

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-RIO GRANDE VALLEY  
HIST 3371.01–50792-MODERN MIDDLE EASTERN HISTORY  
SPRING 2018**

**Instructor:** Dr. Tamer Balci

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**Office Hours:** M-W: 3:00–4:00 pm or by appointment

**Course Time:** M-W 1:40-2:55 pm

**Classroom:** ELABS 258

**Office:** ELABS 346 B

**Course Description & Objectives:**

This is an advanced course concentrating on the historical trajectory of what is broadly defined as the modern Middle East from a period dating from the late eighteenth century up to recent times. The course will predominantly concentrate on the historical background of modern social and political conflicts in the Middle East. Over the course of the semester, we seek to understand how the various states and regions of the Middle East became integrated into a growing global economic and political system that ultimately came to be dominated by Western Europe, and later, the United States. The course also aims to better understand how the indigenous leadership and peoples of the Middle East world grappled with the challenges posed by the advent of the modern world system. What are the historical roots of the current conflicts in the Middle East? How do the modern ideologies affect social, political and economic life in the Islamic world? These are some of the questions that will be examined this course. We will also discuss the foreign policies of major external actors, in particular the US, Russia, and the European powers, toward the Middle East and more recently on the Arab Spring

This course concentrates on the history of the Middle East from 1798 to present. The course focuses on the historical origins of modern socio-political issues in the Middle East such as the Arab-Israeli Conflict, the Kurdish Problem, oil and water issues, nationalism, the rise of political Islam, and other regional issues.

- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to explain in writing main beliefs and events that shaped the modern Middle East.
- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to examine current issues critically from a historical perspective and argue effectively in writing about major issues of the modern Middle East.
- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to identify and critique historical facts and interpretations, and analyze issues in historical context in writing.
- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to remember the significance of Islam and the Middle East in the world politics in writing.
- Students who successfully complete this course will be able to analyze primary sources in writing and differentiate primary and secondary sources.

**Required Texts:**

1. Richard William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*. Boulder, Westview Press, 2016. Sixth Edition. ISBN: 978-0-8133-4980-0

2. Akram Fouad Khater. Edited. *Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East*. Boston: Wadsworth, 2011. Second Edition. ISBN: 978-0-618-958535.

**Note:** As the course must cover a number of issues that cannot be examined solely from the perspective of a few works, some shorter works, articles and translation of primary documents will be available on library reserve, or will be accessed on Blackboard.

### **Course Requirements & Assignments**

**8 Group Discussions:** You will participate in eight in-class group discussions. Your three worst grades will be dropped from the final calculation. Most of the assignments will require reading and analyzing primary documents. You will read the document and answer the questions. Analyzing primary documents requires background knowledge of the historical period. You are advised to read history of the period from your textbook or the course notes.

**Grading Group Assignments:** Every assignment will be graded based on its focus, content, accuracy adequacy and interpretation. You may receive up to 40 points for each assignment. Incomplete, inaccurate or unsatisfactory assignments will get lower points. Assignments will make up total 200 points toward your final grade. Group members will receive the same grade.

**2 Quizzes:** There will be two short quizzes. See the schedule below for specific dates.

**1 Midterm Examination:** The exam will cover all material presented during the first half of the course, including readings and notes.

**1 Analytical Essay:** During the semester you will write one analytical essay. Essay-writing guidelines and all related handouts will be posted on Blackboard.

**1 Final Examination:** The exam will cover all material presented during the second half of the course, including readings and notes.

### **Course Policies**

**Grading Policy:** I will grade all assignments and exams within 10 BUSINESS days. Essays will be graded within 20 BUSINESS days.

8 In-Class Group Discussions (3 lowest grades will be dropped) (5x40=200 Points)	
2 Quizzes (2x50=100 Points)	1 Analytical Essay (300 points)
1 Midterm Examination (200 Points)	1 Final Examination (200 Points)
<b>Total:</b> 1000 Points	

### **Grades will be determined as listed below**

<b>A:</b> 900 points or more	<b>C:</b> 700 to 799 points	
<b>B:</b> 800 to 899 points	<b>D:</b> 600 to 699 points	<b>F:</b> Below 600 points

**Class Participation & Attendance:** You will participate in weekly discussions of the required texts and other books or articles as assigned. You are expected to participate in class discussions. You should come to class prepared and have done as much of the reading as you can. Showing a consistent lack of preparation will hurt your prospects for success in this class in all of its facets. No more than two excused absences are allowed. If you have to miss a session, you should notify me in advance. You may be dropped from the course if you miss more than three meetings or two consecutive assignments. Be aware of and keep up with the Course Schedule in the Syllabus. Participate in activities to the best of your ability.

