

The Modern Middle East

A Critical Survey

WHAT:	HIST 2502
WHEN:	FALL/WINTER 2017-18, TU/TH 11:30-12:45
WHERE:	ST JOHN'S COLLEGE ROOM 202 UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
WHO:	PROF JENNIFER DUECK

What it's all about

Linger a moment in your social media newsfeed. Chances are you'll see something that has to do with the Middle East. Perhaps it's an article trying to tell you who is to blame in the latest round of violence happening in far-away places like Iraq or Syria. Maybe it's someone asking you to support a charity fundraiser for Middle Eastern refugees in Winnipeg, or someone else trying to persuade you that those refugees shouldn't be in Canada at all. If you start clicking on those news links, you'll quickly discover that it's not hard to find a wealth of information about the Middle East. There is no shortage of commentators trying to convince you that the Middle East matters in our world. But how do you know what to believe? Whose opinions do you trust, and could you explain why? How can we make sense of the confusing and conflict-ridden headlines that we find daily in the news? In this course we use the history of the Middle East to build our own analytical tools for understanding one of the world's most contested regions.

The course focuses primarily on the Middle East in the 19th and 20th centuries. We will explore and discuss material produced not only by historians, but also by film makers, bloggers, cartoonists, journalists and novelists. Topics will include the development of Arab governments, women's rights, 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 the lives of ordinary people whose individual journeys were shaped by these events.

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

What we'll learn: Goals

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.

How we'll learn: Assessments

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

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 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. We will have several class discussions about essay-writing for this course and detailed handouts will be provided on UMLearn.

Note: There are resources specifically tailored to history students at the university library. Please make use of them! 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 the history librarian, Cody Fullerton, with whom we will be doing a class workshop.

Peer Assessment: Essay-writing in this course matters a lot. And it matters that you have the opportunity to get feedback along the way, and to correct problems or mistakes, before submitting the final version of your essay. For each essay in this course, you will not only write your own essay, you will also conduct a detailed peer assessment of the essays of two of your classmates. Templates and examples will be provided in advance of the peer assessment exercises.

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 we will conduct short graded exercises, including online discussions, in-class exercises, and other activities. Details of these exercises will be assigned through UMLearn, and all portfolio-assessed work will be clearly indicated in the Weekly Readings & Assignments List. The underlying objective of this portfolio is to enable reflection about your individual learning and your understanding of the Middle East.

Exams: The final three-hour exam 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, including the readings and the lectures. 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, the concise view

<u>Peer Assessments: Two per term</u>		Details to be provided in class.
Term 1: Two peer assessments	2%	Due: 16 November
Term 2: Two peer assessments	4%	Due: 13 March
Thought Portfolio	5%	Details & due-dates assigned on UMLearn
<u>Mid-term Exams: Written in Class</u>		
Mid-Term 1	3%	10 October, 50 mins.
Mid-Term 2	6%	23 January, 75 mins.
<u>Essay I (2,000 words)</u>		<u>To be submitted in three parts:</u>
Annotated Bibliography	2%	Due: 17 October.
Draft Essay for Peer Review	2%	Due: 9 November.
Final Essay	16%	Due: 28 November.
<u>Essay II (3,000 words)</u>		<u>To be submitted in three parts:</u>
Annotated Bibliography	2%	Due: 6 February
Draft Essay for Peer Review	2%	Due: 1 March
Final Essay	26%	Due: 29 March
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 16 January 2018.

Now for the books

The following books are required. Two are available for purchase at the University of Manitoba bookstore; the other book is available online through the UM Libraries.

- ❖ William L Cleveland & Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 5th Edition, Westview Press, 2012.
- ❖ Edmund Burke & David Yaghoubian (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 (available online through UM library).

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.

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. 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.

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 below in the footer. 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)

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

You must use your UMNet 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.

Connecting with other students...

UM History Student Association (UMHiSA): UMHiSA is a history undergraduate student run organization that seeks to establish a sense of community for students studying all facets of history, and provide support for them in their academic career. Students interested in fun times, spirited debate, new opportunities, a community of like-minded students, or all of the above, check out UMHiSA on our facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/422932261087799/> or emailing umhisau@gmail.com.

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)**.

There is a **Student Counseling Centre at the university**. Please contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counseling.
<http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

Student Support Case Management: Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team.
<http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

University Health Service: Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation.
<http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

Student Advocacy: Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy>