

The Modern Middle East

A Critical Survey

WHAT: HIST 2502
WHEN: FALL/WINTER 2016-17 ,
MWF 11:30-12:20
WHERE: TIER BUILDING
ROOM 301
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
WHO: DR JENNIFER DUECK

What it's all about

What explains the circumstances and significance of the Middle East in the early 21st century? Why does the Middle East look the way it does today? How can we make sense of the ongoing and seemingly endless conflicts that we find daily in the news? This course provides students with the historical and analytical tools to ask thoughtful questions and to answer their own questions about one of the world's most highly-contested regions.

The course focuses primarily on the Middle East from the 19th century to the present. We will explore and discuss not only material written by historians, but also films, blogs, cartoons, print news items and fiction. Topics will include the development of Arab governments, women's rights and status, colonialism and Western involvement in the region, Arab and Zionist nationalisms, Islamic social and political movements, and regional conflicts. While not neglecting the big political narratives, we will also look at sources about the lives of ordinary people whose individual journeys were shaped by these events. These individual lives can provide profound insights into larger historical dynamics. Although this is a lecture course, participation in class discussion is a key part of our shared learning: no student is a spectator.

Further information, including week-by-week reading lists will be available on UMLearn.

Writing in this course: The "W" Requirement

This course meets the famous (or infamous) "W" requirement mandated by the University's Senate, which means you must successfully complete both assigned essays in order to pass the course.

That said, passing this course is actually not the most important reason you need to learn to write well. Knowing how to express yourself in writing is a skill that will serve you in all aspects of your life. In the age of electronic media, you need an especially sophisticated understanding of how to use written language. This is essential so that you are effective in reaching the audience you want. It is also essential so that you don't embarrass yourself or irritate people. The audience in question might be someone you hope to date, someone you hope to work for, or, eventually, someone you hope to hire. The format might be a text message, a tweet, a formal letter or a press release. In each case, mastery of written communication will serve you well.

You must pass both essays in order to pass this course.

NOTE: I will not mark your final essay unless you have submitted the assigned annotated bibliography and essay draft.

What we'll learn...

In this second-year course, we will learn about the major events and issues in modern Middle Eastern history, and how they connect to the wider world. Students will also build life-essential communication and research skills. This includes the ability to convey ideas and arguments in written and spoken form, as well as the ability to find information about any question that is of interest. You should emerge from this course not only with significant knowledge about the Middle East and its history, but also with the confidence in your ability to learn about anything.

When you complete this course, you should be able to:

- ❖ Illustrate your understanding of Middle Eastern history, along with its major themes and issues, in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- ❖ Use historical and contemporary evidence to assess others' arguments about issues in Middle Eastern history.
- ❖ Identify different types of scholarly and non-scholarly material relevant to Middle Eastern issues.
- ❖ Articulate your own arguments about Middle Eastern history with reference to solid evidence.

Does news about the Middle East seem too complicated to understand? We will focus on ways to tackle difficult and confusing subjects with confidence.

...and how

Assessment in this course is based on four different categories of work, described here. You can consult the grade breakdown in the table below.

Attendance: This one should be self-explanatory. You get 5% for showing up. I take attendance at some point during each class, but, be warned, not always at the same time. If you miss attendance, because you arrived late, or left early, then you will be marked absent.

We use UMLearn extensively in this course. Weekly assignments and readings are posted there. Assignments are submitted there. It is essential to consult it regularly.

Thought Portfolio: Throughout the year you will build a portfolio of short writing and reading exercises, including peer assessment of your fellow-students' essays. Details of these exercises will be assigned through UMLearn, and all Portfolio-assessed work will be clearly indicated in the Weekly Readings & Assignments Sheets. The formats and specific objectives will vary. The underlying objective is always to enable reflection about your individual learning and your understanding of the Middle East.

Essay writing: The two essays combined are worth half your grade. And there's a reason why. Essay-writing is a complex process for which you need to deploy a number of different skills, among them writing, analyzing, and researching. This is why we will break down the essay-writing process into a series of steps or building-blocks. We will have several class discussions about essay-writing for this course and detailed handouts will be provided on UMLearn.

Exams: The final three-hour exam will tax not only your minds but also your hand muscles. It will be based on material covered in the lectures and readings. You will be expected to demonstrate your understanding of Middle Eastern history with specific reference to the material covered in the course. The mid-term exams are there to give you study milestones along the way, to help you assess your learning, and to give you an opportunity to see what exam questions for this class look like.

Grades and assignments, concisely

Attendance	5%	Show up. Attendance taken.
Thought Portfolio	7%	Includes short at-home assignments, contributions to UMLearn online discussions, peer reviews of fellow-student essays. Assigned on UMLearn
Mid-Term I	4%	5 October. To be written in-class.
<u>Essay I (2,000 words)</u>		<u>To be submitted in three parts:</u>
Annotated Bibliography	2.5%	Due: 17 October.
Draft Essay for Peer Review	2.5%	Due: 7 November.
Final Essay	15%	Due: 2 December.
Mid-Term II	4%	16 January. To be written in-class.
<u>Essay II (3,000 words)</u>		
Annotated Bibliography	2.5%	Due: 6 February.
Draft Essay for Peer Review	2.5%	Due: 1 March.
Final Essay	25%	Due: 3 April.
Final Exam (3 hours)	30%	April exam period.

