

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA  
Department of History

HISTORY 277A  
**History of the Middle East, 1789-WWII**  
subject to change

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Office hours: R 1130-120, or by appointment.

COR A120  
MR 10:00-11:20

**Course Outline:** This course examines the major political, economic and social processes that shaped the Middle East from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Major subjects to be discussed include: the transformation of ruling practices and social relationships during the era of Ottoman, Egyptian and Iranian reforms; patterns of European pressure; the impact of World War One and the imposition of European imperial rule throughout the Arab lands; the struggles for political and economic independence; and, the evolution of major political ideologies of the interwar period.

A prominent theme of this course is that the passing of the Ottoman Empire is of seminal importance to our understanding of the challenges facing the Middle East today. Accordingly, we will try to follow current events, and students are encouraged to bring to class stories from the media (particularly from specified websites) on subjects related to the major issues of the course. The instructor will also periodically post links on the CourseSpaces site to articles in newspapers and journals.

**Texts:** The major sources include: William Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*; and Michael Provence, *The Last Ottoman Generation and the Making of the Modern Middle East*. All other readings will be available as pdfs on CourseSpaces (pursuant to the fair dealing guidelines).

**Course Requirements:** The weighting of assignments is as follows (failure to complete ALL assignments may result in an 'N' grade being assigned for the course):

Mapquiz	5%
Midterm (Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct)	20%
Midterm (Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct)	20%
Midterm (Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec)	15%
Book review (Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov)	40%

Students are required to attend all lectures and discussion groups and to keep up with the readings. Lecture material will sometimes depart from that of your readings; both will figure on the exams.

## Written Assignments

Students are required to write a critical review of Michael Provence, *The Last Ottoman Generation and the Making of the Modern Middle East*.

*What am I looking for?* The aim of this assignment is to allow students to demonstrate the basic skills of the historian: recognizing the main problem or question that motivates an author and determining why it is historically significant; understanding how an author's argument is constructed and detecting possible biases; locating the context from which an author is writing; reading a variety of sources and weighing the evidence with care; constructing an argument and supporting it with proper citation of references. All papers must refer to other sources (e.g. book reviews, journal articles, etc.) and *these must be properly cited in footnotes and a bibliography*. To be sure, your own personal opinion will necessarily play a significant role in the writing of these essays, but you must maintain a certain objective standard. Your assertions need to be proved.

Your review should have a cohesive thesis. For an example of this kind of exercise, try consulting a number of reviews written in such journals as *The London Review of Books*, or *The New York Review of Books* (recent editions of which can be found on the open shelves in the library periodicals section, and also online). Be sure also to read the published reviews of *The Last Ottoman Generation*.

Your papers should be approx. 6-8 pages long (typed and double-spaced).

Date due: Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> November.

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*Just to be clear...*

- Students are required to observe strict standards of academic integrity. The history department has the authority to enforce penalties for plagiarism or cheating of any kind. The department's official statement on plagiarism is readily available.
- In the interest of fairness to others, late papers will be penalised 2% per day (unless other arrangements are made).

**Schedule of lecture topics:** (subject to slight changes)

- A. Introductions  
(*Readings: Provence, "Introduction"*)  
Th Sept 6 Course mechanics  
M Sept 10 Egypt from Muhammad Ali to Isma'il to Cromer
- B. Egypt and Iran in the 19th century  
(*Readings: Cleveland, chapters 5,6,8*)  
Th Sept 13 Iran from Qajari rule to revolution  
M Sept 17 Map Quiz!
- C. The Ottoman Empire: From disintegration to transformation  
(*Readings: Cleveland, chapters 4,5,7,8; Provence, chapter 1*)  
Th Sept 20 Beginnings of Ottoman Reform  
M Sept 24 Tanzimat Reforms  
Th Sept 27 Responses of Islamic society  
M Oct 1 Era of the Young Turks  
**Th Oct 4 Midterm #1**
- D. World War One, 1914-1923  
(*Readings: Cleveland, chapter 9; Provence, chapters 2,3*)  
Th Oct 11 War Aims and Battles  
M Oct 15 Wartime Diplomacy and Proclamations  
Th Oct 18 End of the Ottoman Order  
M Oct 22 Colonies and Mandates  
Th Oct 25 Fighting the Settlement  
**M Oct 29 Midterm #2**
- E. Struggles for National Independence, 1923 to WW2  
(*Readings: Cleveland, chapters 10-13; Provence, chapters 4-7*)  
Th Nov 1 Turkey (&Iran)  
M Nov 5 Iraq, Transjordan (&Saudi Arabia)  
Th Nov 8 Syria and Lebanon  
M Nov 19 Palestine, 1917-1936 (\*assignments due\*)  
Th Nov 22 Palestine, 1936-1948  
M Nov 26 Egypt  
Th Nov 29 The Mandate Inheritance  
**M Dec 3 Midterm #3**



For Map Quiz (Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> Sept), locate the following:

- Major rivers, waterways and bodies of water
- Major cities
- Modern Middle Eastern states (borders & capitals)