

HISTORY 295
FALL 2011

GRINNELL COLLEGE
CALEB ELFENBEIN

HISTORY OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

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OFFICE HOURS: MON & WED, 10-12

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course charts the emergence of the modern Middle East during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The political history of the states that constitute the Middle East is an essential part of this story. But the story of the modern Middle East is about much more than that. It is about the transformation of frameworks through which individuals and communities experience and make sense of the world around them. For our purposes, this includes history, conceptions of community, economic activity, and religion. We will guide our exploration of these broad themes with a set of more pointed questions: How did the nation (and national citizenship) become an organizing principle for collective life? How did capitalism take root? How and why did secularism become a question of urgent concern? How and for whom did modernity itself become an issue of very self-conscious concern? In answering these questions, we will explore the contestations, negotiations, and exclusions that characterize the emergence of modern forms of government in the Middle East, thus gaining insight into many of the most pressing issues in the region today.

COURSE TEXTS AND LEARNING GOALS:

Elliott Colla, *Conflicted Antiquities*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.

James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Robert Tignor and Shmuel Moreh, *Al-Jabarti's Chronicle of the French Occupation*. New York: Marcus Wiener, 2005.

Keith Watenpugh, *Being Modern in the Middle East: Revolution, Nationalism, Colonialism, and the Arab Middle Class*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006.

These texts form the backbone of our course, but throughout the semester we will be working with relevant primary documents whenever possible. The Al-Jabarti aside, these secondary sources (along with those on reserve) are scholarly treatments of general themes or particular elements of the history of the modern Middle East. As you complete the reading for each secondary text, please always read for argument. You can do so with a few questions in mind:

- Can you identify a sentence or sentences that constitute the thesis statement?
- Can you state the author's thesis – even regarding a single chapter or article – succinctly in your own words?
- If part of a larger work, how does a particular chapter fit into the bigger picture? If a stand-alone piece, can you relate this reading to another that we have completed in the course?
- Can you identify at least two examples the author uses to support their argument?
- How is the author defining (implicitly or explicitly) “modern?” How does this affect the author's argument and analysis?

As you read the primary documents with which we will work, please keep the following questions in mind:

- Who is writing? What do you think was their purpose in so doing?
- What is the larger relevant context? (Beware of anachronistic analysis!)
- What is the author's relative position of power in the context of the document's production?
- How does this document support or call into question claims made by the authors of our secondary sources?

From a skill-building perspective, then, **the first and second learning goals** of this course are (1) reading scholarly sources for argument and presenting that argument and exemplary evidence in succinct terms and (2) cultivating the ability to offer contextually sensitive readings of primary source documents.

COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

The success of this course ultimately depends on two things (in no particular order). First, that I fulfill my responsibilities. As I hope you see in the course outline below, I have assembled a combination of primary and secondary texts through which we will explore the issues that form the core themes of our course. This is the first part of my responsibility. The other rests in being prepared for class, which to my mind consists of having both a direction in mind *and* an openness to exploring questions I had not considered.

Second, the success of the course requires that you fulfill your responsibilities. This means that you come to class regularly and that you are prepared to participate in course discussion of both primary and secondary readings. I reserve the right to employ the Socratic method in class to remind you of your responsibilities.

Participation: 20%

As the weighty percentage indicates, I consider your participation in this course to be an essential component of its success. Participation includes regular attendance. In this vein, anything beyond two unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your participation grade. (I realize that things come up – the key to managing your various responsibilities is open communication.) Chronic tardiness will not help your cause, either. However, participation includes much more than attendance. Your participation grade is a reflection of your *engagement* with the course. I understand that not everyone chooses to speak in each class, but there are lots of other ways to show engagement: Make eye contact during lecture. When I request that you post to the course site, do so thoughtfully and punctually. Come by office hours now and then – even if you don't have a particular agenda. Be sure to proof-read and edit your written work carefully – the quality of your efforts in this regard plays a role in your participation grade, too.

Map Quiz: 10%

Short Essays and Peer Review: 20%

This assignment will come in two parts. The first part will introduce you to working with primary documents. In three-to-four pages you will be responsible for offering a cogent description of the document as a whole as well as analysis of specific issues I will raise in the prompt.

The second part of the assignment, which will serve as a course mid-term of sorts, will introduce a comparative component. You will build on your description and analysis of the first primary source by considering a second primary source from approximately 100 years later. To compare these documents thoroughly, you will need to (1) introduce some historical context and (2) craft an argument about the relationship between the two documents. We will talk more about this as the semester progresses, but in general terms at this point in the assignment your thesis statement should consist of an *argument*. At four-to-five pages in length, this essay requires you to draw from part one (though *not* via copy and paste). Together, crafting a thesis statement in which you make a disputable claim (and lay out a map of how you intend to support your claim) and learning how to revise effectively constitute **the third learning goal** of our course together.

