

## **The Making of the Modern Middle East: NEJS 185b**

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Class hours: M/T/TH (8:45-11:15AM)  
Classroom:  
Office hours: TBA

**Course Description:** The course will examine the concept of democracy in the Middle East. It will explore the way in which people make assumptions about power, authority, justice and freedom. It will investigate the nature of political power by examining the cultural and sociopolitical characteristics of the region. It will examine the central notions of individualism, collectivity, identity, loyalty and egalitarianism in shaping the political cultures in Israel, Turkey, Iran, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

### **Course Objective:**

This course will attempt to offer students a balanced, thorough picture of the Middle Eastern political scene.

It is difficult to understand a political system merely by studying its constitution or its government organization. History, cultural milieu, social structure, economic conditions, and other factors also effect political process and must be taken into account. The complexities of a political system are further deepened in the case of the Middle East, which is the birth place of human civilization and a center of cultural, political, and economic conflict.

Middle Eastern countries also differ in a variety of other ways. No two states have identical government structures. Each has its own tradition and its own political, religious, linguistic, and economic groupings. Some countries have meager resources; others are rich in oil.

As the region's political culture is strongly linked to its tradition and the past, the course will provide a brief introduction to the history, economic, culture, and the social structure of each of the countries listed on the course description and will analyze each state's political structure, domestic conditions, issues and policies and their effects on foreign policy.

**Course Format and Instruction Method:** There will be a combination of lectures, assigned readings, films, and discussion. All sessions will be conducted as informally as possible. I encourage you to break in at any time questions or contrasting perspectives arise. Analysis of current issues and events in the Middle East, particularly the idea and challenges that the traditional political systems and their leaders are facing today, are essential components of the course. Our objectives are to be able to identify the problems, being analytical, evaluate options for more democratic political systems in the region, make our own conclusions and argue logically with opposing views. As such, participation in class discussion is important. Your participation in class and in discussion will receive 20% of the final grade.

### **Requirements**

**Undergraduate students** are required to write a 10 to 12 page research paper (typed double-space) and has to be presented in class (in the last week of the session). A draft version of the first 4 pages of the paper should be submitted for review before the beginning of the third week and a draft version of the second 4 pages should be submitted in the beginning of the fourth week and the draft version of the last 4 pages should be submitted in the beginning of the fifth week. Students should be prepared to make revisions on the draft versions as suggested by the instructor. The topic of the paper can be on any event, issue and/or the role of individuals, groups and/or leaders in shaping and/or having a significant determinant upon the growth and character of political and/or radical Islam in the modern times (within a movement and/or a society in the Islamic world). A paper proposal (including a bibliography) is required and is due no later than the end of week 2 and the completed paper on the last class of the session.

**Graduate students** are required to write a 15 page paper (typed double-space and to be presented in class at the end of the session) and to submit for review a draft version of the first 5, second 5 and the third 5 pages in the beginning of the third, fourth and fifth week of the session. Sources used for the paper have to include primary one(s) as well. In addition, graduate students are required to review and write a summary (3 pages) of a book which should be related to the subject of the course but not one of sources for the paper.

The research paper should utilize appropriate style recommendations, including footnotes/endnotes and bibliography. For this purpose, please see Susan Hubbuch's Writing Research Papers Across the Curriculum, (Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers (1996) or Diana Hacker's The Bedford Handbook, (5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 1998) (both available at the Reference Desk at the University's library) or any similar style manual.

Course grade will be based on the followings:

Mid-term.....	40%
Research Paper.....	40%
Class Participation.....	10%
Participation in Discussion....	10%

**Required Textbook:**

Cleveland, William L. "**A History of the Modern Middle East**", (Westview Press Inc., Boulder: 2003).

**Schedule and Readings:**

**Week 1 Introduction to the course.**

Required readings (A History of the Modern Middle East):

Chapter 1: The Rise and Expansion of Islam, PP. 4-19.

Chapter 2: The Development of the Islamic Civilization to the Fifteenth Century, PP. 20-38.

**From Abbasid to Ottoman and Safavid Empires**  
**The Rise and the Fall of the Ottoman and Safavid Empires**  
**European Imperialism, Ambition & Diplomacy in the Middle East**

Required readings (A History of the Modern Middle East):

Chapter 3: The Ottoman and Safavid Empires: A New Imperial Synthesis, PP. 40-55. Chapter 4: Forging a New Synthesis: The Pattern of Reforms, 1789-1849, PP. 62-79.

**Week 2 Iran**

**Qajar Dynasty (1794-1921)**

**Pahlavi Dynasty (1925-1979)**

**Islamic Republic (1979-present)**

Required readings (A History of the Modern Middle East):

Iran During the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century, PP. 108-114.

