

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE: Department of History

History 341: *The Muslim World in Modern Times*

A Hybrid Course

Spring Semester 2010

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**Meetings, Office Hours and E-Mail:** History 341 meets Tuesday, 4-6:50 pm in Gaige 315. My office is in Gaige 304. My “regular” office hours are MW, 9:00-10:00, T, 10-12. My “virtual” (online) office hours are MW, 8:30-9:30 pm, ThF 9:00-10:00 am, Th. 8:30-9:30 pm. Sunday, 8:30-9:30 pm. I am happy to make appointments for other times. My office phone is: 456-8765; the department phone is 456-8039. You can also get in touch with me at any time through Blackboard email. In turn I will use your RIC email address to send messages through Blackboard to the class or to individual students.

**Catalog Description.** *The Middle East and the Muslim areas of Asia from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present are surveyed, with emphasis on the breakdown of traditional societies and the emergence of new social, intellectual, economic and political forms within a regional state system.*

**Course value:** It is primarily to help you understand how the history of the past two centuries continues to shape the contemporary Muslim world, even while influencing much of the rest of the world. Quite apart from the events of 9/11 and their ongoing repercussions, the study of the modern history of the Muslim World, is fascinating, particularly at this point in its historical development, and at this juncture in the common history of humankind. The Muslims of the world, along with the rest of humankind face many challenges, political, social, intellectual, demographic, and ecological. How they respond to those challenges will have a global impact. Currently there are approximately one billion 350 million Muslims, making Islam the second largest religious system after Christianity and most reliable demographic projections indicate that Islam could become the largest religious system on the planet by 2050. Additionally, the widespread desire among Muslims world-wide to be both modern and Muslim at the same time, illustrated by the ongoing attempts throughout the Muslim world to reconcile the teachings of Islam with the mundane, everyday needs of secular democratic government, have an immediate bearing on the contemporary world in which the activities and ideas of Islamic revivalist movements, some embracing the use of violence to achieve their ends, seem to be increasingly influential worldwide. Hence, study of aspects of the Muslim World over the last two centuries will help us better understand the increasingly interconnected and globalized world in which we all must find a way to fulfill our expectations, hopes and dreams.

**Course Theme:** History 341 provides a thematic survey of the recent history of the Muslim world, with an emphasis on the Middle East from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Though a survey, it is by no means comprehensive, nor could it be in a single semester. To make it comprehensible, if not comprehensive, it is organized into four chronological and thematic units, reflecting the basic text used in the course, James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: a History* in which each unit focuses on a specific historical era around a specific theme. These are: the advent of the modern age; the question of modernity; World War I and the emergence of the modern Middle East, 1918-1956; the contemporary era. Within each of these periods specific attention will be given to social, intellectual (including religious ideas and developments), economic, and political developments. Though H341 relies upon a basic text, there are a series of additional readings primary and secondary, drawn from diverse sources, as well as lectures and films all reflecting the diverse historical contexts and experiences of the Muslim world in the modern era. Collectively, these materials will expose students to a technical and cultural vocabulary reflecting those contexts and experiences. They will also illustrate how historians consult primary sources, formulate arguments and write history. And, as is the case with other history courses, the development of critical thinking, accurate descriptions of historical developments, use of a technical and cultural vocabulary necessary for understanding the modern history of the Muslim world, within the framework of clear, effective, and analytical writing are central pedagogical objectives of H341.

**Required Readings:** Unless otherwise noted, the major text is available at the *Campus Store*. Other required materials will be available online on the course web page, and/or distributed in class, or on reserve in Adams.

- James L. Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: a History*, second edition, (OUP, 2008)
- Lectures posted on the Blackboard course webpage.
- Films
- Primary and secondary materials mostly distributed through Blackboard, or on reserve in the library (under Thomas, History 164, 264, 341, 342), or available through the library course guides: <http://www.ric.edu/library/finding/courseguides/index.html>, and references cited therein.

**Course Organization:** History 341: *The Muslim World in Modern Times* is not organized in the traditional way. Rather, it is what is termed a **hybrid** course. This means that approximately one-half of the course meetings will take place in the classroom and the remainder will not take place in the classroom. Instead, students will do the required work online through the College's Learning Management System, Blackboard, and by submitting their work through Blackboard.

To make this possible, the course is organized and presented through Blackboard, as: *The Muslim World in Modern Times, 1800 to the Present*. The goal of using the LMS is to provide students with more direct and substantial opportunities outside of the

classroom to enhance their learning of the history of the Muslim world since 1800. A brief description of the organization of the course follows.

