



# EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL  
and CONTINUING STUDIES

## **HIST 6600-224: Seminar in Middle Eastern History: The Modern Middle East**

### **Course Description:**

As the 'cradle of civilisation' located at the juncture of three continents, the Middle East is home to a wide range of cultures, religions, and ethnicities that make the region so interesting, yet so complex. This survey course will introduce students to the modern Middle East, beginning with the important changes of the Nineteenth Century and continuing through the period of European dominance into the age of independence and the contemporary Middle East. Throughout the course, we will examine various themes, especially the important and recurring force of religion. Some of the topics that we will cover include the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iranian Revolution, the Persian Gulf Wars, and radicalism, while placing them within the broader framework of the modern Middle East. We will conclude by addressing recent developments in the region and its outlook for the future.

### **Class Dates, Location and Hours:**

Dates: February 5 – 10, 2019

Location: Wiesbaden, Germany. See Site Director for classroom site.

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 7, 2019

### **Site Director:**

Email: [apwiesbaden@ou.edu](mailto:apwiesbaden@ou.edu). Phone: 0611-143-548-1309; DSN 548-1309.

### **Professor Contact Information:**

Course Professor: Dr. D. Gershon Lewental

Mailing Address: Department of International & Area Studies, University of Oklahoma  
729 Elm Avenue, Room 314  
Norman, Oklahoma 73019

Email Address: [lewental@ou.edu](mailto:lewental@ou.edu)

Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail before and after the class. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

### **Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:**

Student materials are available at the OU Bookstore Website at <https://ou.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php>. There is no longer a physical bookstore, the store will remain, but textbooks will not be stocked. The website has book selling, renting, buying, returning, and order tracking capabilities. If you need help with an order, or if you have any questions contact the toll-free phone at 1-(855)-790-6637, agents are available from 9a – 5p (EST) Monday – Friday. For more information or questions about textbooks, feel free to contact [apsyllabi@ou.edu](mailto:apsyllabi@ou.edu). Text prices are available online.

1. Cleveland, W.L. & Bunton, M. (2016). *A History of the modern Middle East* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boulder, CO: Westview Press. ISBN 9780813349800.

2. Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system: Access Canvas at <https://canvas.ou.edu>, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.

### **Course Objectives:**

This course represents a combination of a lecture and seminar approaches and individual participation in class dialogues is critical. Classes include a **discussion period** for conversation about required reading. Each student will have the opportunity to present a brief review of a text, after which he/she will lead a discussion. At the end of this course, it is hoped that students will have not only a better understanding of the Middle East, but have developed better research skills, practiced critical thinking and reading, and gained experience collecting and presenting information clearly.

### **Course Outline:**

A more detailed outline will be made available on the class website a month prior to the start of class.

#### **Sat 02 Feb**

- **Short essay due**

#### **Tue 05 Feb: Introduction to the modern Middle East**

- Introduction to the Middle East
- The Destruction of the Ottoman Empire

#### **Wed 06 Feb: The Great Powers and the interwar Middle East**

- Secular and modern reform in Turkey and Iran
- British and French rule in the Mandatory period

#### **Thu 07 Feb: Palestine from British Mandate to State of Israel**

- The Rise of Zionism and Arab nationalism
- The Emergence of the Mandate of Palestine
- Rising communal tensions and British responses
- The 1948 War

#### **Fri 08 Feb: The Rise and fall of Arab nationalism**

- Arab nationalism in Egypt and the Arab world
- The 1967 War and the decline of pan-Arabism

#### **Sat 09 Feb: Authoritarianism, war, protest, and change in the Middle East**

- **Final research paper proposal due**
- Iraq and Syria under Ba'ath authoritarianism
- Religion, the state, and the army in Turkey and Iran
- War and protest in the 1980s: Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Palestinians
- Israel and the Palestinians since the Oslo Accords
- Presentation of final research paper proposals

#### **Sun 10 Feb: Popular protest and the resurgence of religion**

- The Iranian Revolution and the resurgence of Islam
- Political & radical Islam: From Muslim Brethren to ISIS
- Challenges to political ideology in Turkey and Iran
- New and future challenges in the Middle East
- **Final exam**

## **Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

### **Readings:**

Given the brevity of this course, all students are expected to have **read all course readings in advance of the first class session** (and are encouraged to refresh their memories by looking over the specific readings for each day in advance).

