HIST 1185  Introduction to Middle Eastern History  
Fall 2009  
Professor Daphne Tsimhoni  

Mondays and Thursdays, 11:45-1:25 at 109 Robinson Hall  
Office hours: Thursdays 1:30 -2:30 & by appointment  
At my office 213 Meserve Hall  
Office Tel: 617-373-4439  
Email: d.tsimhoni@neu.edu  

Course Description and Objectives:  
The course’s aim is to allow the student a proper knowledge and understanding of the making of the contemporary Middle East. The course will focus on historical processes evolving political, intellectual and socio-economic aspects from the rise of Islam to World War II. Special attention will be given to major stages in the history of the Middle East: the Pre-Islamic era; Islam and Islamization of the Middle East; the rise and decline of the Ottoman Empire; initial westernization, Ottoman reforms and the Islamic reactions to them; the rise of nationalism; World War I and the peace settlements; European rule and the establishment of the modern states in the Middle East. [The course will further discuss the rise and fall of liberal constitutionalism in the Middle Eastern states, the rise of Pan-Arabism and Muslim fundamentalism and their impact on regional and international politics. A further objective is to develop critical thinking skills on the Middle East processes.  

Requirements:  
You are required to attend 80 per cent classes at least, read the reading assignments, take notes of class discussions and lectures and watch video clips and documentaries.  
- One map quiz (September 24 in class) 10 per cent of the final grade  
- Two midterm papers (dates due: Oct. 19, Nov. 16) double spaced typed 3-4 pages each, 20 per cent each of the final grade.  
- Final take-home exam double spaced typed 6-8 pages, (due Dec.7) 40 per cent of the final grade  
- Active participation in class: 10 per cent of the final grade.  

Textbooks: available at the Northeastern University bookstore. A copy is on reserve at the Snell library.  
All other readings to be posted on the course’s blackboard.  

Course outline and reading:  
I. Introduction:  
Th Sept. 10: Political geography of the Middle East and historical background
II. The Middle East: cradle of civilizations and religions
M Sept. 14: the Middle East before Islam; The rise of Islam and the Islamization of the Middle East
Required Reading: Cleveland, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-19); Goldschmidt, chaps.1-4 pp. 1-62
Th Sept. 17: Continued

III. The Middle East Eleventh to the Fifteenth century
M Sept. 21: Life in the cities and their rulers; Shi’is and Turks Crusaders and Mongols
Reading: Goldschmidt Ch. 7: 78-95
Houranin, History, Chs. 7-8 pp. 109-146
Th Sept. 24: Continued
M Sept. 28: Day of Atonement – No class

IV. The Rise and Decline of the Ottoman Empire
Th Oct. 1
Reading: Cleveland, Ch. 3 (pp. 39-56)

V. The Beginnings of the Era of Transformation
M Oct. 5
Reading: Cleveland, Ch. 4 (pp.61-78); Goldschmidt, Ch. 10 (pp. 135-144)
Th Oct. 8: Continued

VI. The Reforms (Tanzimat) in the Ottoman Empire and Egypt
M Oct. 12 – Columbus Day no class
Th Oct. 15:
Reading: Cleveland, Ch. 5 (pp.79-98); Goldschmidt, Ch. 11 (pp. 146-157)
M Oct. 19: Continued

VII. Intellectual Reactions to Reform and Westernization
Th Oct. 22
Reading: A. Hourani, Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 1798-1939, London: Oxford University Press, 1970, Ch. 5 (pp. pp.103-160)
Cleveland, Ch. 7 (pp. 113-121)

VIII. The Emergence of Nationalism
M Oct. 26:
Reading: Hourani, History, pp. 299-310
Hourani, Arabic Thought, pp. 273-291
Th Oct. 29: Continued

IX. World War I in the Middle East: British Pledges to the Arabs and the Zionist; the Arab revolt
M Nov. 2
Required Reading: Cleveland, pp.140-154
Goldschmidt, pp.185-190; M.E. Yapp, *The Making of the Modern Middle East, 1792-1923*, London: Longman, 1993, Ch. 5, (pp. 266-300)
Th Nov. 5: Continued

X. **The Peace Settlements and the Mandated States in the Middle East**
   Mon Nov. 9
   Reading: Cleveland, pp. 154-160; Yapp. Ch. 6, (pp.301-351)
   Goldschmidt, pp. 191-195
   Th Nov. 12: Continued

XI **The Climax and Decline of European Imperialism in the Middle East**
   Mon Nov. 16
   Reading: Hourani, History, pp. 315-332

XII. The Struggle for Independence
   Th. Nov. 19: in Egypt and Iraq
   Reading: Cleveland, Ch. 11 (pp. 181-201)
   Goldschmidt, Ch. 15 (pp. 213-206)
   Mon. Nov. 23: in Syria and Lebanon
   Reading: Cleveland, pp. 202-221
   Th. Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Recess no class

XIII. **Modernization and the Political Development**
   Nov. 30: Reading: J.A Bill and R. Springborg, Politics in the Middle East, New York: harper Collins, 1994, Ch. 1 (pp.1-29)

XIV. **The Challenge of Pan Arabism**
   Th. Dec. 3:
   Reading: Hourani, History, ch. 24 (pp.401-415)

XV. **The Return of Islam**
   Mon. Dec. 7

Bibliography
