

## **HIST 310: The Arab Gulf and Indian Ocean: History and Current Issues**

### **Syllabus**

**Credit Hours:** 3 credit hours

**Program Location:** Amman, Jordan

**Term and Year:**

**Course Hours:**

#### **Course Description:**

This course aims to introduce students to the nature of the social, economic and political relations that connected the Gulf to the Indian Ocean from the sixteenth century onwards. Emphasis will be placed on the social, economic, religious and political currents that influenced the peoples of southwest Asia (or the Western Indian Ocean) on a regional scale. While the European colonial impact will be a major focus, attention will primarily be placed on patterns and currents that predated the European intervention, and subsisted long after the Western impact had diminished.

#### **Aims and Objectives of the Course**

The course aims to:

- Help students understand the history and development of relations between the Gulf States and the Indian Ocean in the modern and contemporary period;
- Explain the important issues that went into the making of relationships between the Gulf and the Indian Ocean on the one hand, and on the other, the international empires that emerged from the fifteenth to the twentieth centuries which fought over the region's trade, routes and capital, AND
- Assign students a variety of resources and materials on the Gulf and Southwest Asia, including printed sources and published oral testimonies regarding the social, political, economic and cultural networks of the region.

#### **Learning outcomes for the course**

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand how historical as well as current issues have affected, and continue to affect the relationship(s) between the Arab Gulf and the Indian Ocean;
- Understand the impact and influence of European colonial interventions on the Arab Gulf and the Indian Ocean;
- Assimilate and appreciate the resilience and flexibility of the region during and after the period of Colonial interventions and the strong local connections that continue to buttress the relationship(s) between the Arab Gulf and the Indian Ocean AND
- Project that comparative historical vision into a possible (if not probable) assessment of the future of the region into the twenty-first century.

#### **Knowledge**

This course is designed to assist students in acquiring and demonstrating knowledge about:

- The history of the Arab Gulf and the Indian Ocean AS A REGION before the advent of European Empires;
- The rise and spread of international empires in the region and the beginning of state formation;
- The history and current affairs of India, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and the Gulf states, AND
- The development of potential scenarios for the future of the region: In a globalized world, what options exist for the re-emergence of regional unity?

### Skills

This course is designed to assist students in acquiring or enhancing the following skills:

- Learn to sift and use all types of evidence to develop a more informed world view of the region based on the history and current politics of the Indian Ocean;
- Develop the critical and practical skills needed to convey this informed perspective on paper and in class discussion AND
- Exhibit key skills required for retrieval, synthesis, analysis and interpretation of information from the current literature in the field.

### Readings

- William Dalrymple, *Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan*. Bloomsbury: London, 2014.
- Thomas Anderson, "Teaching the Indian Ocean as World History", *World History Connect*, 2014.
- Sebastian R. Prange, "Scholars of the Sea: A Historiography of the Indian Ocean", *History Compass*, 2008.
- Jennifer L. Gaynor, "Maritime Southeast Asia: Not Just a Crossroads", *Education About ASIA*, 2014."
- Fahad Bishara and Patricia Risso, "The Gulf, the Indian Ocean and the Arab World", in J.E. Peterson, ed. *The Emergence of the Gulf States*. 2016.
- Lawrence G. Potter, ed. "Arabia and Iran", in J.E. Peterson, ed. *The Emergence of the Gulf States*. 2016.
- Hala Fattah, "Patterns of Intra-Gulf Relations: Iraq and the Gulf Until 1980" in J.E. Peterson, ed. *The Emergence of the Gulf States*. 2016.
- J.E. Peterson, "The Age of Imperialism and Its Impact on the Gulf" in J.E. Peterson, ed. *The Emergence of the Gulf States*. 2016.
- Edward A. Alpers, "Piracy and the Indian Ocean", 2011.
- Kevin P. McDonald, "A Man of Courage and Activity: Thomas Tew and Pirate Settlements of the Indo-Atlantic World, 1645-1730", Working Papers, UC Berkeley, 2005.
- Mike Thomin, "Among Ships of Thieves and Waves of Change", 2015.
- Sebastian R. Prange, "A Trade of No Dishonor", *American Historical Review*, 2011.
- Markus Vink, "The World's Oldest Trade: Dutch Slavery and Slave Trade in the Indian Ocean in the Seventeenth Century", *Bridging World History*, 2004.
- Janet Ewald, "Crossers of the Sea: Slaves, Freedmen and Other Migrants in the Northwest Indian Ocean, c. 1750-1914", *American Historical Review*, 2000.

