

THE MIDDLE EAST 570-present (HIS 240, section 85)

Dr. Robinson-Dunn

Class meets Wednesday from 6:35 to 9:05 in B 136

Office- Briggs 326, 993-1107 (a message may be left with the secretary in the Liberal Arts office outside of office hours, but do not abuse this privilege, 993-1287)

Office Hours- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:05-6:35 p.m. on Wed., and by appointment

Course Description – This class is an historical survey of the Middle East (including the Ottoman Empire and Iran) from the rise of Muhammad to the present. Among the topics to be discussed are the emergence and development of Islam, the politics and culture of Islamic empires in this area, women and gender, relationships with the West, nationalism, and identity. Students should have an understanding of and be able to think critically and analytically about the material. Also, they should be able to work with primary sources and communicate their ideas effectively through the spoken and written word.

The grade for this course will be based on class participation (20%), the mid-term exam (20%), the final exam (30%) and two papers (15%) and (15%). In order to pass this class, you must take both exams and submit both papers.

The class participation grade is *not* a warm body grade. In other words you do not get credit simply for being here. You must come to class prepared to write about and/or discuss the course packet readings assigned on the dates indicated below. I will give periodic, unannounced in-class writing assignments, usually lasting for about 15-20 minutes and based primarily on these readings. We will also discuss them as a class. In-class writing will give you a chance to practice organizing and effectively communicating your ideas on paper, which will help you on the exams. General attitude and demeanor count as well. Excessive absences, chronic lateness to and early departure from class, and disruptive behavior in general will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the class.

Students with disabilities must see me during the first week of class in order to make any special arrangements that might be necessary.

There will be no deadline extensions for the papers and no make-up exams except in cases of serious illness verified by a doctor's note.

Required Texts: *The Middle East*, edited by Glenn E. Perry, third edition (1997)

Naguib Mahfouz, *Miramar* (Cairo: the American University of Cairo Press, 1978).

Course Packet (available in the liberal arts office on the first floor of Briggs)

Note : some weeks you will be responsible for more reading material than others. Review the assignments well in advance and plan your schedule accordingly.

January

9 - Introduction and preIslamic Arabia

16 - The Rise of Muhammad and Early Islam

Perry, chapter 1

23 - Umayyids and Abbasids

Course Packet (henceforth CP): *The Qur'an*, 1-4; Ibn Babawayh al-Saduq (the Imams and religious authority), 5-6; al-Mawardi (Office of the Caliphate), 7-8. Perry chapters 2 and 3

30- Gender, Society and Culture in the Middle East

CP:; discussion of women and the veil by Fatima Mernissi, 13-21; and the voyages of Sinbad the Seaman from *The Book of The Thousand Nights and a Night*, 22-38.

February

6 - Later Medieval Period

CP: Sufi mystical writings of Jalal al-Din Rumi, 9-11, and Muhammad al-Ghazali, 12; Usamah ibn Munqidh (Impressions of Western Crusaders), 39-42; Imam Nawawi (analysis of Hadith literature), 43-46.

Perry chapter 4

13 First Paper Due

13- Rise of the Ottoman and Safavid Empires

CP: Sultan Selim I (continued Sunni-Shi'ite tensions), 48-49; Mahmud Kati (Chronicle of a Pilgrimage to Mecca), 50-52.

20- The Ottoman Empire: Race, Gender, Slavery and the Life of the Imperial Court

CP: Evliya Celebi on the Ottoman statesman Melek Ahmed Pasha, 53-68 (glossary 69-71), and Leslie Pierce, "The Imperial Harem Institution," 72-96.

27 - Decline of Ottoman Power, European Imperialism, and Movements for Reform

CP: Muhammad ibn-Abd al-Wahhab, 97-100; Baha'u'llah, 101-104; and 'Abdu'l-Baha, 105-106.

March

6 – no class - spring break

13 Mid-Term Exam

20- European Imperialism and Reaction /Nationalist and Constitutionalist Movements: Islam, Democracy and the West

CP: Jamal ad-Din "al-Afghani" (An Islamic response to imperialism) 107-126; Proclamation of the "Young Turks," 127-128; and for extra credit Hisham Sharabi, "The Transformation of Ideology in the Arab World," 129-138.

Perry chapters 6 and 7

27 Turkey and Egypt in the 20th Century

Miramar by Naguib Mahfouz.

April

3 - Second paper due

3- The Creation of Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Edward Said, "An Ideology of Difference," 139-159, and Benjamin Netanyahu, "The Question of Jewish Power," 160-169.

Perry chapter 8

10 - The Iranian Revolution and the rise of "fundamentalist" or political Islam

CP - Bassam Tibi from *The Challenge of Fundamentalism*, 170-179, and CNN report

Perry chapters 9 and 10

17 Visual presentation and Review for final

22-26 Finals week