The Period of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, PP. 140-144.

Iran Under Reza Shah, PP. 182-187.

Turkey and Iran During World War II: Sovereignty and Occupation, PP. 187-188.

Iran: The Reestablishment of Royal Autocracy, PP. 279-291.

The Stages of Revolution in Iran, PP. 410-426.

The Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988), PP. 403-407.

**Research Paper Proposal Is Due**

**Week 3**      **Turkey**

**From The Ottoman's Tanzimat to the Constitution**  
**Impact of World War I upon the Ottoman Empire**  
**The Republic of Turkey (1923-present)**

Required readings (A History of the Modern Middle East):

The Tanzimat: Continued Ottomanosol Reform Under the Bureaucrats, PP. 81-89.  
Religious Assertiveness and Authoritarian Reform: The Era of Abdul Hamid II, PP. 117-120.  
The Revolt of 1908 and the Young Turks in Power, PP. 130-140.  
World War I and the End of the Ottoman Order, PP. 146-160.  
The Atatürk Era in Turkey, PP. 172-182.  
Turkey and Iran During World War II: Sovereignty and Occupation, PP. 187-188.  
Turkey: The Transition to a Multiparty System, PP. 269-277.  
Turkish Foreign Policy and the Cyprus Question, PP. 277-279.

***1<sup>st</sup> Draft of the Research Paper Is Due!***

***Mid-term Review***

***Mid-term Exam (Thursday)***

**Week 4**      **Egypt**

**From Mohammad Ali to Nasser (1805-1952)**  
**Republic of Egypt Under Nasser (1952-1970)**  
**Republic of Egypt Under Sadat and Mubarak (1970-present)**

Required readings (A History of the Modern Middle East):

Egypt During the Era of Civilian Reform, PP. 92-100.  
England on the Nile: The British Occupation of Egypt, 1882-1914, PP. 102-108.  
Struggle for Power in Egypt, PP. 190- 198.  
Egypt During World War II: Point of the British Defense System, PP. 199-201.  
The Middle East in the Age of Nasser: The Egyptian Base, PP. 293-312.  
Conclusion: The Nasser Era in Perspective, P. 328.  
Egypt Under Sadat: Domestic and Diplomatic realignments, PP. 363-372.  
The Case of Egypt, PP. 381-384.

**Iraq**

**Monarchy Era (1921-1958)**  
**Republic of Iraq (1958-present)**  
**Iraq After Saddam**

Required readings (A History of the Modern Middle East):

Iraq between the Wars, PP. 201-207.  
Iraq During World War II, PP. 207-209.  
Iraq: The End of the Monarchy, PP. 317-321.  
Iraq in the Era of Saddam Husyn and the Ba'ath, PP. 395-403.  
The Gulf Crisis of 1990-1991, PP. 463-472.  
The Aftermath of the Gulf War, PP. 472-480.

***Research Paper 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Is Due!***

**Week 5**      **Israel: Pre-1948 Palestine**  
**Israel After Independence (1948-present)**

Required readings (A History of the Modern Middle East):

The Palestine Mandate and the Birth of the State of Israel, PP. 233-263.  
Israel, Arab states, and the June 1967 War, PP. 328-333.  
The Israeli Political System and Political Culture, PP. 337-345  
The Election of 1977: Israel in Transition, PP. 345-346  
The Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990), PP 372-381.  
The Intifada from 1987 to 1991, PP. 458-463.  
The Road to the Oslo Peace Accords, PP. 384-494.  
The Unraveling of the Oslo Peace Process, PP. 494-499

**Lebanon:**  
**Lebanon Before and After the World War I**  
**Republic of Lebanon Since Independence (1941-present)**

Required readings (A History of the Modern Middle East):

The French Mandate in Syria and Lebanon, PP. 213-219.  
Lebanon Under the Mandate: The Establishment of Congressional Politics, PP. 219-222.  
Syria and Lebanon During World War II: The Troubled Path to Independence, PP. 222-225.  
Lebanon: The Precarious Sectarian Balance, PP. 323-328.  
The Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990), PP 372-381.

**The Middle East: Today and Future:**  
The America's Moment in the Middle East, PP. 500-504.  
Turkey and Iran: Nations at a Crossroad, PP. 504-513.  
The Persistence of Political Islam: The Example of Egypt, PP. 513-517.  
Expanding the Middle East: The Regional Reintegration of Central Asia and Transcaucasia, PP. 517-523.

**Research paper's Final Draft is due!**  
**Paper Presentation on the last class**