**Meetings:** On-campus classroom meetings will take place on Tuesdays 4:00-6:50 in Gaige 315 at various times in the semester. These are indicated in the calendar found at the end of this syllabus and are listed as well as on the Blackboard web page for History 341. The online segment is completed outside of class. Hence students are not required to be “in class” during these times.

**Learning and Evaluation:** The on-line component of the course supports student learning in several ways. One is the completion of summaries of weekly readings organized around focus questions; these will be submitted on a weekly basis to the instructor for review through the course web page. The second is completing a series of three term essays and a final essay organized around primary and secondary sources. These will be submitted as well through Blackboard for instructor review. Participating in a series of discussions, both on-line as well as in-class about significant historical developments covered in the readings and in the assignments. Taking three unit quizzes at the conclusion of each unit and a final exam. Each of these are keyed to the text, lectures posted and given, and supplementary readings. Mastering these materials will be essential. The dates and framework for each of these components will be described in detail and posted on the course webpage.

Within this framework, for the purposes of evaluation, students will be expected to complete the following assignments to receive credit for each as noted toward the final grade.

- Complete a weekly summation of a specific chapter, section or reading around a series of focus questions **(10%)**
- Take online a series of three semester quizzes and the final. **(40%)**
- Complete two 4-5 page essays, and a 6-8 page final essay, the latter in conjunction with the final **(35%)**
- Participate in a series of discussions online as well as in class organized around significant historical questions **(15%)**

The three semester quizzes will take place at the end of a unit in Gelvin. These are specified in the calendar. These will test knowledge of these units and will consist of multiple choice questions, short identifications and brief essays. The final exam will be similar in that it will focus on the last unit covered but will assume knowledge of the earlier units. The final will also include the writing of an integrative essay on the contemporary period of Muslim history in historical perspective. globalization in historical perspective. The discussion component will be organized around questions and significant issues which arise out of the units in Gelvin. In other words, evaluation through weekly summaries, quizzes, essays, and discussion will all reflect the readings

from the text and other additional materials. Weekly summaries, writing assignments, and discussions, will be evaluated in reference to rubrics for each activity. The rubrics are posted on the course web page.

The instructor will approach and supplement this material through presentations posted on the course webpage, in the form of “traditional” lectures, and historically accurate documentary films when the class meets. These will elaborate on these readings but are not organized to repeat the material from the text. You are responsible for the material presented and discussed in class. These presentations will not be solely lectures but will be participatory and will ask students to respond to the issues of historical causality and consequence raised in the readings.

A basic assumption behind online learning is that students will learn much of what they need to know to do well in this course from the text and from the on-line study system. Consequently, in-class work will be directed toward discussion of issues and questions of historical importance as well as working through the significance of specific developments for each unit in variety of ways, including simulations. In other words, the organization of the course stresses discussion and collaboration during both in-class and online sessions. The course is thus student-oriented and will ask for prepared and informed discussion both in class and online. Class participation includes regular attendance both in class and online, preparation for class discussion, contributing informed comments, questions or answers, both in class or online.

**The use of the on-line study system for doing the weekly focus question summaries, taking the practice tests, writing essays, taking unit quizzes, and participating in discussion forums will be demonstrated extensively during the first two weeks of class. During this period class will meet in Gaige 165 computer lab in Gaige Hall.**

**A Note on Portfolios and for Graduate Students:** graduate students are expected to meet graduate level course requirements and graduate students will meet with the instructor to discuss these. **Note as well, that all undergraduate students, both LA and SecEd students are required to complete a portfolio of their academic experience.** This course can be used by students to fulfill their non-western portfolio requirement. Further information on the portfolio is available in the History Department office. Please ask the instructor if you are not clear on this requirement.

**Course Expectations:** As much of the preparation for in-class activities will be done by students outside of class, the time spent in class will be reduced by approximately 50. Whether in-class or out-of-class, however, students are expected to submit assignments, participate in discussions and take quizzes according to the dates specified in the calendar. Students are expected to come to class, both traditional and on-line, regularly, and to come prepared to engage thoughtfully and actively in discussions, complete all writing assignments and examinations. As has already been indicated, regular attendance and participation for in-class and out-of-class activities are important. Students who are absent when in-class meetings are scheduled will not receive credit for the work they miss. Students who do not submit their weekly

assignments, essays, or participate in online discussions will not receive credit for the work they miss. As the class meets one day a week, extended absences of more than a week, except for reasons noted in the *Student Handbook*, may result in the student either not doing well or even failing the course. Special circumstances may be excused but should be discussed with the instructor in advance of unavoidable absence. Please check the *Student Handbook* for further information on student responsibility for their academic work.

