

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA  
HSTR 377 A01  
subject to change

## History of Modern Egypt

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CLE C110  
MR 1300-1420

**Course Outline:** This course examines the politics, economy and society of modern Egypt, the most populous and (historically) the most influential country in the Arab world. Its strategic location at the crossroads of international trade routes has placed it at the centre of historic great power and super power rivalries; its political and religious institutions carry weight across the Muslim worlds; and its movies, television programs, and literature have been widely absorbed across the Arab world. Not surprisingly, when protesters occupied Cairo's central square, Midan Tahrir, in January 2011, journalists from around the world poured into Egypt to monitor the reverberations.

The course begins with an assessment of the economic transformations and reforms of the 19<sup>th</sup> century under Muhammad Ali, and an examination of the long period of British colonial rule. Historical depth provides us with the basis from which to consider in detail the various phases through which Egyptians lived during the twentieth century, from British imperialism to independence, and from liberalism to socialism to neo-liberalism. By examining the several intense revolutionary moments which have punctuated Egypt's modern history, students will be provided the necessary context for the multilayered issues with which the country is struggling today: national sovereignty and the role of outside powers; political pluralism and the making of constitutions; economic development, labour conditions, and the impact of foreign investment; the role of the army; the role of religion; gender and patriarchy; the political elite and the popular resisters.

We will also be closely following current events. In frequent, if not weekly, small-group discussions, students will be required to present and assess articles from the internet and the printed media, as well as participate, thoughtfully and respectfully, in a thorough discussion and analysis of current affairs.

**Texts:** There are two required texts for the course: Afaf Lutfi Al-Sayyid Marsot, *A History of Egypt* (Cambridge); and, Robert Springborg, *Egypt* (Polity). Other readings are available as pdfs on the coursespaces site (pursuant to the fair dealing guidelines).

<b>Evaluation:</b>	Research assignment (due 14 <sup>th</sup> March, in class)	40%
	Final exam (in exam schedule)	40%
	Primary source analysis (due last class, 4 <sup>th</sup> April)	10%

Participation

10%

## MAIN TOPICS and READINGS

### Part I Historical Background

Week 1. (7-10 Jan) Introductions / "The Square"

Recommended reading: Springborg ch 1.

Week 2. (14-17 Jan) The Beginning of the State System

Required reading: Marsot, ch. 3, ch 4.

On coursespaces: Khaled Fahmy, "The Era of Muhammad Ali Pasha, 1805-1848," *Cambridge History of Egypt*, Vol.II, 139-180.

On coursespaces: Roger Owen, *Lord Cromer* (Oxford, 2004), 304-316.

Week 3. (21-24 Jan) The Liberal Experiment, 1922-52

Required reading: Marsot, ch 5.

On coursespaces: Walter Armbrust, "The Formation of National Culture in Egypt in the Interwar Period: Cultural Trajectories," *History Compass* 7/1 (2009), 155-180.

Week 4. (28-31 Jan) Nasser's Revolution

Required reading: Marsot, ch 6

On coursespaces: Jack Shenker, *The Egyptians* (Penguin, 2016), 25-40.

Week 5. (4-7 Feb) Sadat

Required reading: Marsot, ch 7.

On coursespaces: Nazih Ayubi, *Political Islam*, (Routledge, 1991), 70-87.

Week 6. (11-14 Feb) Mubarak

On coursespaces: Roger Owen, *Rise and Fall of Arab Presidents for Life*, (Harvard, 2012), 61-72.

Week 7. (18-21 Feb) \*\* Reading Break \*\*

### Part II Revolution / Counter-Revolution

Week 8. (25-28 Feb) The 2011 Arab Uprisings

Required reading: Springborg, ch 1.

On coursespaces: Martin Bunton, "The 2011 Arab Uprisings".

Week 9. (4-7 Mar) The 'deep state': military, presidency, intelligence

Required reading: Springborg, ch 2.

Week 10. (11-14 Mar) Governmental Institutions

Required reading: Springborg, ch 3.

Week 11. (18-21 Mar) Political and Civil Society

Required reading: Springborg, ch 4.

Weeks 12-13 (25-28 Mar; 1-4 Apr) Primary Source Group Presentations / Exam Review

On coursespaces, recommended: Marsot, "The Cartoon in Egypt"

## RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

*What am I looking for?* Rather than simply describing an event, or policy, or personality, the aim of this written assignment should be to present and defend a thesis or argument. Construct a how? or why? question: Why is this event significant? How have historians come to understand the significance of this event? Or compare and contrast developments, policies, etc. You will be required to demonstrate basic historical skills: reading a wide variety of sources from the library; weighing the evidence with care; constructing an argument and supporting it with proper citation of references; etc.

- Your papers should be approximately 10-12 pages long (typed and double-spaced), and should have a single cohesive thesis.
- Footnotes and bibliography are required (this is a research essay!)
- Students must sign up on a sheet provided in the second week of class.
- Due 14<sup>th</sup> March (in class). In the interest of fairness to others, late papers will be penalised (unless other arrangements are made).

1. The Beginning of the State System

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2. The Liberal Experiment, 1922-52

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3. Nasser's Revolution

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4. Sadat

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5. Mubarak

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6. The 2011 uprisings

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7. The 'deep state'

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