I will distribute essay prompts at least one week prior to due date. In all cases, unless otherwise noted, you are to use normal margins, 12-point font, and double spacing. In-text (parenthetical, with author and page number) citation is acceptable when accompanied by a works cited page. Please include a minimal header – your name, the course name and, if you choose, a title. All papers should be double-sided and should have page numbers.

Primary Document Exercise: 10%

Scheduled for mid-November, this assignment will require you to select three primary documents about a given matter from the same archival material you will use in your map/chronology assignment. Once you have selected particular documents, you will write three pages in which you discuss the documents and explain their relevance/importance in our course.

Annotated Bibliography: 10%

The annotated bibliography constitutes an essential component of your preparation for your final projects. You will be working with Catherine Rod, the consulting librarian for history, on assembling sources for your bibliography. I will provide more details about the annotated bibliography in due time.

Map and Chronology Assignments: 15%

You will be responsible for creating and maintaining a map and chronology that measures change over time in various ways. If you update your maps and chronologies regularly, then this assignment will not be a burden. In fact, steady work will be a way to review as we move along in the course. If you leave these assignments until the last minute before the two deadlines, you will find yourself frustrated and will submit shoddy work. Beyond its value as an important tool for keeping little details straight within a bigger picture, this assignment challenges you to manage your time.

Final Paper: 15%

The final paper will require you to draw from class resources as well as from resources that you identify during a research process. The final paper will be 12-15 pp.

Please note below that there are a lot of components that contribute to your final grade. None of the assignments are particularly long, though most weeks you will be working on one kind of assignment or another. (I have tried to be sensitive to the rhythms of the semester, clearing space in weeks that are particularly busy for everyone.) Given the steady nature of written work in the class, it is *essential* to plan your time well. If time management is a challenge for you, I encourage you to seek out the advising office. You can find them at <http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/studentaffairs/acadadvising>

Course Policies:

- I will return your e-mail within 24 hours whenever possible. If you have questions about finding material, etc., you can always check with a colleague first (to likely receive a more immediate response).

- I will accept *only* hard copies of written work (unless otherwise noted). All work is due in class. I do not want to hear excuses about printing problems. You are responsible for planning your time in such a way that you can turn your work in on time.
- Know that I am pre-disposed to saying no to requests for extensions. I provide plenty of notice for each of the assignments – it is your responsibility to plan your time accordingly. That said, please do not be shy about approaching me for an extension if you have extenuating circumstances. It is essential to keep lines of communication open.
- If I suspect that you are using computers in class for anything other than note taking or document viewing, you will lose your computer privileges for the remainder of the semester. (If I suspect that you are texting in class I will ask that you leave your phone with me at the start of each class. Cell phones should be set on silent.)
- If you are involved in an extra-curricular activity that will take you away from campus be sure to let me know beforehand. Regardless of the reason (except for dire family emergency, hospitalization), if I do not hear from you *before* you miss class I will assume you are simply skipping class. An after-the-fact note from Health Services will not suffice.
- Breaches of academic integrity will result in an official disciplinary process guided by the Dean’s office. Although I will inform you of any action I take, I will not negotiate with you privately about such matters. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism I suggest you consult the Student Handbook immediately.
- It is essential to me that everyone in the class has the same opportunity to thrive. Please let me know of any particular learning needs you have (assuming they are on file with the college) and we will work together to make sure that you get the most out this learning experience.

COURSE SCHEDULE

August 25: History of the Modern Middle East?

- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, “Advent of the Modern Age,” pp. 9-59.

BACKGROUND, ENCOUNTERS

August 30: Ottoman Empire

- **Map Quiz**
- Daniel Goffman, “The Ottoman Empire” (R).

- “Draft Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the Ottoman Empire and France, February 1535,” Gelvin, pp. 60-61.

September 1: Reading community in *Al-Jabarti’s Chronicle*

- Al-Jabarti, Intro and 1-61.
- Class exercise: What do we do when we read primary sources?

September 6: Al-Jabarti continued

- Al-Jabarti, 62-118.
- Class exercise: Mapping the Emergence of the Modern Middle East.

BECOMING MODERN? CLASS, ECONOMY, AND NATIONALISM

September 8: Becoming Modern?

- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 69-99.
 - “Hatt-i Sharif (1839)” and “Islahat Fermani (1856),” pp. 148-153.
 - Lord Cromer, *Modern Egypt* (selections on pweb).