Even though I advise you to focus on learning rather than grades, you may nevertheless wish to be aware of the following rubric:

90 and above	A+	65-69	C+
80-89	A	60-64	C
75-79	B+	50-59	D
70-74	B	Below 50	F (failure)

Please note:

- ❖ If you wish to appeal a grade given for term work you must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.
- ❖ Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.
- ❖ You will receive graded work well in advance of the Voluntary Withdrawal Date of 17 March 2017.

Now for the books

The following books are required, and are available for purchase at the University of Manitoba bookstore. A fourth book (still TBD) will be required for Term 2.

- ❖ William L Cleveland & Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 5th Edition, Westview Press, 2012.
- ❖ Edmund Burke & David Yaghubian (eds), *Struggle and Survival in the Modern Middle East*, 2nd ed., University of California Press, 2006.
- ❖ Camron Amin, Benjamin C. Fortna, and Elizabeth B. Frierson (eds), *The Modern Middle East: A Sourcebook for History*, Oxford University Press (also available online through UM library)

Technology in the classroom

- ❖ You may bring laptops, tablets and phones to class for course-related use during group activities and in-class writing assignments. You are generally not permitted to use laptops, tablets or phones for note-taking during lectures. I am open to conversations about this, so please see me individually if you have a compelling reason to use personal technology during lectures.
- ❖ You are not permitted to make any kind of audio or video recording, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part, during any part of this course.
- ❖ Phones must be set to silent.

Managing your time and your deadlines

This is a challenge for people well beyond their studies. So if you can hone your time management skills while still a student, you'll never regret it. For this course, it's also something you'll need to succeed. There is a regular writing and reading load for this course. If you are not on top of the readings and assignments from week to week, it will be hard to catch up. This course won't always be your priority, but you will need to carve out blocks of time at some point every week. If you anticipate difficulty with a deadline, please see me as quickly as possible. Barring exceptional circumstances, Final Essay submissions will not be accepted more than a week late. Late submissions may be penalized up to 2% per day, or at my discretion if you discuss with me in advance.

The UMLearn Dropbox Tool and Online discussions will be set to accept submissions for a 7-day period. After that, no further submissions will be allowed.

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Communicating with me

In person: I welcome all individual conversations with students. Please come to see me at some point in the term, even you haven't got a specific reason. The fact that St John's is built like a rabbit warren means that finding my office is hard; this is a challenge to relish. My regular office hours are Wednesday and Friday 12:30-1:30 in fall term and Monday and Friday 2:30-3:30 in winter term. If those times don't work for you, email me and we can arrange another time.

If you are having difficulty with the course, you might be reluctant to drop by; know that you, in particular, I would welcome for a chat.

By email: This is undoubtedly the best way to reach me for quick questions or to set up appointments. If you enjoy legalese, by all means read the University's official policy on "Electronic Communication with Students"

([http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Electronic Communication with Students Policy - 2014_06_05.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Electronic_Communication_with_Students_Policy_-_2014_06_05.pdf))

You must check your UMLearn email regularly. I will assume that you are.

You must use your UMLearn email address; it is the only one I am allowed to use to contact you.

In addition to the policy, I would, equally importantly, advise you to be aware that professional email-writing is a skill worth developing. Beginning your email with "yo prof", or no greeting at all, will make a different impression than "Hello Dr Dueck" or "Dear Jennifer". Similarly, the body of your email can be conversational and informal, even funny, yet it should remain firmly in a professional register.

Regarding plagiarism and copyright

This point is simple and serious. Be honest. If you use someone else's ideas, acknowledge them. Be forewarned that the consequences are severe if you do not.

Lest there was any doubt, the University's regulations re: plagiarism, cheating and impersonation may be found in the section on "Academic Integrity" of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar, and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation at:

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.html.

The salient details

- ❖ The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course.
- ❖ For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.
- ❖ The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.
- ❖ The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty.
- ❖ For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

On a related note: Respect copyright. We will use copyrighted content in this course and we must all make sure that we're using it legally and according to University guidelines. Copyrighted works, including those created by me, are for private study and research, and must not be distributed in any format without permission. Do not upload copyrighted works to UMLearn or to any website unless an exception to the Copyright Act applies or written permission has been confirmed. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/> or contact um_copyright@umanitoba.ca.

And resources beyond...

There are **writing tutors** available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/> The ALC page also has resources to help you with **study skills, organization**, as well as assistance for students using **English as an Additional Language** (EAL).

Other issues, including **accessibility services**, workshops, and tips about **academic integrity** are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed through this link:
<http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/student-resources.html>

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, Kyle Feenstra, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.