Module Description:
This module provides a foundational overview of the history of the Near and Middle East from the emergence of Islam to the twentieth century. We will explore the emergence of Islam, the development of Islamic institutions, the transitional period towards modernity, the foreign presence and the making of the modern Middle East.

Aims:
- Develop students’ understanding of the topic area
- Develop an understanding of the theoretical and methodological issues
- Develop students’ aptitude for study and research, including effective oral and written skills
- Encourage active participation in class discussions and in critical evaluation of primary and secondary source material
- Encourage students’ participation in different forms of assessment

Teaching and Learning:
Teaching is varied and interactive, including lectures, group work, discussion, student presentations.

Required books (available for purchase at the Union Bookshop):
Fred Halliday, *100 Myths About the Middle East*, (Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005)
Other required readings are on electronic reserve (ERes) or circulated in advanced

General Reading:
D. Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*, (Cambridge: CUP, 2000)
Westernonline

You will have a WesternOnline companion site available for this course and you must check it regularly (at least twice a week). I will post announcements, lecture notes, calendar, grades, class materials, readings, external links and other useful materials. I also recommend using this tool to communicate with the other students of the course. Take advantage of WesternOnline as it will be your main companion for this course.

Coursework and assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home assignment 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Assignment 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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You will be given grades in letter and percentage e.g. A (92%) – B (84%), so you will have a better idea where your grade stands and whether you are closer to the higher or lower mark.

Mid-Term Exam. Students are required to answer two (2) questions out of 12 questions covering the topics of week 1 to 8 (70 minutes allowed). Exam questions are drawn from the lectures and class discussions; a revision class will be offered. Make-up will be allowed only after providing legitimate evidence. Day and time of the make-up will be agreed with me.

Class Participation Class participation includes attendance, active listening, speaking in class, and performance in class activities (e.g., debate, role playing, group presentation). You must complete the required readings each class session and offer relevant comments during the discussion. You may also raise thoughtful questions of the readings. You will be assessed on lecture notes, reports, review…with a -V, +.

Home Assignment. Students are required to submit by the end of Week 10 a review (1,000 words) of the book ‘100 Myths About the Middle East’ discussing at least three points students agree with and three points students disagree with; by the end of the last class on week 14 an essay of 1,000 words writing about one of the discussion titles. Late essays will be penalised 2% per working day.

Final Exam. Students are required to answer 3 questions out of 16 questions covering the topics discussed throughout the course (2 hours allowed). No make-up exam finals will be allowed.

Class policies and notices:

Attendance. It is expected students will attend at least 50% of the course. Whereas students will fail to attend at least 50% of the classes, final grade will be penalized; for
example, if your final grade is A, you will be given B; if B you will be given C…and so forth.

Readings Explanation

**Required Readings**
These readings are designed to give you the opportunity to understand better the topics discussed in the lectures and they will also give you more information to be used during class discussions. These readings will be also the most important in your revision for mid-term and final exams. I do expect you to prepare these readings before the first class of the week (Monday).

**Discussion**
These are the readings all students **must read** in preparation for classes on Wednesday. You are all required to participate actively and to this extent you need to be prepared.

If illness or an emergency keeps you from submitting an essay or homework assignment or taking an exam, or to attend classes, please notify the instructor immediately, preferably before the due date of an assignment. Make-ups and extensions will not be scheduled without a written medical excuse or verification of the emergency.

**You must turn in a hard copy at the start of class on the scheduled due date AND email a copy of your assignment.**

**COURSE POLICIES:**
1. Attendance is extremely important in this course. Before coming to class, you are expected to take notes, to understand, and to reflect upon the assigned materials. Failing to attend will affect your final mark (see above).
2. I will circulate the attendance sheet at the start of the class. Failure to sign-in will result in a recorded absence. Students who arrive 15 minutes after class time and who leave class early without consulting the instructor will be considered absent.
3. Excused absences (e.g., due to health and domestic issues) will only be considered upon presentation of supporting documents right after your absence.
4. Please avoid disruptions, such as using cell phones, pagers, and mp3 players inside the classroom.
5. To eliminate problems arising over lost assignments, you must email me a copy of each assignment.

**Reminder on the University Policy on Academic Integrity**
The University is committed to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Students are expected to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students should familiarize themselves with these policies ([http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php](http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php)) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts, and participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in a mark of zero for an assignment or a grade of F for the entire course. Students must read the Official University Policy Manual for definitions of academic dishonesty ([http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php](http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php)).
**Plagiarism:** No student shall intentionally or knowingly submit the work of another as one’s own. To avoid plagiarism, students should not use another person’s words, ideas, images, or data without proper acknowledgement.

**Cheating:** No student shall intentionally use or attempt to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids, solution manuals, or other devices in any academic exercise, test, or quiz.

**Special Needs**
Students who require accommodation in this course due to a disability are advised to discuss their needs with the Disability Support Services, 117 Seal Hall, 298-2512 (phone) or 298-1856 (TTY), and to advise the instructor accordingly.

**Library and study skills resources:**
A tour of the library will be arranged during the second week of the course in order to discuss the sources available in the study of the history of the Middle East. Other sources available will be discussed in class.

**Further Information:**
Do not hesitate to contact me, however note that I will not reply to emails during the week end unless clearly concerning urgent matters.
Course Content:

**Week 1: Defining the Middle East**
This class will help students to define the object of the course in its geographical, temporal and methodological definition. Major historiographical debates will be discussed as well as the major issues surrounding the region.

**Required Reading:**
Colbert Held, *Middle East Patterns*, (Boulder: West View Press), Ch. 1, 6

**Week 2: Muhammad and the Rise of Islam**
This class will discuss the figure of Muhammad and the Arab conquest and Islamicisation of the Arabian Peninsula and beyond. It will be discussed the particular issue of sources available to study this particular historical period. We will discuss also the question of sources.

**Required Reading:**
Ira Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, (Cambridge, CUP, 2002), Ch. 1, 2, 3.
John Esposito (ed), *The Oxford History of Islam*, 1-27 (Western on-line)

**Discussion/Essay Title:** *Seminar/Essay Title: How can we study the Middle East? What are the problems with Middle Eastern history?*
A.L. Macfie, *Orientalism a Reader*, (New York: NYU Press, 2000), Ch. 12, 26

**Week 3: Institutions of Government and Religion**
This class will discuss and analyse the historical development of political and religious institutions after the Arab conquest of the Middle East. We will discuss in depth key concepts like caliphate, ulama and iqtat.

**Required Reading:**
Ira Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, Ch. 4.
Albert Hourani, *History of the Arab Peoples*, Ch. 4.
John Esposito, *The Oxford History of Islam*, 27-43 (Western on-line)
Encyclopaedia of Islam: Khalifa, Ulama. (Western on-line)

**Discussion/Essay Title:** *Were the Turks the saviours of the Abbasid Caliphate or they contributed to its demise? Explain your own view.*
Ira Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, Ch. 8, 9.
Encyclopaedia of Islam: Iqtat, Atabeg (Western on-line)
**Week 4: Types of Islam**
This class will discuss the main split and the main differences in Islam between Sunnis and Shi’is traditions. In this class we will also look at some sources looking at the modern split between Shia and Sunni.

**Required Reading:**
Ira Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, Ch. 6, 10.
Albert Hourani, *History of the Arab Peoples*, Ch. 11.
John Esposito, *The Oxford History of Islam*, 44-49 (Western on-line)

**Discussion/Essay Title:** *Is pre-modern Islam more tolerant than Medieval Christianity? Did Islam react to ‘heretical’ groups as the European inquisition?*
Ira Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, Ch. 12.
John Esposito, *The Oxford History of Islam*, 305-345 (Western on-line)

**Week 5: Culture and Society**
This class will provide an overview of culture and society in the Middle East in the period of Classical Islam. Cultural institutions, ideas, movements and individuals will be discussed in order to highlight the diversity within the Islamic world.

**Required Reading:**
Ira Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, Ch. 5, 6, 7.
Richard Ettinghausen “The Man-Made Setting” in *The World of Islam* (Western on-line)

**Discussion/Essay Title:** *Women in Islam and the Middle East: reasons for a misinterpretation*
Ruth Roded, *Women in Islam and the Middle East*, Ch. 1,2,12 and Epilogue (Western on-line)

**Week 6: Regionalisation vs. Centralisation of political authority**
This class will provide an overview of the political history from 1000 to 1500 focussing on the largest political processes and the arrival of new actors in the Middle East: Fatimids, Mamluks, Mongols and Crusaders. In this class we will also re-assess the age of the crusades and their legacies.

**Required Reading:**
Ira Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, Ch. 13, 14, 15.
Albert Hourani, *History of the Arab Peoples*, Ch. 5.
**Discussion/Essay Title:** Why were the Crusades so successful in conquering lands in the Middle East?

Encyclopaedia of Islam, Crusades (Western on-line)

**Week 7: Islam in Europe**
This class will discuss the expansion of Islam in Europe (Spain and Italy) looking at the relationship of the new rulers with the local population and how Islam, Christianity and Judaism created a system which was based on tolerance and co-operation. This class will also look at the end of the Islamic rule in Europe with the Reconquista of the 15th century.

**Required Reading:**
*The Cambridge History of Islam*, Vol. 2A, Ch. 7
Ira Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, Introduction Part II and Ch. 16 (309-319)
Bernard Lewis, *The World of Islam*, Ch. 9 (Western on-line)

**Discussion/Essay Title:** To what extent Western science and culture are the outcome of the encounter with Islam?
BBC Video on Science and Islam

**Week 8: Elites, Commoners, Trades and Crafts**
This class will discuss various social, economic and cultural issues in medieval Middle East. This class will be instrumental to understand the meeting between Middle Eastern societies and Europe in the following centuries.

