

HIST 380: The History of Colonialism in the Middle East and North Africa

Syllabus

Credits: 3 credit hours

Program Location: Amideast

Term and Year:

Name of Instructor:

Course Hours:

Contact Information:

Aims and Objectives of the Course:

- Providing students with a clear understanding of the history of colonialism in the SWANA region, its historical impact and ongoing legacy.
- Challenging mainstream approaches to the history of the SWANA region, providing a historical framework able to question hegemonic categories of analysis and to illustrate the impact of colonial dynamics in its broader dimension, looking at its ongoing political as well as economic and social impact.
- Providing students with the necessary background to think about socio-political history and current dynamics in an informed and thorough manner.
- Developing a critical and inquisitive look on the region's history: uncovering, grasping and criticizing the historical power relations in order to understand current events and developments.
- Analyzing the variety of resistance strategies to Colonialism put in place by the colonized and the historical processes that led to decolonization and independence

Course Description:

This course focuses on the history and practices of colonialism in the South West Asia and North Africa region. It looks at the formation of a modern nation-state system in the region, focusing on the role of international powers and the hegemonic relations that were put in place in order to understand how they shaped and still influence the political history of the area. The course covers the most important developments in the region, providing a solid historic background for the analysis of contemporary developments.

The first class provides the theoretical tools necessary to frame the course and critically approach the study of the history of the region by identifying and defining colonial practices and mechanisms, the different actors and their political role. This approach should help the student to challenge the traditional mainstream paradigms around the history of the SWANA region. The course will then follow a chronological criterion: it will start by assessing the Ottoman role in the area and Arab opposition to its rule, in order to understand the impact of international events and European powers in shaping the region following World War I. Following classes will critically assess British and French rule, their colonial policies and practices in the region by analyzing different case studies. This will allow an overall understanding of the historical developments in the region, whilst appreciating the interconnection of domestic, regional and international developments in the socio-political life of the people in the region. French colonization

of Algeria will provide the first case study for the analysis of colonialism in the region; the case of Italian colonization of Libya will also be discussed. The second part of the course will focus on the central role of colonial powers and their politics in the making of the Levantine region. The colonial history of Transjordan-Syria-Lebanon-Iraq will be examined, paying particular attention to the historical legacy of colonialism in current events. The course will also address the impact of the post-World War II developments on the plights of the Armenian and Kurd people. The particular case of Palestine will be studied in its contemporary relevance. Finally, the relevance of colonialism and imperialism in the development of Gulf States will also be addressed. The last class will be devoted to analyzing and discussing the contemporary relevance of colonialism in the region beyond its historical impact, looking at current power relations and the neocolonial mechanisms that inform them.

Learning Outcomes

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

- understand the history behind present day events
- detect and understand power relations developing in the region
- question categories and ways of thinking
- develop and apply critical analytical skills
- contextualize the history of different SWANA states into broader regional and international dynamics

Knowledge

This course is designed to assist students to acquire and demonstrate knowledge about:

- The relevance of colonial rule and super powers influence in the making of the SWANA region.
- The relation of politics to economy, society, culture, and thought, and to relate domestic, regional, and international dynamics.
- The interaction between domestic, regional, and international dynamics in the political history of the region as well as in current developments.
- the historical processes that led to decolonization and independence

Skills

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

- Employing significant theories and conceptual frameworks, such as colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, orientalism, and their impact on the study and analysis of the SWANA region.
- Framing contemporary political events within social and historical contexts.
- Engaging in discussions with classmates as well as with host country nationals on the most important events and political dynamics of the region in their historical as well as current relevance.
- Critical thinking and inquiry
- Thoughtful analyses of readings

Attitudes

This course is designed to encourage development of the following attitudes:

- A critical approach to mainstream narratives on the Arab world.

- Understanding the relevance of critical theoretical frameworks for the study of the SWANA region as well as understanding the enduring impact of colonialism and imperialism on the region's political history.
- Intellectual curiosity
- Critical inquiry and investigation
- Analytical rigor in class discussions and written exams

Required Reading

Allday, Luiss. "The British in the Gulf: An Overview | Qatar Digital Library." Accessed January 10, 2022. <https://www.qdl.qa/en/british-gulf-overview>.

Cleveland, William L., and Martin P. Bunton. *A History of the Modern Middle East*. New York, NY: Routledge, an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, 2019. (selected chapters)

Degerald, Michael. "Syria, Lebanon and the Roots of Sectarianisation." *openDemocracy*, August 27, 2012. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/syria-lebanon-and-roots-of-sectarianisation/>.

