

HIST 228: North Africa and the Middle East since 1838

Spring 2021

Meets On Thursday 1400-1640 Online

Instructor: Elias Mandala (elias.mandala@rochester.edu), office hours: Rush Rhees 439, Tuesdays, 1400-1600 and by appointment

Welcome to HIS228! North Africa and the Middle East is a mess: Instead of democracy, the Arab Spring delivered a military dictatorship to Egypt; Iraq and Syria are melting into warring tribal enclaves; Saudi Arabia is waging a savage war in Yemen; and the Palestinians remain an unprotected stateless people. There is a crisis, and this course introduces students to the principal elements of the predicament, arguing that since the rise of the first Industrial Revolution in England, the peoples of North Africa and the Middle East have refashioned their destinies in partnership with the West. Students will explore that argument in the context of the following developments and events: the Anglo-Turkish Convention of 1838, transition from Ottoman to West European colonialism, discovery of huge and easily extractable oil reserves, creation of the state of Israel, the Iranian Revolution of 1979, the US Invasion of Iraq in 2003, and the assassination of Qasem Soleimani on 2 January 2020.

TEXTBOOKS, EXPECTATIONS & GRADING

Text Books	W. L. Cleveland and M. Bunton, <i>A History of the Modern Middle East</i> (Boulder, CO: Westview, 6 th Edition., 2016).	
	Albert Hourani, P. Khoury and M. Wilson, eds. <i>The Modern Middle East</i> (Tauris, 1993, 2004).	
	EXPECTATIONS	GRADING
1	Class Attendance (14 sessions)	10
2	Participation in class discussion: You must complete all assigned readings <i>before</i> each class meeting.	10
3	Lead at least two discussions: Summarize in one page key questions raised by the reading of the day	10
4	5 reviews of articles and videos (see next box) . Each review will (a) be about 1000 words or 3-4 pages; 2) summarize main arguments; 3) relate the work to the theme of the day or course.	35
5	Research paper: From a list of topics in the making of Modern North Africa and the Middle East (list will be given later). The essay will (1) be about 3,000 words or 10 pages; (2) consult at least 10 scholarly (peer-reviewed) texts; (3) bibliography to be submitted for approval by the instructor by April 9 ; (4) essay to be submitted by April 29 , 2021.	35

Assignment by Due Dates and Chronological Order

Topic	Reading/Video	Lecture Date	Due Date	Chronological Order	
				Date	Topic
Imperialism, Violence	“Lion of the Desert”	3/11	4/1	Feb 18	Oil, OPEC
Oil, OPEC	Drysdale&B, 313-345	3/18	2/18	March 4	Israel
Israel & Palestine	Drysdale&B, 263-312	4/1	3/4	March 18	Iran
Nasser & PanArabism	“Nasser’s Republic”	4/15	4/22	April 1	Violence
Iranian Revolution	Keddie, 615-37	4/22	3/18	April 22	Nasser
Essay				April 29	

CLASS SCHEDULE

02/04/20	Scope and Objectives of the Course	
02/11	The Region: Its Unity and Diversity	Drysdale & Blake, <i>Middle East and North Africa</i> : 10-37
02/18	Rise of Islam and Islamic Civilization	Cleveland & M. Bunton, <i>History of the Modern Middle East</i> , 1-57
02/25	Imperialism Without Colonies: The Anglo-Turkish Convention	Stavrianos, <i>Global Rift</i> , 169-176, 205-220.
03/04	Imperialism With Colonies: Partition of the Ottoman Empire	Cleveland & M. Bunton, <i>History of the Modern Middle East</i> , 139-59.
03/11	Imperialism, Violence, and the Libyan Resistance, 1911-32	Video 1: "Lion of the Desert."
03/18	Oil: From Western Control to OPEC	Drysdale & Blake, <i>Middle East and North Africa</i> : 313-345.
03/25	Oil, Islam, and the Saudi State	Cleveland & M. Bunton, <i>History of the Modern Middle East</i> , 219-225, 402-412
04/01	Israel and Palestine	Drysdale & Blake, <i>Middle East and North Africa</i> , 263-312
04/8	Algerian War of Independence	Video 2 "The Battle of Algiers."
04/15	Nasser and Pan-Arabism	Video 3: "Nasser's Republic." (82 minutes)
04/22	The Iranian Revolution of 1978-1979	Keddie, "Iranian Revolution in," in <i>Modern Middle East</i> , 615-37.
04/29	Final Presentation	Individual Research
05/6	Final Presentation	Individual Research

READINGS

TITLE	FORM
W. L. Cleveland and M. Bunton, <i>A History of the Modern Middle East</i> (Boulder, CO: Westview, 6 th Ed., 2016), 1-57 (3rd Edition: 1-57, 139-59, 219-225, 402-412.	Hard Copy
A. Drysdale and G. H. Blake, <i>The Middle East and North Africa: A Political Geography</i> (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 10-37	Blackboard
Nikki Keddie, "Iranian Revolution in Comparative Perspective," in <i>Modern Middle East</i> , 615-37.	Hard Copy
L.S. Stavrianos, <i>Global Rift: The Third World Comes of Age</i> (New York: William Morrow and Co., 1981), 169-176, 205-220.	Blackboard

COLLEGE MANDATES

- **The College's Credit Hour Policy** on undergraduate courses is to award 4 credit hours for courses that meet for the equivalent of 3 periods of 50 minutes each week. Students enrolled in HIS 383W are expected to devote at least one hour each week to identifying the main lines of argument in course readings, working alone or in groups, and to researching in depth their topics for the final seminar paper..
- **Students with Disabilities:** The University of Rochester respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of disability, please contact the Office of Disability Resources. The access coordinators in the Office of Disability Resources can meet with you to discuss the barriers you

are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can reach the Office of Disability Resources at: disability@rochester.edu; (585) 276-5075; Taylor Hall. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me as well.

- **Academic Honesty Statement:** All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will be treated as such. Anyone who engages in such activities will be turned over to the College Board on Academic Honesty for disciplinary action, as outlined at <http://www.rochester.edu/College/honesty/>. For a helpful discussion of plagiarism (including subtle instances), see the American Historical Association's 'Defining Plagiarism,' <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/teaching-resources-for-historians/plagiarism-curricular-materials-for-history-instructors/defining-plagiarism.>"

- Grading scale:

A	100-93%
A-	92.9-90%
B+	89.9-87%
B	86.9-83%
B-	82.9-80%
C+	79.9-77%
C	76.9-73%
C-	72.9-70%
D+	69.9-67%
D	66.9-63%
D-	62.9-60%
F	Below 60%

- **Copyright notice:** Copyright © by Elias Mandala as to this syllabus and any class lectures.
- **Disclaimer:** The instructor reserves the right to change topics and assignments on the syllabus at any point in the semester. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.