

Spring 2010  
UCDC

## HISTORY OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

**Instructor:** Nancy Gallagher

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*6-9 pm Rm. 314*

Course description: This course surveys the political, social, cultural, and economic history of the Middle East from the early twentieth century to the present. We begin with World War I, the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, and the resulting conflicted and often arbitrary map. We then compare the reforms carried out in Turkey and Iran. The many meanings of Arab nationalism are explored the following week. Next we turn to the Israel-Palestine conflict with a focus on the occupied territories and how to understand the current impasse. We then discuss the political, social and cultural transformations in modern Egypt. Next we discuss Muslim activism and Muslim radicalism. We will study the politics of oil through the history of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. We then study the on-going war in Iraq and its impact on women and gender, the environment, and archeological study. We conclude the course with a discussion of the Great Game and local realities in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The course will include varied but always accessible readings, weekly presentations and discussions of films, and writing assignments. Your experiences in the UCDC program should inform your approach to the readings and discussions.

### BOOKS TO PURCHASE:

Alaa al-Aswany, The Yacoubian Building, 2006.

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, A History of the Modern Middle East, 2009.

Juan Cole, Engaging the Muslim World, 2009.

Noushin Ahmadi Khorasani, Iranian Women's One Million Signatures Campaign for Equality: The Inside Story, 2010.

BOOKS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE. I WILL HAVE COPIES OF KHORASANI BROUGHT TO THE CENTER FOR PURCHASE.

FIELD TRIPS TBA

LECTURE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNED READINGS:

1. Tuesday, March 23 The Great Transformation: From the great Muslim Empires to the Era of Western imperialism.

Syllabus  
Introductions  
Historical background

Film: *Ottoman Empire*

2. Tuesday, March 30 Rise of Modern Turkey and Iran; the struggle against Imperial rule

Submit a 2 page commentary and lead discussion on one of the following (10 points):

- What does Juan Cole mean by “Islam Anxiety?” (Cole, chapter 1)  
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- How did Islamic societies respond to domination by the states of Western Europe? (Cleveland, chapter 7). \_\_\_\_\_
- What did the Young Turks and the Iranian Constitutionalists hope to accomplish? (Cleveland, chapter 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- Explain the pledges and counterpledges of World War I (Cleveland, chapter 9)  
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- Compare the motives of Ataturk and Reza Shah (Cleveland, chapter 10)  
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Film: *Ataturk*

3. Tuesday, April 6 Arab Nationalism; struggle for Palestine

Write a 2 page commentary and lead discussion on the following topics (10 points):

- Explain the three way struggle for power in Egypt (Cleveland, chapter 11)  
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- Why was Iraq “invented”? (Cleveland, chapter 11). \_\_\_\_\_
- How and why was Lebanon’s confessional system instituted? (Cleveland, chapter 12)  
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- Explain the goals of revisionist Zionism (Cleveland, chapter 13).

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Film: *Umm Kulthum Voice Like Egypt*

4. Tuesday, April 13 Postwar World War II upheavals in Turkey, Iran, and Egypt

Write a 2 page summary and lead discussion on one of the following topics (10 points):

- Why did the military repeatedly intervene in Turkish politics? (Cleveland, chapter 14)

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- What was the role of the CIA in the Mosaddiq crisis? (Cleveland, chapter 14).

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- Explain the Suez War of 1956 (Cleveland, chapter 15).

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Film: *Nasser 56*

5. Tuesday, April 20 Secular, Leftist, and Religious movements

Write a 2 page summary and lead discussion on one of the following topics (10 points):

- Explain the aftermath of the 1967 June War (Cleveland, chapter 16)

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- Describe the demographic changes in Israel (Cleveland, chapter 17)

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- What was the impact of the Palestinian Liberation Organization on Lebanese society? (Cleveland, chapter 18)

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Film: *Promises*

6. Tuesday, April 27 Military dictators and social breakdown

Write a 2 page commentary and lead discussion on one of the following (10 points):

- Explain the origin of the Muslim Brothers in Egyptian society (Cole, chapter 2).

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Explain the social tensions in Egyptian society through various characters such as Zaki Bey el-Dessouki, Taha el-Shazli, Busayna el-Sayed, Hatim Rasheed, and/or Hagg Muhammad Azzam (*Yacoubian Building*)

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Film: *Yacoubian Building*.

7. Tuesday May 4 The Politics of Oil

Write a 2 page commentary and lead discussion on one of the following (10 points):

- What does Cole mean by “The Wahhabi Myth” (Cole, chapter 3)
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- Why did the U.S. go to war in Iraq? (Cole, chapter 4)
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Film: *No End in Sight*

8. May 11 Understanding the War in Afghanistan

Write a 2 page commentary and lead discussion on one of the following (10 points):

- Explain the role of the Pakistani military in Afghanistan (Cole, chapter 5)
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- What should be done about poppy cultivation in Afghanistan? (Cole, chapter 5)

Film: *In this World*

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9. May 18 The Iranian Challenge

Write a 2 page commentary and lead discussion on one of the following (10 points):

Explain the origins of the conflict between the U.S and Iran (Cole, chapter 6, Cleveland, chapter 20)

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Can Iranian women make a difference? Explain the million signatures campaign. (Khorasani, pp. 11-97)

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Film: *Offside*

10. May 25 Conclusion: engaging the Middle East

Prepare final paper (4 pages) on how to engage the Middle East for presentation and submission (20 points) (Cleveland, chapters 23-25, Cole, Conclusion).