

HINE 119
11:00-11:50 M,W, F
CENTR 113
Fall 2008

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Office Hours: W 1:00-3:00

CONTEMPORARY CONFLICTS IN THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

Course Description

American impressions of the Middle East often focus on conflict. And yet, Middle Eastern wars of the later 20th century have been far less destructive than Europe's 20th century wars. Most Middle Eastern conflicts have been proxy wars and many were part of the US-USSR Cold War. The east-west lines of the Cold War are familiar; it divided Europe and in some cases divided single countries. But what did the Cold War mean in the Third World? How did it play out in the Middle East, and how did it shape the histories of that region and its peoples? How much did policies formed in Washington and Moscow determine the range of possible options for the people and leaders of smaller countries? Did Middle Eastern countries harness the superpower Cold War to their own concerns and regional conflicts, or were they merely superpower pawns? Finally what are the legacies of the Cold War in the region today?

This course will not definitively answer these questions. We will, however, keep such questions in mind, because they will help us to transcend the easy generalizations and stereotypes that often impede our understanding of this region and its peoples. The class is suitable for students with no prior coursework on the region and its history, though some prior knowledge would be helpful.

The course is divided into two parts. The first part covers the years between post-World War II independence and the 1967 war, and the second part covers developments since 1967.

Required books (available at the bookstore, and on reserve at SSH.)

William Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 2nd or 3rd edition, ISBN 0-8133-3489-6

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, St. Martins, 5th edition, ISBN 0-312-40408-5

David Lesch, *The Middle East and the United States*, Westview, 3rd edition, ISBN 0-8133-3559-0

Avi Shlaim, *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World*, Norton, ISBN 0-393-32112-6

Course Structure and Requirements

The class will meet three days a week and regular attendance is required.

Assignments

There will be a mid-term examination and a final examination.

Grades are as follows:

Mid-term examination	35%
Final examination	65%

Important Dates

31 October
9 December, 11:30-2:30

Mid-Term Exam
Final Exam

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Introduction

September 26 Introduction: Geography and Definitions

Week 1

September 29 FILM: Suleyman Kanuni

October 1 Ottoman rule, WWI, and the post-war settlement
Cleveland, ch. 8-9, Charles Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, ch. 2-3.

October 3 Discussion.

Week 2

October 6 Colonial Rule in the Middle East.

October 8 World War and Independence.
Cleveland, ch. 10,11,12, Smith, ch. 4, David Lesch, *The Middle East and the US*, 13-29.

October 10 Discussion.

Week 3 1. Independence and Conflict

October 13 The Birth of Israel and the Aftermath of the 48 War.

October 15 Social Upheaval and the End of the Politics of Notables.
Cleveland, ch.13, Avi Shlaim, *The Iron Wall*, xiiv-53, Smith, ch. 5.

October 17 Discussion.

Week 4

October 20 The Ascension of the United States and the Eisenhower Doctrine.

October 22 Nationalism and the Great Powers: Muşaddiq, Iran, and the CIA.
Cleveland, ch. 14, Lesch, 30-50, Shlaim, 54-94, Smith, ch. 6.

October 24 Discussion. Handout: Exam Questions

Week 5

- October 27 The Rise of Gamal 'Abd al-Nasser and the Suez Crisis.
- October 29 The Baghdad Pact and Cold War Maneuvering in the Middle East.
Cleveland, ch. 16, Smith, ch. 7, Shlaim, 95-185, Lesch, 89-187.
- October 31 **Midterm.**

Week 6

- November 3 Military Revolution in Baghdad, and Union in Cairo and Damascus.
- November 5 Radical Nationalists to the Fore and the Pressure on 'Abd al-Nasser and King Sa'ûd.
Cleveland, ch. 16, Smith, ch. 7, Shlaim, 186-217.
- November 7 Discussion.

Week 7**2. The Middle East Since 1967.**

- November 10 The 1967 War and its immediate aftermath.
- November 12 Black September, Nasser's death, and the Rise of Ḥâfîz al-Asad
Cleveland, ch. 17, Smith, ch. 8, Shlaim, 218-283, Lesch, 191-210.
- November 14 Discussion.

Week 8

- November 17 Sadat, the expulsion of the USSR, and the 73 War.
- November 19 The PLO in Lebanon and the Lebanese Civil War.
Cleveland, ch. 18-19, Smith, ch. 8, Lesch, 211-290., Shlaim, 284-324.
- November 21 Discussion.

Week 9

- November 24 The Iranian Revolution and Cold War Confrontation in Central Asia.
- November 26 Thanksgiving Holiday.
- November 28 The Israeli Invasion of Lebanon and the US Role.
Cleveland, ch. 20-21, Smith, ch. 9, Lesch, 291-356. Shlaim, 377-423.

Week 10

- December 1 The First Intifâḍa and Peace Negotiations.
- December 3 The Second Gulf War and the Eclipse of the USSR.
Cleveland, ch. 22-23, Smith, ch. 10-11. Lesch, 357-427.,
- December 5 Conclusions and Prospects. Final Exam handout.

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, 9 December 11:30-2:30