

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Course Title | : HISTORY OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST |
| Course Code | : HST2263 |
| No. of Credits/Term | : 3 |
| Mode of Tuition | : Sectional |
| Class Contact Hours | : 3 hours per week |
| Category in Major Prog. | : Elective |
| Pre-requisites | : None |
| Co-requisites | : None |
| Exclusions | : None |

Brief Course Description

This course will introduce students to the modern history of the Middle East. The class will take a thematic approach and place Middle Eastern history within a framework to discuss the rise and fall of empires, the presence of colonialism, the emergence of nationalism, the importance of oil and the development of Islamism. With the intention of making connections between local concerns and global issues, the course will also focus on particular places in the region such as Egypt, Iran and Israel/Palestine.

Aims

The objective of this course will be to give students a fundamental understanding of modern Middle Eastern history, while also placing developments in the region within a global context.

Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Recall, describe, discuss and explain the major global and local forces that have influenced the direction of modern Middle Eastern history;
2. Synthesize information from various sources in order to construct, and evaluate, complex arguments;
3. Present and articulate arguments orally;
4. Analyze different sources of information within their political and cultural contexts;
5. Write effective analytical papers;
6. Connect current political and economic developments in the Middle East with their historical background.

Indicative Content

- 1) The Rise of Islam
 - A) Muhammad and the 7th-century Middle East
 - B) The Rise of Arab Empires
 - C) The Internationalization of Islam

- 2) Gunpowder Empires
 - A) The Characteristics of an Empire
 - B) The Ottomans
 - C) The Safavids
- 3) Ottoman Decline
 - A) Theories of Decline
 - B) Decentralization
 - C) European Economic Penetration
- 4) The Eve of Modernity
 - A) Napoleon in Egypt
 - B) Religious Revivalism in Arabia
 - C) Muhammad Ali and Emergence of New Types of Political Organization
- 5) The Stirrings of Nationalism
 - A) The Idea of a National Identity
 - B) Ottoman Reforms
 - C) European Dominance
- 6) World War and its Aftermath
 - A) The End of the Empire
 - B) Carving up the Region
 - C) New Nation-states
- 7) The Question of Palestine
 - A) The People of Palestine
 - B) Zionism
 - C) British intentions
 - D) The Creation of Israel
- 8) The Importance of Oil
 - A) Oil's global significance
 - B) The Saudi connection
 - C) OPEC
- 9) Independence
 - A) Secularism and Socialism
 - B) The Non-Aligned Movement
 - C) The Place of Islam
 - D) The Role of the United States
 - E) The Cold War
- 10) War and revolution
 - A) Israel and the Consequences of 1967 and 1973
 - B) The Iranian Revolution

- C) The Iran/ Iraq War

11) After the Cold War

- A) Iraq in Kuwait
- B) The Taliban in Afghanistan
- C) The US Invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan

12) Revolutions and State Collapse

- A) Revolutions and Repressions in the Arab States
- B) State Collapse in Libya and Syria
- C) The “Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant”
- D) Erdoğan’s Turkey

Teaching Method

Lectures will be designed to give students a basic background in Middle Eastern history. Primary source readings, methodological issues and comparative approaches will be discussed in class.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- (a) The final examination will assess the degree of understanding of basic facts, timeline and terminology in the history of the Middle East (L.O. 1. above)
- (b) Participatory and structured discussions will assess the ability in synthesizing information, in evaluating arguments found in the literature (L.O. 2. above) and in presenting them orally (L.O. 3. above).
- (c) The final paper will assess students’ ability in analyzing primary and secondary sources, and using them in their own analytical arguments (L.O. 4. and L.O. 5. above);
- (d) Both the final paper and the examination will assess the ability of connecting historical issues and the evolution of specific institutions with current developments in the Middle East (L.O. 6. above).

Assessment

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Final Paper | 25% |
| Readings presentations and discussion | 25% |
| Class Participation | 10% |
| Examination: | 40% |

Required Reading

Cleveland, William, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, Boulder: Westview Press, 2000.

Supplementary Readings

- Burke, Edmund, *Re-thinking World History: Essays on Europe, Islam, and World History*, Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Gelvin, James, *The Modern History of the Middle East*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Halliday, Fred, *Islam and the Myth of Confrontation: Religion and Politics in the Middle East*, London: I.B. Taurus, 1996.
- Hourani, Albert, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age*, Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1983.
- Hourani, Albert, Houry, Philip, et al., eds., *The Modern Middle East: A Reader*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.
- Jankowski, James and Gershoni, Israel, eds., *Rethinking Nationalism in the Arab Middle East*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1997.
- Ibrahim, Sonollah, *The Committee: A Novel*, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2001.
- Keyder, Çağlar, *State and Class in Turkey: A Study in Capitalist Development*, London: Verso, 1987.
- Lewis, Bernard, *The Emergence of Modern Turkey*, 3rd ed., New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Malley, Robert, *The Call for Algeria: Third Worldism, Revolution and the Turn to Islam*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996.
- Nafisi, Azar, *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*, New York: Random House, 2003.
- Owen, Roger, *The Middle East in the World Economy: 1800-1914*, London: Methuen, 1981.
- Smith, Charles, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict*, 5th ed., Boston: St. Martin's Press, 2004.
- Yergin, Daniel, *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power*, New York: Touchstone, 1993.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.