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. 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. 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.

4. **Islamic Modernism: al-Afghani and ‘Abduh**


5-6. **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.


6-7. **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.


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


9. **Reza Shah and Iran after World War I**


10. **Mossadegh: Iran and Oil Nationalization**


11. **The Rise of the Ba’th Party and Arab Nationalism**


12-13. **Nasser and Politics of Arab Nationalism**


14. **The June 1967 Six Day War**


15. **The Post-1967 Reckoning**


16. Kurdish Nationalism


17. The Iranian Revolution of 1978-1979


18. Islamism


19-20. Israel, Jordan, and Palestine


21. The 2011 Arab Uprisings


22. Iraq and Syria: The Islamic State and the Kurds


Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan, ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror (New York: Regan Arts, 2015.)


Learning Accommodations

In accordance to University guidelines, students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests must submit official documentation from their home country / university (translated into English by notary) to TAU International in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs they have. Students must also bring a copy of this documentation with them on-site and give it to their faculty on the first day of class while introducing themselves so that the faculty know who they are and what sorts of needs they may have. TAU International and its faculty cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU but certainly does the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible that are needed.