### **Short Essay (20%)—due Saturday 02 February:**

Students will prepare an essay on an assigned topic, using only the class readings as sources (1500 words).

### **Discussion Article Presentation (10%):**

Students will prepare a brief (five-minute) summary of an assigned reading that highlights the author's core argument and will lead a class discussion about it.

### **In-class Final Exam (15%)—on Sunday 10 February**

Final examination on critical terms covered in the class.

### **Final Research Paper (30%)—due Sunday 24 February:**

Students will prepare a research proposal (**due Saturday 09 February**) for a research paper (about 4500 words, excluding bibliography and footnotes) on a topic of choice relating to the course based upon at least 12 academic secondary sources, of which at least 6 were not assigned as part of the class reading.

### **Class Participation/Attendance (25%):**

Participation does not mean 'showing up', it means taking an **active** part in the discussions. Listen to and respect your fellow interlocutors: under no circumstances will *ad hominem* attacks, swearing, or insults be permitted.

The key to good participation is doing the **required readings**. One textbook is required for purchase, supplemented by readings available electronically on the class Canvas website. Some classes will also include short texts from primary sources (any absence results in loss of entire participation grade; each additional absence drops the overall course grade by a letter-grade) and contribution to in-class/online discussions.

### **Assignment Due Dates and Submission:**

Assignments are due **at the start of class**. Late papers will be marked down by one letter grade for each day late (*e.g.*, an 'A' paper becomes a 'B', if one day late, and an 'F', if four days late). Assignments (except the final research paper) must be submitted **both in class and electronically** through Canvas (as an MS Word document, with your surname in the file name). Extensions for papers or incompletes will **not** be granted, except in cases of medical emergencies (with a physician's note); computer issues are not an excuse—always back up your files. Plan ahead so that you do not end up rushing to finish a paper at the last minute. **I am always willing to communicate with you** to clarify terms, explain readings, or work on your papers.

### **Extra Credit Response Papers:**

Each student has the opportunity to submit up to two extra credit response papers to current news articles on the Middle East. In order to receive credit, you must read an article from a credible news source and submit a one-page summary of your thoughts. You are also strongly encouraged to follow Middle East news during (and after!) the semester.

Some mainstream newspaper sources:

- *Yedi 'ot Aḥaronot* (Israel; centre): ynetnews.com
- *Haaretz* (Israel; left): haaretz.com
- *Jerusalem Post* (Israel; centre-right): jpost.co.il
- *The Daily Star* (Lebanon): dailystar.com.lb
- *ash-Sharq al-Awsat* (London): asharq-e.com
- *Jordan Times* (Jordan): jordantimes.com

- *al-Ahram Weekly* (Egypt): [weekly.ahram.org.eg](http://weekly.ahram.org.eg)
- *New York Times* (US; left): [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com)
- *Wall Street Journal* (US; financial; right): [wsj.com](http://wsj.com)
- *Christian Science Monitor* (US; centre): [csmonitor.com](http://csmonitor.com)

### On-Site Office Hours:

Students are **strongly** encouraged to attend **office hours** for help understanding course material and readings and with preparing the mid-term and research papers. Students who wish to discuss the final research paper **must** bring an outline or draft with them. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

### Class Behaviour:

Regarding **class behaviour**: it is important to consider your fellow classmates at all times—do not distract them or take away from their opportunity to learn. Proper behaviour includes arriving on time, turning off mobile phones, refraining from chatting with friends in class, and using professional and appropriate discourse. Respect your classmates and your professor by paying attention; do not use electronic devices, take naps, or engage in activities not relating to the class.

### Electronic Devices:

Please note that **electronic devices are not allowed** in my classroom, unless you have a medically-documented disability. Computers, tablets, and phones actually inhibit students’ learning, serving often as a distraction for them and others sitting nearby. Numerous studies have also demonstrated that information retention is higher when one writes notes by hand. (The only exception to this policy concerns class presentations in which students may use a computer, if so desired.)

### Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is taken very seriously. You may only submit your own original work and **must** cite any borrowed ideas, quotations, themes, *etc.* (Chicago Style is used). Plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade. Learn more at [integrity.ou.edu](http://integrity.ou.edu). Students in need of writing assistance are **strongly** encouraged to visit the Writing Centre ([ou.edu/writingcenter.html](http://ou.edu/writingcenter.html)).

Although I have strived to ensure the syllabus’ accuracy, it may include mistakes and I may make **changes** to readings or to dates of assignments. I will announce changes in class and by e-mail.

### Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Course grades will be assigned on the basis of several elements:

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Grade
Short Essay	<b>Saturday 02 February 2019</b>	20%
Discussion Article Presentation	During class sessions	10%
Research Paper Proposal	Saturday 09 February	NA
Class Participation/Attendance	During class sessions	25%
Final Exam	<b>Sunday 10 February</b>	15%
Research Paper	<b>Sunday 24 February</b>	30%

This division of factors aims to give all students a fair chance at a good grade by avoiding too much emphasis on one examination method. Nevertheless, a large share of the grade (25%) derives from participation and the discussion presentation, so you **must** attend and participate in class to get a good grade. The basis to good participation is reading assigned texts, so come prepared to each class!

**Notice:** Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

## **POLICIES AND NOTICES**

### **Attendance/Grade Policy**

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended making the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

### **Academic Integrity and Student Conduct**

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at [http://integrity.ou.edu/students\\_guide.html](http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html)

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

### **Accommodation Statement**

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

### **Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues**

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

### **Title IX Resources**

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at [smo@ou.edu](mailto:smo@ou.edu) or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

### **Course Policies**

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

**INSTRUCTOR VITA**  
**D Gershon Lewental, Ph.D.**

**Education**

- 2011: Brandeis University, PhD in Islamic and Middle Eastern history.
- 2003: Cornell University, AB *magna cum laude* in Near Eastern Studies and Economics, with a minor in International Relations.

**Current Positions**

- Assistant professor, Department of Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies, Shalem College, Jerusalem.
- Adjunct professor, Department of International & Area Studies, University of Oklahoma, 2018–present.
- Visiting assistant professor, Departments of History and International & Area Studies, University of Oklahoma, 2012–2018.
- Associate editor, *Journal of Persianate Studies*, 2016–present.

**Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses**

- HIST 6600: Seminar in Middle Eastern history—Religion and Society
- HIST 6600: Seminar in Middle Eastern history—The Modern Middle East

**Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest**

- Islamic history and historiography
- Iranian history
- Israeli society; history and memory
- Nationalism studies
- The Baha’i faith

**Representative Publications and Presentations**

- ‘The Death of Rostam: Literary representations of Iranian identity in early Islam’. *Iranian Studies* 50.2 (March 2017), 223-245 (doi: 10.1080/00210862.2016.1248813).
- “‘Saddam’s Qādisiyyah’”: Religion and history in the service of state ideology in Ba‘thi Iraq’. *Middle Eastern Studies* 50.6 (November 2014), 891-910 (doi: 10.1080/00263206.2013.870899).
- *Encyclopædia Iranica* (2013): peer-reviewed entries on ‘The Battle of Qādesīya’ and ‘Rostam Farrokhzād’.
- *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World* (Brill, 2010): over 70 peer-reviewed entries on Jewish press, rabbis, and diplomats, and long entries on Ottoman Jewry (1650–1835), diplomacy, and Bulgarian Jewry.

**Representative Honors and Awards Received**

- 2012: Foundation of Iranian Studies Best PhD Dissertation Award
- 2012: Brandeis University Nahum & Anne Glatzer Endowed Dissertation Prize
- 2010: Brandeis University Redstone Dissertation Year Fellowship
- 2009: US Dept of State Critical Language Scholarship for Intensive Persian Study (Dushanbe, Tajikistan)
- 2009: Mellon Dissertation Research Grant
- 2005: Brandeis University Graduate School Outstanding Teaching Prize

**Major Professional Affiliations**

- Association for Iranian Studies (ISIS)
- American Oriental Society (AOS)
- Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
- Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)
- Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA)
- Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)