

SYLLABUS FOR HISTORY-29
Islamic Civilization and Modern Middle East History
West L.A. College, Spring 2013

TIME: 6:45 – 10:00 Evening, Wednesdays

PLACE: GC-310

Instructor: Dr. Ali Parsa

Office hours: a By appointment only

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Overview and course description:

This course is a broad survey of the modern Middle East History with a brief review of the life and teachings of the prophet Mohammad and the subsequent development of the Islamic religion. The emphasis is on the recognition of important concepts, historical developments, and the relationships among these developments in a global context.

Goals and objectives:

1. To understand the past history as a source of the present-day crises and the recognition of challenges facing the people of the Middle East.
2. To describe and analyze critically the influence of Western powers into the Middle East and the reactions to them within the social, political, economic, and religious context.
3. To recognize forces that contributed to the particular development in different regions of the Middle East.

Required texts:

John Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*, Oxford Press, 1998 (3rd Ed.)

W. Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, Westview Press, 2000 (2nd Ed.)

Non-required texts: (could be used for a term paper)

L. C. Brown, *International Politics and the Middle East*.

E. Burke, *Struggle and Survival in the Modern Middle East*.

Hourani, Khoury, Wilson, *The Modern Middle East*.

R. Owens, *State, Power, & Politics in the Making of Modern Middle East*.

D. Fromkin, *A Peace to End All Peace*.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

ATTENDANCE: The text reading assignment covers only portion of the material for the tests, students are expected to attend the class regularly. Students absent from class could be dropped. Lateness and early leaving could be very disruptive to class. Please avoid it by all means. **No cell-phone rings, please.**

GRADING INFORMATION:

Mid-term (take-home)	30 points (30%). 3 Essays, 200 words each, double spaced typed)
Final (take-home)	30 points (30%). 3 Essays, 200 words each, double spaced typed)
Final (in class)	20 points (20%). 10 Identifications, 3-4 lines (short answers)
Attendance:	10 points (10%).
Participation:	10 points (10%). Involvement in Class Discussions.
Total:	100 points (100%)

Important: Students have a choice between the mid-term take-home and writing a 7-page paper. The paper must be related to the material in class and the topic must be discussed and approved by me.

The take home exams and/or paper must be submitted on or before the due date. For each late day, 2 points will be taken off. The take-home exam (or the paper) must be typed, double spaced with minimum 1 inch margin.

LECTURE OUTLINE & READING ASSIGNMENTS

- **Feb. 25:** Introduction/ Course Organization/
Movie (The Messenger)
Read: Esposito, pp. xiii-17.
- **Mar. 4:** Movie (The Messenger—continued)
The Prophet Muhammad and Quran/ Messenger and Message/
Read: Esposito, pp. 11-31.
- **Mar. 1:** Rise and Expansion of Islam/ Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates/
Movie (Islam: The Empire of Faith)
Read: Esposito, pp. 31-67.
- **Mar. 11:** Religious Life/ Belief and Practice/
Law/ Theology and Philosophy/
Read: Esposito, pp. 68-114.
- **Mar. 18:** Ottoman Empire/ Its Institution, Its Rise and Decline as a World Power/
Flourishing and Decay of Safavid Iran/
Read: Cleveland, pp. 20-58.

-----**NO CLASS: March 21 to 27 (Spring Recess)**-----

- **Apr. 1:** Era of Transformation: Selim III & Mahmud II/ Muhammad Ali in Egypt/
Era of Tanzimat: Ottoman's Abdul Aziz & Isma'il/ Syria and Lebanon/
Read: Cleveland, pp. 59-101.
- **Apr. 8:** Response of Islamic Society/ and Reign of Abdul Hamid/
Era of the Young Turks/ Iranian Constitutional Revolution//
Read: Cleveland, pp. 117-145.
Mid-term take-home (or Paper) due.

- **Apr. 15:** World War I/ Impact on the Middle East/
Authoritarian Reform in Iran and Turkey/
Read: Cleveland, pp. 146-166 & 169-189.
- **Apr. 22:** The Mandate System/ Arab Struggle for Independence/ Iraq and Egypt/
British Creation of Kingdom of Iraq/ French Occupation of Lebanon/
Read: Cleveland, pp. 190-232.
- **Apr. 29:** Palestinian Mandate/ World War II and Birth of Israel/
Zionists, Arabs, and the British/ the Jewish Agency/
Read: Cleveland, pp. 233-263.
- **May 6:** Democracy in Turkey
Authoritarianism in Iran/ U.S. Role in Post WWII/
Read: Cleveland, pp. 265-292.
- **May 13:** Radicalization of the Middle East/ Naser in Egypt/ Arab Socialism/
Palestinian National Movement/ Egypt under Anwar al-Sadat/
Read: Cleveland, pp. 293-384.
- **May 20:** Ba'th Party, Arab Nationalism and Socialism/ Asad and Saddam/
Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, and Smaller Gulf States/
Read: Cleveland, pp. 385-409.
- **May 27:** Iranian Islamic Revolution/
Rise of Fundamentalism/ End of Cold War/
Read: Cleveland, pp.410 -435.
Final Take-home (or paper) Due
- **Jun. 3:** Discussion/ Film
Review for the Final Exam
- **Jun. 10:** -----**Final Exam**-----
9: a.m.