**Course Drops:** According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**Communication and Netiquette:** Students in online courses should use the email system in Blackboard Learn. I will answer all emails within TWO BUSINESS days. Per UTRGV policy, all email communication between the UTRGV faculty and staff and students must be conducted through the students' official University supplied UTRGV email account. Therefore, please use your UTRGV assigned email for any correspondence with UTRGV faculty and staff. Other emails may be blocked by the spam filter. You are responsible for the consequences of an undelivered or delayed email that are blocked by the spam filter. For online courses students should use the email system in Blackboard.

All students must have adequate writing skills to communicate content in a professional and concise manner. Students must be proficient in their written presentations including strategies for developing ideas, citing scholarly references, writing style, wording, phrasing, and using language conventions. Students must follow Chicago Manual of Style guidelines, use non-racist and non-sexist language, and include sufficient references to support their thesis and ideas in the assignments.

**Late Work and Make Ups:** Make-up exams will be given only if you provide a documented emergency situation that had prevented you from completing the exam. If you miss an exam, you must come to my office to take your make up exam. There is no make up for missed in-class group assignments.

**Incomplete Policy:** Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if you have a documented emergency. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within 30 days.

**Grading Assignments and Exams:** I will grade and give feedback on all assignments, Quizzes, Midterm and Final exams within 10 BUSINESS days. Essays will be graded within 20 BUSINESS days.

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:** As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive

academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at [ability@utrgv.edu](mailto:ability@utrgv.edu). **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at [ability@utrgv.edu](mailto:ability@utrgv.edu).

**Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence:** In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**Student Services:** Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email ([ucentral@utrgv.edu](mailto:ucentral@utrgv.edu)) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

**Mandatory Course Evaluation Period:** Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

Spring 2018 Module 1	February 14 – February 20
Spring 2018 Module 2	April 11 – April 17
Spring 2018 (full semester)	April 11 – May 2

**Course policies are subject to change:** It is the student’s responsibility to check Blackboard for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any change will be posted announced in class and in Blackboard.

### **Important Dates:**

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at <https://my.utrgv.edu/home>. Some important dates for spring 2018 include:

January 19	Last day to add a course or register for spring 2018
March 12 – 17	SPRING BREAK – NO classes
March 30 – 31	EASTER HOLIDAY – NO classes
April 12	Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
May 2	Last day of classes
May 3	Study Day – NO class
May 4 – 10	Spring 2018 Final Exams
May 11 - 12	Commencement Ceremonies

### **Topics & Schedule**

**January 17:** Introduction to the course; the origins of Islam, basic tenets of Islam, geography and the peoples of the Middle East. Sources for early Islamic history: Qur'an and Hadith. Main Islamic schools of thought: Shia and Sunni Islam. **Reading:** *Cleveland*, Chapter 1 and 2. *Khater*, "How to Read a Primary Source" p.1-6.

**January 22:** Middle East in the early modern period. **Reading:** *Cleveland*, Chapter 3.

**January 24:** Age of reforms in Egypt and the Ottoman Empire. **Reading:** *Cleveland*, Chapter 4 and 5. *Khater*, "Central Political Reforms and Local Responses" p.10-33.

**January 29-31:** Economic impact of the industrial revolution and colonialism on Egypt, Iran and the Ottoman Empire and Iran. **Reading:** *Cleveland*, Chapter 6. *Khater*, "Economic Changes" p.34-56.

**February 5-7:** Competing ideologies at the turn of century: Islam, nationalism and Zionism. **Reading:** *Cleveland*, Chapter 7 and 8. *Khater*, p.88-112.

**February 12:** Women in the Middle East in the late 19th and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. **Reading:** *Khater*, "Social and Cultural Reformulations", p.57-83.

