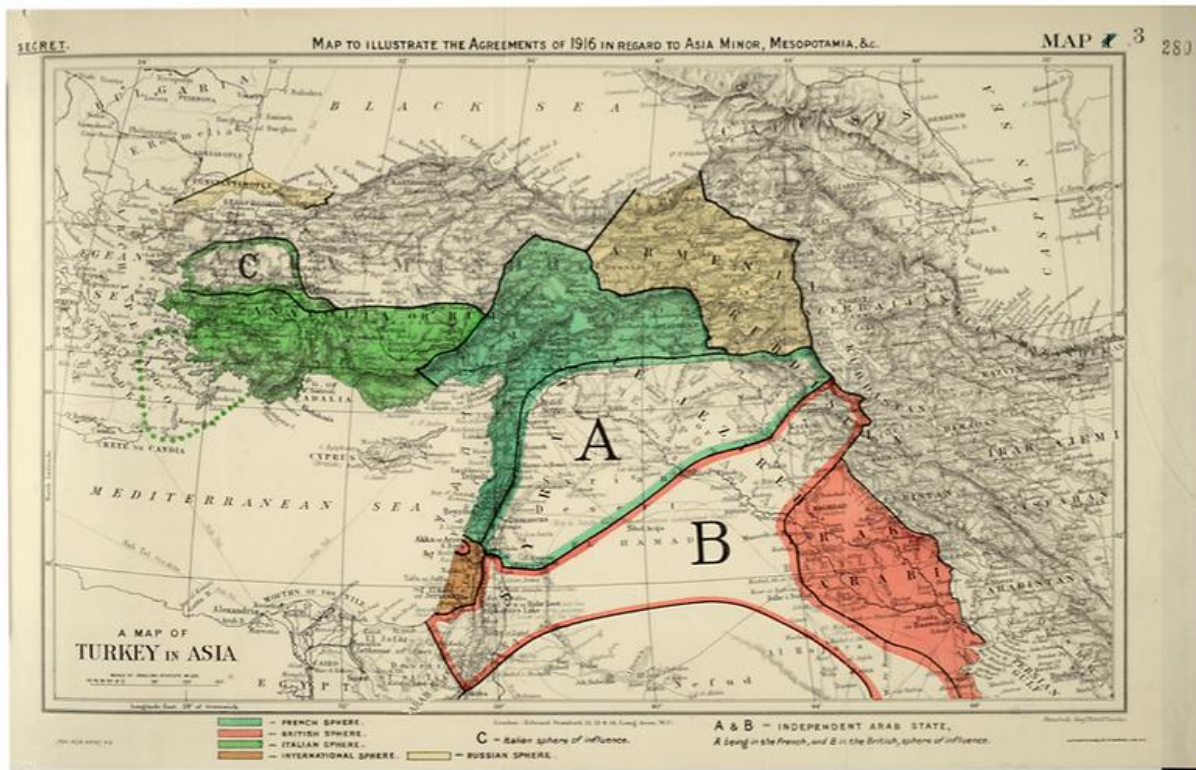


Introduction to the Modern Middle East

Instructor: Cevat Dargin



Map to Illustrate Secret Sykes–Picot Agreement of 1916

This course is an introduction to the modern Middle East, real and imagined. The course is designed to provide students with a general understanding of the modern history and politics of the region and of some of the major themes in the field of Middle Eastern Studies. Weekly readings are thematically organized but they also follow a historical chronology covering the period from around Napoleon's invasion of Egypt in 1798 up to the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan in 2021. We will examine a broad set of topics ranging from some of the most popular themes such as Orientalism, as well as some of the least taught such as the role of Russia in the making of the modern and contemporary Middle East. In between, we will cover topics such as colonialism, Ottoman reforms, Islamism, minority politics, violence, and gender politics, as well as major wars such as World War I, Cold War, and the Six-Day War which have shaped and transformed the region in different ways. The reading material reflects ethnic, religious, political, and geographical diversity in the region through different case studies across time and space, but not all the countries in the region or topics in the field are covered. Using a combination of written and visual sources, the lectures will provide historical backgrounds for the weekly themes and contextualize them within broader developments across and beyond the region.

No prior knowledge of the Middle East is required. Students are expected to read around 50 to 70 pages per week.

Grading

Map quiz I (% 10).

Map quiz II (% 10).

Midterm exam (% 30).