Deniz Duruiz "Tracing the Conceptual Genealogy of Kurdistan as International Colony," *Middle East Report* 295 (Summer 2020)

Fuller, Mia, and Ruth Ben-Ghiat. *Italian Colonialism*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008. (selected chapters)

Hanieh, Adam. *Lineages of Revolt: Issues of Contemporary Capitalism in the Middle East*. Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books, 2013.

Neep, Daniel. "The Architecture of a Colonial State." Essay. In *Occupying Syria under the French Mandate: Insurgency, Space and State Formation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Onley, James. "Britain's Informal Empire in the Gulf 1820-1971." Essay. In *The Arabian Frontier of the British Raj: Merchants, Rulers, and the British in the Nineteenth-Century Gulf*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Owen, Roger. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Middle East*. Routledge, 1992. (selected chapters)

Prochaska, David. "The Political Culture of Settler Colonialism in Algeria: Politics in Bone, 1870-1920." *Revue Du Monde Musulman Et De La Méditerranée*, no. 48/49 (1988): 293-311.

Rogan, Eugene L. *The Arabs: A History*. London, UK: Penguin Books, 2018. (selected chapters)

Said, Edward W. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage Books, 2004.

Sayegh. "Zionist Colonialism in Palestine." 206-25.

Schayegh, Cyrus. The Routledge Handbook of the History of the Middle East Mandates. London ; New York: Routledge, 2020. (selected chapters)

Sluglett, Peter. "An improvement on colonialism? The 'A' mandates and their legacy in the Middle East." International Affairs 90 (2014), 413-427.

Traboulsi, Fawwaz. A History of Modern Lebanon. London: Pluto Press, 2012. excerpt
Willis, John. "Making Yemen Indian: Rewriting the Boundaries of Imperial Arabia." International Journal of Middle East Studies Vol. 41, No. 1 (Feb., 2009), pp. 23-38 (16 pages)

Young, Robert. *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 2001.

Assessment Overview

| Description | Weight | Due Date |
|-------------------------|--------|--|
| Participation | 20% | Continuous |
| Individual presentation | 15% | Schedule for presentations will be decided on Week 1 with the instructor |
| Mid-Term exam | 30% | |
| Final Exam | 35% | |

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.

Beyond being in class on time, expectations of student engagement that are accounted for in this portion of the grade include both quality and quantity: full involvement in in-class exercises, class discussions, active listening and asking questions, and proactively seeking additional help during office hours if needed. Throughout the semester, there are a number and variety of program activities that are mandatory for all students. They are announced in advance and reminders are sent. Failure to attend mandatory program activities therefore reflects negatively on students' attendance and engagement grade.

Attendance Policy

Please see the terms of the attendance policy as noted in the LMS for this course.

Assessment Tasks

In-Class Presentations

Every week a student will present on the assigned readings. Each student will present throughout the course. The presentation will serve as an opening for the class discussion in which all students are

expected to actively participate. The presenter should introduce the readings, providing a general overview and summary of the material analyzed; they should critical engage with the reading sharing their analysis and thought on them and finally suggest questions to open up the discussion. The presenter is expected to provide their classmates with a hand-out (max 2 pages), preferably organized in bullet points, in order to facilitate the understanding of the subject matter. The presentation should last 15-20 minutes in total, failure to meet the time limits will result in a lower grade.

Mid-Term exam

The exam consists in an in-class test. Students should answer 3 questions related to the readings and material discussed in class between week 1 and 6.

Final Exam

By the end of the course student should submit a review of the book “When we were Arabs” based on a reflection on the material analyzed and discussed in class throughout the course.

Course Schedule

| Week | Class Work | Homework | Exams, Trips and Holidays |
|--------|---|--|---------------------------|
| Week | <i>Orientation Week</i> | | |
| Week 1 | Introduction to the course, placements readings and assignments | Introduction- questionnaire: What do you know about SWANA? Geography of the region | |
| Week 2 | Defining the terms: Colonialism and historical continuity Colonialism Neocolonialism postcolonialism | Young, Robert. <i>Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction</i> . Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 2001. (Colonialism Imperialism pp. 15-44) | |
| Week 3 | Setting the frame Colonialism and the colonized | Fanon, Frantz. <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> . New York: Grove Press, 1968. pages 35-53; 95-107 Said, Edward W. <i>Orientalism</i> . New York: Vintage Books, 2004. Pages 1-28 | |