### Calendar of Assignments

**Note:** The calendar below provides only a summary of which units/chapters/reading/ will be covered during which week and the dates that weekly summaries, essays and quizzes are due and discussions take place. **Please note**, dates for specific assignments may be changed and these will be immediately posted on the course web site. A week by week detailed description of specific use of the on-line study system including chapter focus questions to be summarized, essay topics and descriptions of readings and discussion topics will be posted and/or distributed in class when in class meetings take place. **Hence, please note:** You must be sure to check the Blackboard course page on a regular basis. Other than the first week, students are to finish the weekly readings and submit their summaries by the first class of each week.

#### Unit I: Advent of the Modern Age

**Week 1: January 26:** "Class meets in Gaige computer lab 168 for introduction to using the Blackboard system for H341. . Read Gelvin (hereafter G), *Introduction* and part I, chapters 1 & 2, and the document, "Draft Treaty of Amity and Commerce...". For week 2 Prepare a summation of these chapters for the next class. For this see the specific instructions online. *Warm up!* What do you know about the contemporary Muslim world?

**Week 2, Feb. 2:** Class meets in Gaige 315. Summary of chapters 1 & 2 due by Tuesday, February 2. Read G, chapters 3 & 4 for week 3 and the remainder of the documents in Part I. Discussion of the readings. Presentation on pre-modern political organization in the Muslim world.

**Week 3, Feb. 9:** Class meets in Gaige computer lab for **Unit I quiz** and in Gaige 315 for presentation and discussion on the transition to modernity in the Muslim world. . Summary of chapters 3 & 4 and how the pre-modern political system was organized due by Tuesday. Read chapters 5 & 6 and the primary source on the "d'Arcy Oil Concession for week 4.

#### Unit II: The Question of Modernity:

**Week 4, February 16:** Class does not meet. Summary of chapters 5 & 6 due. Read chapter 7 and the "Photo Essay" for week 5. **Primary source essay on Hatt-i Sherif-i Gulhane due for week 5. Detailed instructions online.**

**Week 5, February: 23** Class does not meet. Summary of chapters 6 & “Photo Essay” due by Tuesday. Primary source essay due by Friday. Read G chapters 8, 9, & 10 and the primary sources: “Algeria...” by Huda Shaarawi, Tahtawi, “Abduh, Namik Kemal and “The Supplementary Fundamental Laws...” for week 6.

**Week 6, March 2:** Class does not meet. **Summary of chapters 8, 9, & 10 due. Read and do, primary source essay, *Three Types of Policies*. It is due for week 7.**

**Week 7, March 9 :** Class meets in Gaige 315. **Quiz on Unit II scheduled. Primary source essay due by Tuesday. Discussion of it and Unit II generally during the first half of the class. Quiz during the second half of the class in Gaige computer lab.** Read for week 8, chapters 11 & 12 and the first two primary sources in this unit.

**Week of March 15, Spring break. Enjoy yourselves.**

### **Unit III: WW I and the Emergence of the Modern Middle East State System, 1918-1956**

**Week 8, March 23: Class meets in Gaige 315.** Summary of chapters 11 & 12 due. Presentation, film on the Middle East in WW I. Discussion on WW I and its effects. Read chapters 13 & 14 and the remaining two primary sources in this unit.

**Week 9, March 30: Class meets for quiz on unit III and for discussion of final essay.** Summary of chapters 13 & 14 due by Tuesday. Read for week 10, chapters 15 & 16 and the documents entitled: “Speech by President Gamal Abdul Nasser..”, “Tigers on the Tenth Day”, and “UN Security Council Resolution 242”.

### **Unit IV: The Contemporary Era**

**Week 10, April 6:** Class does not meet. Summary of chapters 15 & 16 due. Read chapters 17 & 18 and the last three documents in this unit. Film, by streaming video if it becomes feasible.

**Week 11, April 13:** Class does not meet. Summary of chapters 17 & 18 due. Read chapters 19 & 20. Film, by streaming video if it becomes feasible.

**Week 12, April 20:** Class does not meet. Summary of chapters 19 & 20 due. Read G., *Conclusion: The Middle East in the “Age of Globalization”*. Film, by streaming video if it becomes feasible.

**Week 13, April 27: Final Essay due.** Discussion of final essay and on the Middle East and Muslim world in the contemporary era. Film

**Week 14, May 4:** Discussion continues. Film

**Week 15 Final Exam Tuesday May 4, 4:00-6:00 pm**