Final paper (% 40). (8 to 12 pages, double spaced; includes a five-minute in class presentation).

Participation (% 10).

Required Textbook

- James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A History* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

Week 1: The Making of the Modern Middle East: Colonialism

- Rashid Khalidi, "The 'Middle East' as a Framework of Analysis," *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* (1998), 74–81.
- Gelvin: Chapter 3. The Middle East and the Modern World System
- "Napoleon in Egypt," in Julia Clancy-Smith and Charles D. Smith, *The Modern Middle East and North Africa: A History in Documents* (Oxford University Press, 2014), 22-29.

Suggested Readings

- Dror Ze'evi (2004) "Back to Napoleon? Thoughts on the Beginning of the Modern Era in the Middle East," *Mediterranean Historical Review*, 19:1, 73-94
- Stephen Dale, "The Islamic World in the Age of European Expansion 1500-1800," in Francis Robinson, Ed., *The Cambridge Illustrated History of the Islamic World*, 62-89.
- Juan Cole, "The Genius of Liberty" in *Napoleon's Egypt* (Griffin, 2008), 1-20.
- S. V. R. Nasr, "European Colonialism and the Emergence of Modern Muslim States," in *Oxford History of Islam* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1999), 549-600.

Week 2: Centralization and the Periphery: Ottoman Reforms

- Gelvin: Chapter 6. Imperialism
- M. Şükrü Hanioglu, "The Tanzimat Era" in *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008), 72-108.

Suggested Readings

- Ali Yagcioglu, "Empire: Order, Crisis, and Reform, 1700–1806." In *Partners of the Empire: The Crisis of the Ottoman Order in the Age of Revolutions* (Stanford UP, 2016), 17–64.
- Kemal H. Karpat, "The Transformation of the Ottoman State, 1789-1908," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 3, No. 3 (July 1972), 243-281.
- Khaled Fahmy, "Mehmed Ali's Army and the Egyptian Nation" in *All the Pasha's Men* (Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 1997), 211-250.
- A. Massot, "Ottoman Damascus during the Tanzimat," in *Jews and Christians in the Middle East, ed.*, Goldstein-Sabbah (Brill, 2016), 155-184.
- Lisa Anderson, "Nineteenth-Century Reform in Ottoman Libya," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 16, No. 3 (August 1984), 325-348

Week 3: Russian Expansion into the Muslim World

- Gelvin: Chapter 2. Gunpowder Empires
- Viktor Taki, "The Sick Man" in *Tsar and Sultan: Russian Encounters with the Ottoman Empire* (2016)
- Quintin Barry, "The Eastern Question" in *A Military History of the Russo-Turkish War, 1877-78* (2012), 42-51.

Suggested Readings

- Orlando Figes, "The Russian Menace" in *The Crimean War: A History* (2010)
- Robert D. Crews, "A Church for Islam" and "Nomads into Muslims" in *For Prophet and the Tsar: Islam and Empire in Russia and Central Asia* (2006).
- Candan Badem, "The Impact of The War on Ottoman Social and Political Life" In *The Ottoman Crimean War (1853-1856)* (Brill, 2010), 329–402.
- James H. Meyer, "Immigration, Return, and the Politics of Citizenship: Russian Muslims in the Ottoman Empire, 1860-1914." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (2007), 15-32.

Week4: The Remaking of the Middle East: World War I

- Gelvin: Chapter 11. State-Building by Decree
- Eugene Rogan, "The Ottoman Triumph at Gallipoli" in *The Fall of the Ottomans*, (2015), 159-200.
- Michael A. Reynolds, "Troubles in Anatolia" in *Shattering Empires: The Clash and Collapse of the Ottoman and Russian Empires 1908-1918* (2011), 46-81.
- Margaret MacMillan, "Setting the Middle East Alight" in *Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World*. (New York: Random House, 2003).

Suggested Readings

- Hasan Kayalı, "The War Years, 1914-1918" in *Arabs and Young Turks: Ottomanism, Arabism, and Islamism in the Ottoman Empire, 1908-1918* (UC Press, 1997), 174-201.
- Mustafa Aksakal, "'Holy War Made in Germany'?" *War in History* (2011), 184–99.
- John Fisher, "Syria and Mesopotamia in British Middle Eastern Policy in 1919." *Middle Eastern Studies* 34, no. 2 (1998): 129–70.