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| | | Hanieh, Adam. Lineages of Revolt: Issues of Contemporary Capitalism in the Middle East. Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books, 2013. Pages 9-47 | |
| Week 4 | The ottoman empire in the Arab world | Rogan, Eugene L. The Arabs: A History. London, UK: Penguin Books, 2018. First 3 chapters, pages 13-85 | |
| Week 5 | The end of the Ottoman Empire and colonialism: North Africa case studies | <p>Rogan, Eugene L. The Arabs: A History. London, UK: Penguin Books, 2018. chapter 4 pages 109-149</p> <p>Owen, Roger. State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Middle East. Routledge, 1992. Pages 22-40</p> <p>Fuller, Mia, and Ruth Ben-Ghiat. Italian Colonialism. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008. 59-73, 203-209</p> <p>Prochaska, David. "The Political Culture of Settler Colonialism in Algeria: Politics in Bone, 1870-1920." <i>Revue Du Monde Musulman Et De La Méditerranée</i>, no. 48/49 (1988): 293-311.</p> <p>In Class Movie The battle of Algiers</p> | |
| Week 6 | Mid Term exam | | Exam |
| Week 7 | Spring break | NO CLASS | Break |
| Week 8 | The modern Middle East: imperialism and nation state formation | <p>Cleveland, William L., and Martin P. Bunton. A History of the Modern Middle East. New York, NY: Routledge, an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, 2019. P 239-261</p> <p>Sluglett, Peter. "An improvement on colonialism? The 'A' mandates and their legacy in the Middle East." <i>International Affairs</i> 90 (2014), 413-427.</p> <p>Asher Kaufman, "Colonial Cartography and the Making of Palestine, Lebanon and Syria," <i>The Routledge Handbook of the History of the Middle East Mandates</i>, edited by Cyrus Schayegh and Andrew Arsan. London: Routledge, 2015: chapter 14.</p> <p>Keith David Watenpaugh "Between communal survival and national aspiration: Armenian genocide refugees, the League of Nations and the practices of interwar humanitarianism " <i>The Routledge Handbook of the</i></p> | |

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| | | History of the Middle East Mandates, edited by Cyrus Schayegh and Andrew Arsan. London: Routledge, 2015: chapter 2 p 41-62. | |
| Week 9 | The Making of Iraq and Jordan | <p>Cleveland, William L., and Martin P. Bunton. A History of the Modern Middle East. New York, NY: Routledge, an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, 2019. The Arab Struggle for Independence: Egypt, Iraq, and Transjordan from the Interwar Era to 1945 p 193-216</p> <p>Tariq Tell The social origins of mandatory rule in Transjordan The Routledge Handbook of the History of the Middle East Mandates, edited by Cyrus Schayegh and Andrew Arsan. London: Routledge, 2015: 212-225</p> <p>Throwing Transjordan into Palestine The Routledge Handbook of the History of the Middle East Mandates, edited by Cyrus Schayegh and Andrew Arsan. London: Routledge, 2015:</p> <p>Noga Efrati Colonial Gender Discourse in Iraq. Constructing non citizens. The Routledge Handbook of the History of the Middle East Mandates, edited by Cyrus Schayegh and Andrew Arsan. London: Routledge, 2015: chapter 9 p 157-170</p> <p>Deniz Duruiz "Tracing the Conceptual Genealogy of Kurdistan as International Colony," Middle East Report 295 (Summer 2020)</p> | |
| Week 10 | Syria and Lebanon under colonial rule | <p>Cleveland, William L., and Martin P. Bunton. A History of the Modern Middle East. New York, NY: Routledge, an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, 2019. The Arab Struggle for Independence: Syria, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia from the Interwar Era to 1945 p 217-139</p> <p>Neep, Daniel. "The Architecture of a Colonial State." Essay. In Occupying Syria under the French Mandate: Insurgency, Space and State Formation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. p 20-39</p> <p>Degerald, Michael. "Syria, Lebanon and the Roots of Sectarianisation." openDemocracy, August 27, 2012. https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/syria-lebanon-and-roots-of-sectarianisation/</p> <p>Traboulsi, Fawwaz. A History of Modern Lebanon. London: Pluto Press, 2012. excerpt</p> | |

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| | | In class movie Movie West Beirut | |
| Week 11 | Palestine | -Sayegh. "Zionist Colonialism in Palestine." 206-25. Further reading to be assigned | |
| Week 12 | Legacy of colonialism in the Levantine region | GUEST SPEAKER | |
| Week 13 | Gulf Countries and Yemen | Onley, James. "Britain's Informal Empire in the Gulf 1820-1971." Essay. In The Arabian Frontier of the British Raj: Merchants, Rulers, and the British in the Nineteenth-Century Gulf. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. Willis, John. "Making Yemen Indian: Rewriting the Boundaries of Imperial Arabia." International Journal of Middle East Studies Vol. 41, No. 1 (Feb., 2009), pp. 23-38 (16 pages) Allday, Luiss. "The British in the Gulf: An Overview Qatar Digital Library." Accessed January 10, 2022. https://www.qdl.qa/en/british-gulf-overview . | |
| Week 14 | Colonialism today | Readings to be assigned In Class Movie Syriana | |
| Week 15 | | Final exam | Submission final paper |
| | Reflection week | | |