

Montgomery College
Rockville Campus
History and Political Science Department
Syllabus

HS214: Modern Middle East
Section 31667
Dr. T. Elkin Taylor
Spring 2010
Classroom: TC 231
2:00 - 3:15 p.m. Tues/Thu

Office: Humanities Bldg, Room 270
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Required Texts:

- William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton. *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 4th ed. 2009.
- *The Middle East*, 11th ed. Published by Congressional Quarterly. 2007.
- *The Washington Post* (January 26 to date of final exam).

General Course Information:

Description: This course emphasizes developments in the Middle East (including Afghanistan) since 1914. But to understand the region's recent history one must know the fundamentals of Middle Eastern culture as it developed over the centuries; therefore a number of lectures are devoted to the region's religion, culture and society.

Aims and objectives: That students (1) cultivate a thoughtful, critical view of historical events, (2) develop a thorough knowledge of the Middle East and an understanding of its religions, its cultures, its history - how and why it came to be what it is, (3) understand the motivations and perspectives of the various actors in the region, especially in the period since 1945, and (4) articulate thoughts clearly and coherently, orally and in writing.

Course Requirements and Grading:

There will be three exams, each consisting of several "mini-essays," a longer essay and questions on current affairs. Exam questions will come from lectures, discussion, textbooks and newspaper articles. For the most part exams do not include material covered in prior exam periods. Exams taken on schedule allow students to choose from among alternative questions and include an extra-credit question; exams taken late offer neither of these benefits. The final exam must be taken on time.

Each student must read two books, chosen from a list that will be handed out early in the course, and write an analytical review of them. Most are in the MC Rockville library. I prefer an essay that draws on both books, not two separate reports. For example, you may want to summarize the most

salient points of each of your two books and then compare the viewpoints of the authors or the experience of two different countries as reflected in the books, perhaps mentioning virtues and shortcomings you perceive in the works under review. Choose books that lend themselves to joint treatment. *Alternatively*, you may read and write an analytical review of one long book (400 or more pages of text). If you have experience or special knowledge of some particular country or aspect of the Middle East, I suggest that you choose books on subjects that are NOT in your area of expertise, in order to broaden your understanding of the region. Reviews should be about 4 double-spaced pages long; no cover or binder, please.

Quality of analysis, organization and writing skill will be important factors in determining the grade of your review. Most important of all is the thoughtfulness and perceptiveness of your paper. Some students may be asked to report orally on their reports. There is a penalty of one letter grade per week for late submission of papers. Plagiarism (passing off the work of others as your own) or any other form of cheating, will ordinarily result in an F for the course.

Reports, exams and class participation are given a numerical grade and weighted as follows:

First exam (February 25)	20%
Second exam (April 1)	20%
Book review (April 22)	25%
Final exam (May 11, 2:45 p.m.)	20%
Attendance, participation, etc.	15%

Guidance for Students:

Class attendance is of great importance; 15% of the student's grade is based on participation in class. A few class periods are set aside exclusively for discussions on assigned subjects; in addition there will often be brief discussions of current events. Most classroom time is taken up with lectures, many of which cover material not in the textbooks. *Take good notes*. Similarly, much important material in the textbooks is not covered in lecture. Students are responsible for knowing the views of any guest lecturer who addresses the class. If you must be absent from any class, let me know - in advance if possible - and arrange to study the notes of another student. Ask questions and say what you think in class. *Keep up with assigned readings*. These include (1) textbook assignments as listed below; (2) all articles on the Middle East in the *Post* (paper or electronic version) for the duration of this course; and (3) a few extra readings which will be assigned from time to time. An unexcused absence from a pre-announced discussion period results in the student receiving a zero for that class. I encourage you to talk to me during office hours or at any mutually convenient time, especially if you need help. Note my Verizon e-mail address; do NOT send mail to me via Montgomery College.

The Cleveland-Bunton textbook has a useful glossary of Arabic, Persian and Turkish terms. The CQ text has a chronological list of events.

- Elkin Taylor

THIS REQUIRES DOUBLE-CHECKING!!

HS 214 - **Class Schedule**

The following is the schedule of lectures and readings. It is subject to change. Required readings should be completed before class. "C&B" refers to the Cleveland-Bunton text; "CQ" refers to the text published by Congressional Quarterly.

<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Subject of Readings</u>	<u>Textbook Readings</u>
1/26	Introduction	
1/28	Judaism & Christianity	Rise and expansion of Islam; Islamic civilization to 15th cent.
		C&B 1-35; CQ 1-11
2/2	Birth & growth of Islam	Safavid & Ottoman empires; Ottoman empire, Egypt, 1789-1849
		C&B 37-80; CQ 11-32
2/4	Traditional Islamic law	Ottoman empire, Egypt, 1839-76; Egypt and Iran, late 19th century
		C&B 81-117
2/9	Palestine to 1948	The Arab-Israeli conflict to 1948
		C&B 239-71; CQ 33-52
2/11	Arabs v. Israel, 1948-1982	Palestinian-Israeli conflict
		C&B 356-67, 386-90, CQ 52-75
2/16	Arabs v. Israel, 1982-2010	Palestinian-Israeli conflict
		C&B 473-78, 499-525; CQ 75-96;
2/18	Israel; Palestinian Auth.	Israelis and Palestinians
		C&B 345-56; CQ 279-306, 377-94
2/23	GUEST SPEAKER: AMBASSADOR SAMUEL LEWIS	
2/25	FIRST EXAM	
3/2	Traditional society	Response to Europe's challenge; Turkey & Iran up to 1914
		C&B 119-48
3/4	The family and society	End of the Ottoman Empire; Turkey & Iran up to 1945
		C&B 149-92
3/9	Islam and women	Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan, 1919-45; Syria, Lebanon, Arabia, 1919-45
		C&B 193-237
3/11	Turkey	Turkey and Iran, 1945 - c. 1979
		C&B 273-88, 527-35; CQ 457-74
3/15-21	SPRING BREAK	
3/23	Iran, 1979 to date	The Iranian Revolution
		C&B 288-300, 423-50; CQ, 235-59
3/25	Iran (continued)	
		C&B 535-41, 573-77

3/30	Egypt	Egypt under Nasser & Sadat	C&B 301-44, 369-82, 392-95; CQ 217-33
4/1	SECOND EXAM		
4/6	Lebanon	Lebanon/Jordan	C&B 382-92; CQ 307-24, 337-60
4/8	Afghanistan	Afghanistan	Special assignment (TBA)
4/13	Syria and Iraq	Syria/Iraq	C&B 397-415; CQ 261-77, 437-55
4/15	War in the Gulf, 1980-2008	War in the Gulf	C&B 415-21, 478-97
4/20	War in the Gulf (continued)		CQ 97-139, 325-35
4/22	Oil & Gas in the Mideast	Petroleum	CQ 141-58 <u>REPORT DUE</u>
4/27	Saudi Arabia	The Arabian states	C&B 231-34, 451-72; CQ 395-435, 475-85
4/29	Islamism	Islam and politics	C&B 541-56
5/4	Islamism (continued)		CQ 17-32
5/6	DISCUSSION: U.S. FOREIGN POLICY & THE MIDDLE EAST		C&B 557-73; CQ 159-214
5/11	FINAL EXAM (2:45 - 4:45 p.m.)		