**February 14:** *QUIZ 1 !!!*

**February 19:** WWI and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. **Reading:** *Cleveland*, Chapter 9. *Khater*, "Division of the Ottoman Empire: The Treaty of Sevres" p.112-118.

**February 21:** Interwar period: reforms in Turkey and Iran Arab World. **Reading:** *Cleveland*, Chapter 10.

**February 26:** Arab world in the Interwar period: Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. *Cleveland*, Chapter 11-12. *Khater*, "The Resolution of the General Syrian Congress at Damascus Proclaims Arab Sovereignty over Greater Syria, July 2, 1919" p.158-160. *Khater*, "The American King-Krane Commission Report", p.160-66. *Khater*, "A Writer for al-Asima, the Syrian Government

Newspaper, Seeks to Establish the Popular Ideas of the “Nation”, October 23, 1919” p.167-69. *Khater*, “The Contest for Alexandretta” p.177-179. *Khater*, “The Constitution of Saudi Arabia” p.212-217.

**February 28:** Arab-Israeli Conflict (1918-1948), **Reading:** *Cleveland*, Chapter 13. *Khater*, p.88-112, p.150-158, p.179-193. *Khater*, “The Husayn-McMahon Correspondence, Negotiating the Establishment of an “Arab Kingdom” in the Middle East, 1915-1916, p.104-107, “The Balfour Declaration” p.107-112.

**March 5:** Midterm Exam review.

**March 7: MIDTERM EXAMINATION !!!**

**March 12-14: SPRING BREAK! NO MEETING!**

**March 19-21:** WWII and decolonization: The Arab-Israeli Conflict (1948-1977), the Suez crisis, and the rise of Pan-Arabism in Egypt. **Reading:** *Cleveland*, Chapter 15, 16 and 17. *Khater*, “Syrian Michel Aflaq Addresses the Relationship between Arabism and Islam, 1943” p.130-135. *Khater*, “Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser Resigns” p.220-224. *Khater*, “Sadik al-Azm, an Arab Intellectual, Critiques the Arab State and Clergy for Their Use of Religion, 1968” p.225-228.

**March 26-28:** American Middle East Policy: Turkey and Iran in the Cold War (1945-1980). **Reading:** *Cleveland*, Chapter 14 and 18. *Khater*, “Ayatollah Khomeini Denounces the Rule of the Shah of Iran” p.229-232. *Khater*, “American Consular Documents: Assessment of the Revolution in Iran” p.241-244.

**April 2-4:** Arab world in the 1970s and 80s. Lebanese Civil War, Iran-Iraq War. The West and the oil crisis, the Gulf War, 1991. **Reading:** *Cleveland*, Chapter 19, 20 and 21. *Khater*, “Iraq’s Saddam Hussein Proclaims History as a Tool” p.208-212. *Khater*, “The Massacre of the Muslim Brothers of Syria in Hama, 1982” p.245-249.

**April 9:** The Arab-Israeli Conflict (1977-2017), **Reading:** *Cleveland*, Chapter 22 and 23. *Khater*, “Prime Minister Rabin’s Speech to Knesset on Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories, April 18, 1994”, p.249-252. *Khater*, “Documents About One of the Political Arguments Underlying the Lebanese Civil War” p.289-298.

*Khater*, “Hanan Michael-Ashrawi, The Meaning of the Intifada (1989)” p.252-54. *Khater*, “Report on Arab Israelis” p.254-59.

**April 11: QUIZ 2 !!!**

**April 16-18:** Turkey and Iran (1980-2017). *Cleveland*, Chapter 24.

**April 23-25:** The Middle East after the Cold War. The rise of terrorism, invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq. **Reading:** *Cleveland*, p.487-504, p.505-521. *Khater*, “Islamist Usame Bin Laden Calls

on Muslims to Take up Arms Against America, 1998” p.293-300. *Khater*, “Reflections on the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001” p.300-306.

**April 27: ANALYTICAL ESSAY DUE!!!**

**April 30:** Arab Spring and its repercussions. *Cleveland*, Chapter 26.

**May 2:** Overview of the key issues. Final Exam Review.

***FINAL EXAMINATION* !!!** Monday, May 7, 1:15-3:00 pm