The Middle East in the Age of European Empires  
1798-1920

Course Description  
This course is an introduction to the principal historical themes shaping the modern Middle East. The class is suitable for students with no prior knowledge of the region and its history, though students who wish to further their studies in Middle Eastern history can profit from the course too.

In geographical scope we will discuss the Ottoman Empire, its Arab provinces, Egypt and Iran. The course comprises a brief background to the history of the region and follows with the long nineteenth century through the First World War and the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire.

The course treats several themes, including society and economy, central government reform, the emergence of new forms of identity and other challenges to the Ottoman order, and the entry of both informal and direct European colonial rule into the region.

While we will follow the political narrative of this history, we will be also concerned to study and discuss what history and politics have meant for ordinary men and women, and the roles they have played in making their own histories.

Required books  
(available in the bookstore, and on reserve at Geisel Library.)
William Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East. 0813340489, Westview  
James Gelvin, The Modern Middle East: A History. 0195167880, Oxford  
Roger Owen, The Middle East in the World Economy. 1850436584, IB Tauris.

Course Structure and Requirements  
The class will meet three days a week and regular attendance is required.
Participation in class discussions and attendance counts as a component of the final grade.

Discussion Sections
Aytek Alpan is the course Teaching Assistant. He will conduct two discussion sections each week. Students who attend section, and maintain a B or higher on the midterm, may choose to write a ten-to-fifteen page paper instead of the final exam.

Assignments
There will be a mid-term examination, and a final examination, except for discussion section students, who will write a paper.

Grades are as follows:
mid-term examination 35%
final examination 65%
(or paper)

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 February</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>Last day of Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 March, 11:30-2:30</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

**Week 1**  
**Background to the Long Nineteenth Century in the Middle East**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity and Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 January</td>
<td>What is in a name? Islam, the Arab East, and Orientalism. The Middle of What?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 January</td>
<td>The Arab, Islamic, and Ottoman Heritage.</td>
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| 8 January  | Discussion
Cleveland, chs. 1-2, Gelvin, x-68 |

**Week 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity and Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 January</td>
<td>The Society and Economy of the Ottoman Empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 January</td>
<td>Global Power Shifts Between the Ottoman and European States.</td>
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</table>
| 15 January | Discussion.
Cleveland, ch. 3, Gelvin, 73-99, Owen, xxi-23 |

**Week 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity and Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>18 January</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King holiday (no class).</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 January</td>
<td>The Controversy Over Islamic-Ottoman “Decline.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 January</td>
<td>Discussion.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Week 4  A Century of Reform
25 January  Napoleon’s Egyptian Adventure.
27 January  Rebellion in Arabia and Greece and the Start of Ottoman Reform.
29 January  Discussion and exam handout.
            Cleveland, ch. 4, Gelvin, 100-131.

Week 5
1 February  The Tanpîmät Reforms, 1839-1876, and their results.
3 February  Changes in the Ottoman-Arab provinces.
5 February  Mid-term exam.
            Cleveland, 5, Gelvin, 132-154.

Week 6
8 February  Qajar Iran in the 19th Century.
10 February  Ottoman and Egyptian bankruptcy.
12 February  Discussion.
            Cleveland, ch. 6, Gelvin, 154-167.

Week 7  Foreign Intervention and Colonial Rule
15 February  President’s Day holiday (no class).
17 February  The British Occupation of Egypt.
19 February  Discussion.
            Owen, 100-152.

Week 8
22 February  Abdül-ʻamîd’s Long Reign.
24 February  The Ottoman Unionist Revolution and Constitutionalism in Iran
26 February  Discussion.
            Cleveland, chs. 7-8, Owen, 153-188.
### Week 9
1 March  The Great War in the Ottoman realms.
3 March  The Wartime Agreements and the Post-war Settlement.
5 March  Discussion.
          Cleveland, ch. 9, Gelvin, 171-218.

### Week 10
8 March  The Colonial Partition of the Middle East
10 March  Independence?
12 March  Discussion. Final exam handout.
          Cleveland, Intro ch. 10, chs. 11-13.

**FINAL EXAM 18 March, 11:30-2:30**