An Introduction to the History of the Middle East in the Modern Period

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Course Description:
This course aims to introduce students to critical historical processes and themes that have shaped the development of the Middle East from the late Ottoman period until the present, with a focus on the twentieth century. The course will cover some of the major political, social, economic, and cultural transformations, including but not limited to: the transition from Ottoman to colonial rule, the rise of territorial states, various forms of nationalism, inter-Arab politics, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the Islamic revival and the jihadi phenomenon.

Grading:
Class preparation, attendance, and participation – 15%
Early Term essay – 15%
Final Paper – 70%

1-2. Beginnings of the Modern Period and Middle Eastern Encounters with Europe

Asher Susser and Duygu Atlas, The Emergence of the Modern Middle East (Tel Aviv: The Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University, 2017), pp. 1-20.


3-4. Modernity, Tradition, and the Age of Reform

Asher Susser and Duygu Atlas, The Emergence of the Modern Middle East (Tel Aviv: The Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University, 2017), pp. 21-38.


5. **Islamic Modernism: al-Afghani and ʿAbduh**


6. **Wahhabi Islam in the Arabian Peninsula**


7. **Rise of Nationalism; the Decline of Empire**

Asher Susser and Duygu Atlas, *The Emergence of the Modern Middle East* (Tel Aviv: The Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University, 2017), pp. 47-64.


8. **World War I and New States**


Asher Susser and Duygu Atlas, *The Emergence of the Modern Middle East* (Tel Aviv: The Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University, 2017), pp. 77-114.


9. **Ataturk and Turkey after World War I**


9. Reza Shah and Iran after World War I

Ervand Abrahamian, A History of Modern Iran (Cambridge University Press, 2008), Chapter 3.


10. Mossadegh: Iran and Oil Nationalization


Ervand Abrahamian, A History of Modern Iran (Cambridge University Press, 2008), Chapter 4.


11. The Rise of the Ba'ath Party and Arab Nationalism


12-13. Nasser and Politics of Arab Nationalism

Adeed Dawisha, Arab Nationalism in the Twentieth Century: From Triumph to Despair (Princeton University Press, 2002), Chapters 4-9.

14. The June 1967 Six Day War


15. The Post-1967 Reckoning


16. Kurdish Nationalism


17. The Iranian Revolution of 1978-1979


18. Salafism


19-20. Israel, Jordan, and Palestine

Asher Susser, Israel, Jordan, and Palestine: The Two State Imperative (Brandeis University Press, 2010).