/1 3/3	Birth of Israel (Cleveland, chapter 13) <b>Mid-term Exam</b>
Week 9	3/15-17	Post-war Middle East (Cleveland, chapters 14 & 15)
Week 10	3/22	1967 War and after (Cleveland, chapters 16 & 17)
Week 11	3/29-31	The Arab States after 1970 (Cleveland, chapters 19 & 21)
Week 12	4/5-7	The Iranian revolution & resurgent Islam (Cleveland, chp 18 & 20)
Week 13	4/12-14	Palestine and Israel since 1990 (Cleveland, chp 22-23)
Week 14	4/19-21	Continuity and Change in recent history (Cleveland, chp. 24-25)
Week 15	4/26-28	Student Presentations

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