

Fall '14

American University of Ras Al Khaimah General Education Elective Course Syllabus			
Course Title:	Contemporary Middle Eastern History	Course Code:	HIST 100
Department:	General Education	Designation:	University Requirement
Prerequisite(s):		Credit Hours	3
Instructor:	Dr. Richard Gauvain	Instructor's Office:	Office 4 C Building
Instructor's E-mail:	rgauvain@aurak.ae		

Office Hours:	By Appointment		
Time:	Monday/ Wednesday 12.30-13.45	Class Room:	B 117
Course Description:	The course is designed to give students an in-depth understanding of the major issues affecting the Middle East in the twenty-first century. It reviews the origins and development of the modern Middle East and explores its social, economic, and religio-political foundations. Students will be introduced to a range of original source materials – selected so as to frame certain key issues – so as to engage in meaningful discussion of these issues.		
Textbook(s):	Clancy Smith, Julia and Smith, Charles: <i>The Modern Middle East and North Africa: A History in Documents</i> (Oxford University Press) (ISBN-13: 978-0195338270)		
Other Material:	Online sources, films, documentaries and handouts.		

<p>Student Learning Outcomes:</p>	<p><i>At the end of the course all students will be able to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. get the vital knowledge and information about Middle Eastern History 2. have a better understanding about the region 3. build a friendly and constructive relations with its peoples 4. discuss the historical background of the Middle East, and the individual histories of countries providing examples of their understanding 5. examine particular topics and issues in the society, economy, politics and culture of the region as a whole. <p><i>The engaged learner will be able to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrate an informed historical understanding of the evolution of the dominant cultures and religions within the contemporary Middle East 2. discuss the influence of modern Western societies (and texts) to contemporary Middle Eastern socio-cultural and religio-political realities 3. critically examine a selection of topics of central importance to the socio-cultural and religio-political sensitivities of this region 4. situate modern UAE economic, cultural and religio-political realities within the wider Middle Eastern landscape.
<p>Topics Covered:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methodological lenses: Orientalism and Clash of Civilizations - Rupture in the region: Napoleon in Egypt, 1798 - The British and French: the Building of the Suez Canal - Sharif Hussein and the Arab rising - Borders redefined: Sykes-Picot and Balfour - Palestine: 1916-48 - Focus on modern Middle East: class choice of nation
<p>Class/Laboratory Schedule:</p>	<p>2 class sessions each week</p>

Grading Plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attendance/Participation (individual/group Presentations): 30% - In-class writings/quizzes: 40 % - Final Exam: 30 % (date of Final Exam: Jan 15, 11.00-13.00)
Teaching and Learning Methods	<p>The course involves a combination of lectures and active learning methods. Students are expected to provide responses to assigned readings, discussions, and collaborative work. Even though the majority of class will be lecture-based, classroom discussions are an integral part of the learning process. To succeed in this course, students are expected to accumulate and exchange ideas. Other methods such as single and group presentations responses to video content and other active learning strategies may also be used by the instructor.</p>
Course Contribution:	
<i>Professional Component</i>	<i>Course Contribution</i>
General Education	University Restricted Electives

HIST 100: Contemporary Middle Eastern History

In Class Examination # 4: The Democracy Question

Name.....

Student ID.....

Today's examination is different from previous ones. Today, we will engage in a discussion on whether or not democracy is "the best political option" for today's Middle Eastern Societies.

The discussion will take place between four groups simultaneously in two classrooms. Discussions will be monitored by the instructor and two classroom assistants.

Note: there is no "right answer." Marks will be awarded in terms of students' ability:

- To organize and present their ideas in a well-structured manner
 - To "think historically" (i.e. to locate their arguments within the wider history of the region)
 - To be able to differentiate between political systems within the region
- Remember: democracy may work well in one place and not another
- To clearly articulate what they understand by "democracy" within a Middle Eastern context

Because this exam was oral, and potentially included any number of possible approaches, no model answers or student examples are here included.

Spring 2015

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Department:	General Education	Designation:	University Requirement
Prerequisite(s):		Credit Hours	3
Instructor:	Dr. Richard Gauvain	Instructor's Office:	Office 4 C Building
Instructor's E-mail:	richard.gauvain@aurak.ac.ae		

Office Hours:	By Appointment		
Time:	Monday/ Wednesday 12.30-13.45	Class Room: 125 B	
Course Description:	The course is designed to give students an in-depth understanding of the major issues affecting the Middle East in the twenty-first century. It reviews the origins and development of the modern Middle East and explores its social, economic, and religio-political foundations. Students will be introduced to a range of original source materials – selected so as to frame certain key issues – so as to engage in meaningful discussion of these issues.		
Textbook(s):	Clancy Smith, Julia and Smith, Charles: <i>The Modern Middle East and North Africa: A History in Documents</i> (Oxford University Press) (ISBN-13: 978-0195338270)		
Other Material:	Online sources, films, documentaries and handouts.		

<p>Student Learning Outcomes:</p>	<p><i>At the end of the course all students will be able to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. get the vital knowledge and information about Middle Eastern History 2. have a better understanding about the region 3. build a friendly and constructive relations with its peoples 4. discuss the historical background of the Middle East, and the individual histories of countries providing examples of their understanding 5. examine particular topics and issues in the society, economy, politics and culture of the region as a whole. <p><i>The engaged learner will be able to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrate an informed historical understanding of the evolution of the dominant cultures and religions within the contemporary Middle East 2. explain the influence of modern Western political ideologies (and texts) on contemporary Middle Eastern socio-cultural and religio-political realities 3. critically examine a selection of topics of central importance to the socio-cultural and religio-political sensitivities of this region 4. situate modern UAE economic, cultural and religio-political realities within the wider Middle Eastern landscape.
<p>Topics Covered:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methodological lenses: Orientalism and Clash of Civilizations - Rupture in the region: Napoleon in Egypt, 1798 - The British and French: the Building of the Suez Canal - Sharif Hussein and the Arab rising - Borders redefined: Sykes-Picot and Balfour - Syria - Focus on modern Middle East: the question of democracy
<p>Class/Laboratory Schedule:</p>	<p>2 class sessions each week</p>

Grading Plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attendance/Participation (individual/group Presentations): 10% - In-class writings/quizzes/oral exams: 60 % - Final Exam: 30 % (date of Final Exam: May 26, 08.00 -10.00 AM)
Teaching and Learning Methods	<p>The course involves a combination of lectures and active learning methods. Students are expected to provide responses to assigned readings, discussions, and collaborative work. Even though the majority of class will be lecture-based, classroom discussions are an integral part of the learning process. To succeed in this course, students are expected to accumulate and exchange ideas. Other methods such as single and group presentations responses to video content and other active learning strategies may also be used by the instructor.</p>
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