September 13: Becoming Modern (cont.)?

- **Al-Jabarti treatment due.**
- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 111-131.
- August Comte, *Introduction to Positive Philosophy*, pp. vii-xii and 1-35 (pweb).

September 15: Economy and Class

- Timothy Mitchell, *Rule of Experts*, pp. 1-18, 54-79.
 - Amin, “Economic Change under Muhammad ‘Ali” (pweb).
 - Amin, “Observing Muhammad ‘Ali Paşa” (pweb).

September 20: Economy and Class (cont.)

- Zachary Lockman, “Imagining the Working Class” (R).
 - Amin, “Tahtawi and Justice” (pweb).

September 23: Economy and Class (cont.)

- Keith Watenpaugh, *Being Modern in the Middle East*, pp. 1-54.
 - “Commercial Convention,” Gelvin, pp. 147-148.

September 27: Economy and Class (cont.)

- Keith Watenpaugh, *Being Modern in the Middle East*, pp. 55-94.
 - “Young Turk Proclamation, 1908” (pweb).

September 29: Economy and Class (cont.)

- Keith Watenpaugh, *Being Modern in the Middle East*, pp. 95-120.

October 4: Emergent Nationalism

- Elliot Colla, *Conflicted Antiquities*, pp. 1-15, 72-115.

October 6: Emergent Nationalism (cont.)

- Elliot Colla, *Conflicted Antiquities*, pp. 121-171.
 - Lord Cromer’s Farewell Speech (pweb).
- Distribute mid-term assignment prompt: Mustafa Kamil, “What the National Party Wants” (pweb).

DELIMITATION OF THE MODERN NATIONAL STATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

October 11: National State Formation

- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 171-174, 197-205.
- Arkarli, "The Tangled Ends of an Empire and Its Sultan" (R).

October 13: National State Formation (cont.)

- **Mid-term assignment due**
- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 171-185.
 - Sykes-Picot (pweb).
 - Treaty of Sèvres (pweb).
 - British Mandate, League of Nations (pweb).

October 25: National State Formation (cont.)

- Keith Watenpaugh, *Being Modern in the Middle East*, pp. 121-173

October 27: National State Formation: Israel/Palestine (cont.)

- **Map and chronology assignment due**
- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 206-214.
 - Herzl, "A Solution to the Jewish Question," p. 217.
 - Balfour Declaration, p. 218.

November 1: National State Formation (cont.)

- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 186-196.
- Elliot Colla, *Conflicted Antiquities*, pp. 172-216, 227-233.

November 3: Religion and National Life

- James Gelvin, "Secularism and Religion in the Arab Middle East" (R).

- Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen, *Defining Islam for the Egyptian State* (R).
 - Muhammad Abduh, *Theology of Unity*, in Gelvin, pp. 161-162.
 - Muhammad Abduh, “Necessity of Religious Reform” (R).

November 8: Religion and National Life (cont.)

- Andrew Davison and Taha Parla, “Secularism and Laicism in Turkey” (R).
 - Ataturk’s Dissolution of the Caliphate (pweb).

November 10: Religion and National Life (cont.)

- Hasan al-Banna, “Our Mission” in *Five Tracts* (R).
 - Amin, “Toward an Effective Reform” (pweb).
- Ali abd al-Raziq, “The Caliphate and the Bases of Power” (R).
 - Archival materials on dismissal of Ali abd al-Raziq (pweb).

THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST?

November 15: Nationalism

- **Primary Source Exercise Due**
- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 223-246.
- Elliott Colla, *Conflicted Antiquities*, pp. 234-249.
 - Mahfouz, “Mummy Awakens” (R).

November 17: Nationalism (cont.) – Workshop

- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 271-281.
- Primary Sources on Pan-Arabism, Arab Nationalism, and Israel
 - Amin, “Egypt’s Liberation” (pweb).

November 22: Religion and National Life

- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 294-303.
- Elliott Colla, *Conflicted Antiquities*, pp. 260-277.
 - Sayyid Qutb, *Milestones* and *In the Shade of the Qur'an* (pweb).

November 29: Religion and National Life (cont.)

- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 282-293.
- Khomeini, Introduction to “Islamic Government” (R).
 - Ayatollah Montazari’s Fatwa on Legitimacy of Supreme Leader (pweb).

December 1: The Middle East and Global Capitalism

- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 247-256.
- Timothy Mitchell, “McJihad” (R).

December 6: Iraq in **Contexts**

- **Final maps and chronology due**
- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 257-270.
- Walker, “The Making of Modern Iraq” (R).
- Visser, “Other People’s Maps” (R).

December 8: Wrap-Up