

NES/HIST 277B – Modern History of the Middle East – Spring 2008

Department of Near Eastern Studies

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Texts

William Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*

John Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*

Rory Stewart, *The Places in Between*

Daniel Headrick, *The Tools of Empire: Technology and European Imperialism in the 19th Century*

This course is a survey of Middle Eastern history from about 1453 to the near present. The intent of the course is to establish a basis for understanding present developments in light of the history of the region and its interaction with external powers especially those representing European imperial interests. It is a lecture course but questions are encouraged. Films will be shown followed by class discussion. Students will be responsible for material from films as well as the lectures and readings on examinations.

Course Requirements. There will be two tests and a final exam, all essay. Students will write one paper to be assigned and described later. Each of these components will be weighted 20% along with another 20% for participation and attendance. Exams must be taken at scheduled times except in case of documented medical situations. Disruptive behavior will result in expulsion from the class and/or administrative drop. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course.

Week 1

Tuesday – no class

Thursday 1/17. Introduction, Themes of the Class

READINGS: Cleveland 1-12, 31-33, Esposito Intro, Ch. 1, 43-45.

Week 2

Tuesday 1/22. Foundations of Islamic Practice. Sunni and Shi'ite Islam.

Thursday 1/18. Islamic Civilization to 1200, the Abbassids.

READINGS: Cleveland 13-39, Esposito 32-60

Week 3

Tuesday 1/29 End of Abbassids, Rise of Ottoman Turks

Thursday 1/31 Mehmet the Conqueror and the Conquest of Constantinople

READINGS: Cleveland 39-49, Esposito 60-67

Week 4

Tuesday 2/5 Ottoman Civilization and Expansion, Suleyman the Magnificent
Thursday 2/7 Ottoman Civilization and European Challenges 1600-1775
READINGS: Cleveland 49-56. Esposito 60-67

Week 5

Tuesday 2/12 Ottoman/Safavid Rivalry and Comparison
Thursday 2/14 Review and discussion
READINGS: Headrick, Tools of Empire

Week 6

Tuesday 2/19 –Film “Sulayman the Magnificent”
Thursday 2/21–Film “The Isfahan of Shah Abbas”
READINGS: Headrick, Tools of Empire

Week 7

Tuesday 2/26 **First midterm**
Thursday 2/28 Middle East and European Imperial Rivalries
READINGS: Cleveland, 57-60

Week 8

Tuesday 3/4 Ottoman Reform Efforts: Selim III and Mehmet II, 1787-1839
Thursday 3/6 Muhammad Ali of Egypt, A Model for Modernization?
READINGS: Cleveland Ch. 4

Week 9

Tuesday 3/11 Ottoman Reforms 1839-1914 The Tanzimat
Thursday 3/13 Egypt 1848-1914
READINGS: Cleveland Ch. 5 and 103-109, 119-122, 133-140

Week 10

Tuesday 3/18 NO CLASS
Thursday 3/20 NO CLASS
READINGS:

Week 11

Tuesday 3/25 Iran 1775-1914
Thursday 3/27 The Middle East on the Eve of WWI
READINGS: Cleveland 109-117, 143-148

Week 12

Tuesday 4/1 World War I and the Middle East: Peace Settlements
Thursday 4/3 Egypt: Britain, Nationalism and Islam
READINGS: Cleveland Ch. 9, 11

Week 13

Tuesday 4/8 Inventing States
Thursday 4/10 Second Midterm
READINGS: Cleveland 175-185, Esposito 125-134, 142-157

Week 14

Tuesday 4/15 Film "Ataturk"
Thursday 4/17 Palestine, Zionism and the creation of Israel, 1920-1948
READINGS: Cleveland Ch. 13

Week 15

Tuesday 4/22 Cold War and Arab Israeli Conflict 1948-1967
Thursday 4/24 Iran to the Islamic Revolution
READINGS: Cleveland Ch. 17, 273-277, 288-300, 415-20

Week 16

Tuesday 4/29 The Islamic Revolution to the First Gulf War
Thursday 4/31 Iraq and the Middle East Today: Imagination vs. Reality
READINGS: Chapter 20, 541-48, Esposito 179-86, 253-63.

FINAL EXAM – Tuesday May 13, 8:00-10:00