Week 5: Revolutions and Resistance: Interwar Period in the Middle East

- Gelvin: Chapter 12. State-Building by Revolution and Conquest, Chapter 13. The Invention and Spread of Nationalisms
- Touraj Atabaki and Erik Zürcher, *Men of Order: Authoritarian Modernization under Atatürk and Reza Shah* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2004), 1-13, 98-112, 238-258.
- Frederick F. Anscombe, "From Ottoman to Post-Ottoman States" in *State, Faith, and Nation in Ottoman and Post-Ottoman Lands* (New York: Cambridge UP, 2014), 141-218.

Suggested Readings

- Joshua Sanborn, "Revolution" in *Imperial Apocalypse: The Great War and the Destruction of the Russian Empire* (Oxford University Press, 2014), 171-204.
- J.C. Hurewitz, "British-French Supremacy, 1914-1945" in *The Middle East and North Africa in World Politics* (New Haven: Yale University Press 1975), 17-63.

- Ryan Gingeras, "A New National Spirit" in *Eternal Dawn: Turkey in the Age of Atatürk*. (Oxford University Press, 2019).
- Matthieu Rey, "The British, the Hashemites and Monarchies in the Middle East." In *Crowns and Colonies*, ed. Robert Aldrich et al., (Manchester University Press, 2016), 227–44
- M. Holdsworth, "Soviet Central Asia, 1917-1940." *Soviet Studies* 3, no. 3 (1952): 258–77.

Week 6: Decolonization: The Middle East in the Post-War Era

- Anna, Paul L. "The Middle East in The Post-War World." *Current History* 10, no. 53 (1946): 48–55
- Joshua Sanborn, "Decolonization" in *Imperial Apocalypse* (Oxford University Press, 2014), 205-238.
- Dorothy Pickles, "The Seven-Year Struggle in Algeria: Retrospect and Prospect." *The World Today* 17, no. 11 (1961): 479–89.
- Yahia H. Zoubir, "The United States, the Soviet Union and Decolonization of the Maghreb, 1945-62." *Middle Eastern Studies* 31, no. 1 (1995): 58–84.

Suggested Readings

- Di-Capua, Yoav. "Arab Existentialism: An Invisible Chapter in the Intellectual History of Decolonization." *The American Historical Review* 117, no. 4 (2012): 1061–91.
- El Shakry, Omnia. "'History without Documents': The Vexed Archives of Decolonization in the Middle East." *The American Historical Review* 120, no. 3 (2015): 920–34.

Week 7: Israel and Palestine

- Gelvin: Chapter 14. The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- Theodore Herzl, "The Uganda Plan (1903)," in Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, 3rd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2010), 618-622.
- Kamrava, Mehran. "The Arab-Israeli Wars." In *The Modern Middle East: A Political History since the First World War*, 3rd ed. (University of California Press, 2013), 108–38.

Suggested Readings and Multimedia

- Olivia C. Harrison, "Palestine and the Migrant Question". *Languages of Resistance, Transformation, and Futur* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), 121-143
- Documentary Film: 'Trip Along Exodus' (2015) by Hind Shoufani, <https://vimeo.com/283054929>
- Film: Israel and the US P1 | Empire
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sGyG6z5PWM&ab_channel=AlJazeeraEnglish

Week 8: Cold War: The Middle East Divided

- Gelvin: Chapter 15. The Autocratic State
- Rashid Khalidi, "Arab Views of the Soviet Role in the Middle East." *Middle East Journal* (1985), 716-32.
- Leffler, Melvyn P. "Strategy, Diplomacy, and the Cold War: The United States, Turkey, and NATO, 1945-1952." *The Journal of American History* 71, no. 4 (1985): 807–25.

Suggested Readings

- Roberts, Geoffrey. "Moscow's Cold War on the Periphery: Soviet Policy in Greece, Iran, and Turkey, 1943–8." *Journal of Contemporary History* 46, no. 1 (2011): 58–81.
- David S. Painter, "Oil and Geopolitics: The Oil Crises of the 1970s and the Cold War." *Historical Social Research* 39, no. 4 (150) (2014): 186–208.
- Paul Thomas Chamberlin, "Rethinking the Middle East and North Africa in the Cold War." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 43, no. 2 (2011): 317–19.