- Jerzy, Zdanowski “ The Manumission Movement in the Gulf”, *Middle Eastern Studies*, 2011.
- Nigel Green, “Saints, Rebels and Booksellers in the Cosmopolitan Western Indian Ocean, c.1780-1920”, n.d.
- Amal Ghazal, “An Ottoman Pasha and the End of Empire: Suleyman Al-Buruni and the Networksof Islamic Reform”, n.d.
- Scott S. Reese, “A Leading Muslim of Aden: Personal Trajectories, Imperial Networks and theConstruction of Community in Colonial Aden”, n.d.

### Assessment Overview

Description	Weight	Due Date
Engagement	20%	Continuous
Film Reviews	20%	To Be Assigned
Midterm Exam	30%	Week 8
Final Research Paper	30%	Week 15

### Assessment Tasks

#### Attendance and Engagement

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes and come prepared to participate fully in class activities. Students are further expected to be on time for all classes. Arriving late for class is disrespectful of both the instructor and fellow students. Please refer to the official Amideast Attendance policy for more information.

#### Film Reviews

The Film Reviews will tackle two fairly comprehensive exercises: 1) a bi-monthly viewing of two documentary or commercial films, and 2) a 500 word critique of each movie viewed in class. In other words, the four films viewed this semester will result in four critiques, which will amount altogether to 2000 words. Each critique will be assigned a 5% of the overall grade (20% in all).

#### Mid Term Exam

The Midterm will consist of thematic essay questions on the material studied in the course. It will focus on four broad essays, from which the student will choose two to answer in three hours. Each will be assigned 30% of the overall grade for the course (in other words, 60% for the midterm and final combined). I expect essay answers that will amount to 1000 words, or 4 pages. *Note, this is one week later than other midterms on the program.*

#### The Final Research Paper

A final research paper will function in lieu of a final exam, and will amount to 3000 words, roughly 12 pages in all. It will be graded 30% of the total.

### Course Schedule

Week	Classwork	Homework	Exams, Trips, and Holidays
Week	<i>Orientation Week</i>		
Week 1	INTRODUCTION TO COURSE		
Week 2	SETTING THE SCENE : ISSUES IN THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN Film (tba)	Teaching the Indian Ocean as World History (article, 11 pages). Scholars and the Sea: A Historiography of the Indian Ocean (article, 12 pages) Maritime SE Asia: Not Just a Crossroads (article, 6 pages) The Emergence of the Gulf States (chapter, 33 pages) 59 PAGES IN ALL.	
Week 3	<i>No Class</i>	<i>No Class</i>	Holiday- No Class
Week 4	THE ARAB GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN IN THE AGE OF EMPIRES	Arabia and Iran (Chapter, 28 Pages) Iraq and the Gulf Until 1980 (Chapter, 22 pages) The Age of Imperialism And Its Impact on the Gulf (Chapter, 47 pages) 97 PAGES IN ALL	Excursion
Week 5	FILM/DOCUMENTARY (TBA)		
Week 6	PIRACY	Piracy and Indian Ocean Africa (article, 38 pages) A Man of Courage and Activity: Thomas Tew and Pirate Settlements (Article, 21 pages) A Trade of No Dishonor (article, 23 pages) (82 Pages in All)	
Week 7	PIRACY REDUX AND SLAVERY	Among Ships of Thieves on Waves of Change: Piracy in the Gulf and Caribbean (article, 31 pages) The World's Oldest Trade: Dutch Slavery and the Slave Trade in the Indian Ocean (article, 29 pages) (60 pages in all)	
Week 8	MIDTERM		Break

Week 9	SLAVERY (2) Film/documentary in second half of class time (TBA)	The Manumission Movement in the Gulf in the First Half of the 20th Century (article, 20 pages) Crossers of the Sea: Slaves, Freedmen and Other Migrants in the Indian Ocean (article, 21 pages)	
Week 10	INTELLECTUAL MOVEMENTS IN THE GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN	Saints, Rebels and Booksellers in the Indian Ocean (article, 35 pages) An Ottoman Pasha and the End of Empire (17 pages) A Leading Muslim of Aden (article, 18 pages) 71 pages in all	Excursion
Week 11	Book on the ill-fated British expedition against the Afghans in the nineteenth century.	Return of A King By William Dalrymple (About the British Invasion of Afghanistan in the 19th Century)	
Week 12	Continuation of the Analysis of Return of a King Film (tba)		
Week 13	No Class		Excursion
Week 14	FILM/Documentary (TBA)		
Week 15	Final Research Paper Due		
Week 16	<i>Reflection Week</i>		