

HIST 6600-103: 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: October 23 – 29 2017

Location: Washington, D.C. Liaison Office - 2189 Crystal Plaza Arcade, Arlington, VA, 22202.

Hours: Monday - Friday 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: September 24, 2017

Site Director:

Email: apwashington@ou.edu. Phone: 703-418-4800.

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

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 Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at <http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home> is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fhg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

1. Cleveland, W.L. & Bunton, M. (2016). *A History of the modern Middle East* (6th 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.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

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.

Monday, October 23 – Introduction to the modern Middle East

- **Short Essay Due**
- Introduction to the Middle East
- The Destruction of the Ottoman Empire

Tuesday, October 24 - The Great Powers and the interwar Middle East

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

Wednesday, October 25 - 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

Thursday, October 26 - The Rise and fall of Arab nationalism

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

Friday, October 27 - Authoritarianism and army in Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and Iran

Iraq and Syria under Ba'ath authoritarianism
Religion, the state, and the army in Turkey and Iran

Saturday, October 28 - The Resurgence of religion and popular protest

- **Final research paper proposal due**
- The Iranian Revolution and the resurgence of Islam
- War and protest in the 1980s: Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Palestinians
- Israel and the Palestinians since the Oslo Accords
- Political & radical Islam: From Muslim Brethren to ISIS
- Presentation of final research paper proposals

Sunday, October 29 - Whither the Middle East?

- **Final exam**
- Challenges to political ideology in Turkey and Iran
- New and future challenges in the Middle East

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 Monday, October 23:

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%) – Due October 29:

Final examination on critical terms covered in the class.

Final Research Paper (30%):

Students will prepare a research proposal (**due Saturday, October 28**) for a research paper (about 10 pages, excluding bibliography) on a topic of choice relating to the course and making use of literature (at least 6 sources) not assigned as part of the class reading. **Due Sunday, November 12, 2017.**

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 Aharonot (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
- New York Times (US; left): nytimes.com
- Wall Street Journal (US; financial; right): wsj.com
- Christian Science Monitor (US; centre): 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. Students in need of writing assistance are **strongly** encouraged to visit the Writing Centre (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	October 23, 2017	20%
Discussion Article Presentation	During class sessions	10%
Research Paper Proposal	October 28, 2017	NA
Class Participation/Attendance	During class sessions	25%
Final Exam	October 29, 2017	15%
Research Paper	November 12, 2017	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

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 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

- Schusterman visiting assistant professor, Departments of History and International & Area Studies, University of Oklahoma, 2012–present.
- 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

- “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

- International Society 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)