Week 9: Theory in Middle Eastern Studies: Orientalism and Beyond

- Edward Said, "Introduction" and "Orientalism and Empire" in *Orientalism* (New York: Random House, 1978).
- Ussama Makdisi, Ottoman Orientalism, *The American Historical Review* (2002), 768–796.
- Joseph Massad, "Orientalism as Occidentalism." *History of the Present* 5, no. 1 (2015): 83–94.

Suggested Readings

- Anderson, Lisa. "Scholarship, Policy, Debate and Conflict: Why We Study the Middle East and Why It Matters." *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin* 38, no. 1 (2004): 2–15.
- Aksan, Virginia. "MESA Presidential Address 2009: How Do We 'Know' the Middle East?" *Review of Middle East Studies* 44, no. 1 (2010): 3–12.
- Oye, David Schimmelpenninck van der. "Introduction: What Is Russian Orientalism?" In *Russian Orientalism: Asia in the Russian Mind from Peter the Great to the Emigration*, 1–11. Yale University Press, 2010.

Week 10: Islamist Ideologies and Radicalization: The Middle East United?

- Michael Cook, "On the Origins of Wahhābism." *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (1992) 191-202.
- Elizabeth Thompson, "Sayyid Qutb and Ali Shariati: The Idea of Islamic Revolution in Egypt and Iran," in *Justice Interrupted: The Struggle for Constitutional Government in the Middle East*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2013), 275-309.
- Fawaz A. Gerges, *The Far Enemy: Why Jihad Went Global* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2005), 103-104, 123-124.

Suggested Readings

- Davis, Nancy J., And Robert V. Robinson. "The Muslim Brotherhood: Building a State within a State in Egypt." In *Claiming Society for God: Religious Movements and Social Welfare*, 32–61. Indiana University Press, 2012.
- Herman, Lyndall. " Hamas." *American journal of Islam and society*. 30.4 (2018): 93–108.
- Koyuncu-Lorasdağı, Berrin. "The Prospects and Pitfalls of the Religious Nationalist Movement in Turkey: The Case of the Gülen Movement." *Middle Eastern Studies* 46, no. 2 (2010): 221–34.
- Gelvin: Chapter 18. Resistance

Week 11: The Middle East Reimagined: Twenty-First Century

- Gelvin: Chapter 17. The United States and the Middle East
- Rashid Khalidi, "The legacy of the Western encounter with the Middle East" in *Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East*, Boston: Beacon Press, 2004).
- Lila Abu-Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others." *American Anthropologist* 104, no. 3 (2002): 783–90.

Suggested Readings

- Joel Beinin, "Middle East Studies After September 11, 2001." *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin* 37, no. 1 (2003): 2–18.
- Mirjam E. Sørli, Nils Petter Gleditsch, and Håvard Strand. "Why Is There so Much Conflict in the Middle East?" *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49, no. 1 (2005): 141–65.
- Ussama Makdisi, "'Anti-Americanism' in the Arab World: An Interpretation of a Brief History." *The Journal of American History* 89, no. 2 (2002): 538–57.
- Mahmood Mamdani, "Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: A Political Perspective on Culture and Terrorism," in *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 104, No. 3 (Sept. 2002), 766-775

Week 12: The Contemporary Middle East: Arab Spring and Beyond

- Jamal Eldin Osman Salih. "The Roots and Causes of the 2011 Arab Uprisings." *Arab Studies Quarterly* (2013), 184–206.
- Fawaz A Gerges, "The World According to ISIS." In *ISIS: A History*, Princeton University Press, 2016), 23–49, 144–69.
- Steven Heydemann, "Rethinking social contracts in the MENA region: Economic governance, contingent citizenship, and state-society relations after the Arab uprisings," *World Development*, Volume 135 (2020), 1-11.

Suggested Readings

- Max Boot, "Biden's 9/11 Withdrawal from Afghanistan." *Council on Foreign Relations*, (2021), 1-6.
- Gelvin: Conclusion. A New Middle East?
- Mohamad Akhssassi, "Reforms in Morocco." *Contemporary Arab Affairs* (2017): 482–509.
- Ahram, Ariel I. "Territory, Sovereignty, and New Statehood in the Middle East and North Africa." *Middle East Journal* 71, no. 3 (2017): 345–62.
- M. Hakan Yavuz, "Erdogan's Neo-Ottomanism," in *Nostalgia for the Empire: The Politics of Neo-Ottomanism* (Oxford University Press, 2020), 144-178.

Week 13: Paper presentations**Week 14: Paper presentations**