**Required Reading:**
Ira Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, Ch. 9, 11, Conclusion Part I.
Albert Hourani, *History of the Arab Peoples*, Ch. 6, 7.
Bernard Lewis, *The World of Islam*, Ch. 3 (Western on-line)
Oleg Gabrar “Cities and Citizens” in *The World of Islam* (Western on-line)

**Discussion:** Science and Islam II

**MID TERM EXAM (THURSDAY 70 MINUTES)**

**Week 9: The rise of the Gunpowder Empires: overview 1500-2000**
This class will study the rise of new powers in the region: the Safavid and the Ottoman Empires. It will be discussed their origins and socio-political developments.

**Required Reading:**
Bernard Lewis, *The Middle East 2000 years*, Ch. 7

Discussion: Video on the Ottomans

**Week 10: ‘The Golden Age’ in the Ottoman and Safavid Empires**
This class will discuss the florescence of the Ottoman and Safavid Empire, at the same time highlighting the emerging problems. Beside the concepts of ‘Golden Age’ and ‘Decline’ will be discussed and assessed as valuable terms in studying the history of the Middle East. We will look at the legendary figure of Suleyman the Magnificent

**Required Reading:**
Justin Mc Carthy, *The Ottoman Turks*, Ch. 3

**Discussion/Essay Title:** *What is meant by ‘Golden Age’? The Ottoman and Safavid Empires*
Fortna, Amin, Frierson,*The Modern Middle East*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), Sources: 1.1, 4.1, 8.1.

**Home Assignment 1 Due (Thursday)**

**Week 11: The age of Reforms**
This class will provide an overview of the historical development of the Middle East from 16th to 19th century. The focus will be placed on the encounter with the wider world and the question of the Ottoman ‘decline’ and the attempts to revert the parable of the Ottoman Empire.

**Required Reading:**
Albert Hourani, *History of the Arab Peoples*, Ch. 15, 16.

**Discussion/Essay Title:** *How did the region enter the modern era in the 19th and 20th centuries? How useful is the concept of modernity in studying the Middle East?*
Ira Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, Intro Part III.
Fortna, Amin, Frierson, *The Modern Middle East*, Sources: 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 3.3, 5.3.

**Week 12: The First World War in the Middle East and Colonialism**
This class will discuss the involvement of the Middle East in the First World War and the various outcomes the conflict had upon the region. It will be discussed the extent the First
World War produce the ‘modern’ Middle East. It will be also discussed the issue of ‘colonialism’ in the region after the conflict.

**Required Reading:**
Ira Lapidus, *History of Islamic Societies*, Ch. 23
S. Hanioglu, *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire*, 167-177 (Western on-line)

**Discussion/Essay Title:** Is 20th century ‘colonialism’ a continuation of the 19th century practice of exercising foreign control over the region?
Fortna, Amin, Frierson, *The Modern Middle East*, Sources: 1.12, 2.6, 3.5, 6.9, 7.4, 8.4.

**Week 13: Nationalism and its ‘Others’**
This class will define the concept of Nationalism in relation to the Middle East in the late 19th century and how it developed in the 20th century. It will be discussed how Nationalism proved to be a successful ideology in the 20th century. It will also be discussed how Nationalism was used by various political actors in order to take power after the demise of ‘colonialism’.

**Required Reading:**
Albert Hourani, *History of the Arab Peoples*, Ch. 18, 22.
William Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, Ch. 7.
James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: a History*, 197-205 (Western on-line)

**Discussion/Essay Title:** Discuss the assertions of National Identities in the Middle East

**Week 14: Independence and Revolution**
This class will discuss the major changes that took place in the second part of the 20th century in the region. The focus will be placed on the process of transformation that brought the Middle Eastern countries from ‘colonial’ rule to independence and then it will be discussed the internal situation of these new countries and the various political revolutions that took place.

**Required Reading:**
Discussion/Essay Title: To what extent the outbreak of revolutions express changes in the Middle Eastern societies in the second part of the 20th century?
Fortna, Amin, Frierson, The Modern Middle East, Sources: 1.14, 1.15, 3.8, 4.8, 5.10, 5.11, 8.8.
Albert Hourani, History of the Arab Peoples, Ch. 23

Home Assignment 2 Due (Thursday)

Week 15: The Middle East in the contemporary World
This class will discuss some of the events that took place in the 1980s and 1990s in the Middle East using as much as possible a historical approach, providing the students with some tools in order to assess and discuss contemporary events.

Required Reading:
William Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East, Ch. 17, 18, 24
James Gelvin, The Modern Middle East: a History, 223-246 (Western on-line)

Exam Revision