

**American University of Beirut  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
Department of History and Archaeology**

**HIST 273 | The United States and the Middle East**

**Course Instructor: Makram Rabah**  
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**Course Description**

An examination of the varying and complex relationship between the United States and the Middle East over the last two centuries. Subjects examined include images of the Middle East in early American political discourse, the activities of American missionaries and the founding of AUB, Arab immigration to the US, the role of American oil companies in the region and the rise of OPEC, Cold War diplomacy toward the Arab states and Israel, the Iran hostage crisis, US intervention in the conflict in Lebanon, and the Gulf War.

Students will be able to identify watershed events and moments in the history of the region and to relate it to the growing influence and intervention of the United States in the Middle East especially after WWII and the collapse of the old Anglo-Franco colonial system. Using both primary and secondary sources, students will be able to analyze and explore political, economic and more importantly cultural aspect of this relationship. *Students will deal with primary sources ranging from, documents, speeches, art and movies and will comment and analyze these sources through short assignments that will demonstrate their critical thinking abilities and skills.*

**Suggested textbook**

Khater, Akram Fouad. Sources in the History of the Modern Middle East. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.2004.

Yaqub, Salim. Imperfect Strangers Americans, Arabs, and U.S.-Middle East Relations in the 1970s. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2016.

Vandemark, Brian. American Sheikhs: Two Families, Four Generations, and the Story of America's Influence in the Middle East. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2014.

Oren, Michael B. America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present. [Place of publication not identified]: W.W. Norton, 2007.

**All readings will be made available on Moodle and via google drive**

## Grading Criteria

Grades in the course will be calculated based on:

- Regular attendance and active participation during class (20%)
- Midterm (20%) paper (20%)
- Final examination or paper (40%).

## Class Attendance, Quizzes, and Examinations

Rules and regulations governing class attendance as well as examinations and quizzes, as these appear in the University Catalogue will apply in all sections.

## Course Policy

In line with University principles and policies regarding academic honesty as outlined in the Student Handbook 2014-15, **any form of cheating or plagiarism** will be regarded as a most serious offense and will be brought to the attention of the FAS Student Disciplinary Committee.

## Course Policy

AUB strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability (such as ADHD, learning difficulties, mental health conditions, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please do not hesitate to inform the Accessible Education Office. In order to ensure that you receive the support you need and to facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you must register with the Accessible Education Office (AEO) as soon as possible: [accessibility@aub.edu.lb](mailto:accessibility@aub.edu.lb); [+961-1-350000](tel:+961-1-350000), x3246; West Hall, 314.



- **Cell phone are completely prohibited. Anyone using their phones will be asked to leave the class.**
- **Students are required to bring their textbooks and readings to class.**

## **Week 1**

Introduction.

## **Week 2**

### **Early Encounters: Pirates and Missionaries**

#### **Readings**

Part. 1: Early America encounters the Middle East. A mortal and mortifying threat in Michael B. Oren, *America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present*. [Place of publication not identified]: W.W. Norton, 2007.

Brian Vandemark, *American Sheikhs: Two Families, Four Generations, and the Story of America's Influence in the Middle East*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2014. Ch 1-4

*Gorman, Henry. "American Ottomans: Protestant Missionaries in an Islamic Empire's Service, 1820–1919 \*." Diplomatic History 43, no. 3 (June 2019): 544–68.*

**Primary :** *The American King-Crane Commission Report Summarizes the Popular Ideas of Nationalism in the Middle East, 1919*

**Writing Assgiment:** *The Wind and the Lion (Movie) Studetns will write a three-page paper based on this movie and analyze and explore the entry of the United States to the Middle East.*

## **Week 3**

### **The Great War and the rise of Nation States**

#### **Readings:**

Mahmoud Haddad, "The Rise of Arab Nationalism Reconsidered." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 26, no. 2 (1994): 201-22.

Little, Douglas. "The Making of a Special Relationship: The United States and Israel, 1957-68." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 25, no. 4 (1993): 563-85.

## **Week 4**

### **Nasser, the Cold War and the United States**

#### **Readings**

Moyara De Moraes Ruehsen. "Operation 'Ajax' Revisited: Iran, 1953." *Middle Eastern Studies* 29, no. 3 (1993): 467-86. Accessed April 28, 2020.

Little, Douglas. "The New Frontier on the Nile: JFK, Nasser, and Arab Nationalism." *The Journal of American History* 75, no. 2 (1988): 501-27.

## **Week 5**

LITTLE, DOUGLAS. "A Tale of Four Doctrines: U.S. National Security, the Soviet Threat, and the Middle East." In *American Orientalism: The United States and the Middle East since 1945*, 117-56. University of North Carolina Press, 2008

Schayegh, Cyrus. "1958 Reconsidered: State Formation And The Cold War In The Early Postcolonial Arab Middle East." *International Journal Of Middle East Studies* 45, No. 3 (2013): 421-43.

Richard L. Jasse. "The Baghdad Pact: Cold War or Colonialism?" *Middle Eastern Studies* 27, no. 1 (1991): 140-56.

## **Week 6**

### **The Arab-Israeli Conflict**

#### **Readings**

"GUERRILLA U": The Contested Nature of Authority in Betty Anderson, *The American University of Beirut* (University of Texas Press, 2011), pp. 151-182

Yaqub, Salim. "The United States and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1947 to the Present." *OAH Magazine of History* 20, no. 3 (2006): 13-17.

## **Week 7**

### **1967 Defeat & 1973 War and Camp David**

#### **Readings**

"Scuttle Diplomacy: Henry Kissinger and the Middle East Peace Process, 1973–1976" in Yaqub, Salim. *Imperfect Strangers Americans, Arabs, and U.S.-Middle East Relations in the 1970s*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2016.

Camp David Retreat: Jimmy Carter and Arab-Israeli Diplomacy, 1977–1979 in Yaqub, Salim. *Imperfect Strangers Americans, Arabs, and U.S.-Middle East Relations in the 1970s*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2016.

### **Primary text**

- *Speech of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser Resigns from Office Following the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, June 9, 1967* 220
- *Sadiq al-'Azm, an Arab Intellectual, Critiques the Arab State and Clergy for Their Use of Religion, 1968* 225
- *The Six-Day War: Broadcast to the Nation by Prime Minister Eshkol (June 5, 1967)*

### **Week 8**

#### **The Iranian Revolution and the Great Satan**

##### **Readings**

Elizabeth Thompson, "Sayyid Qutb and Ali Shariati: The Idea of Islamic Revolution in Egypt and Iran," *Justice Interrupted: The Struggle for Constitutional Government in the Middle East* (Harvard University Press, 2013), pp. 276-308.

James Bill, A. "America and the Iranian Revolution, 1977–1979." In *The Eagle and the Lion: The Tragedy of American-Iranian Relations*, 216-260. Yale University Press, 1988.

##### **Primary text**

*Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Denounces the Rule of the Shah of Iran, 1971*

*American Consular Documents Reveal U.S. Diplomats' Assessment of the Revolution in Iran, 1978*

### **Week 9 The United States and Regional Wars**

##### **Readings**

Wight, David M. "Kissinger's Levantine Dilemma: The Ford Administration and the Syrian Occupation of Lebanon." *Diplomatic History* 37, no. 1 (2013): 144-77.

Joana Dodds and Ben Wilson, "The Iran-Iraq War: Unattainable Objectives" *Middle East Review of International Affairs* (Online) Vol. 13, Issue 2 (2009):72-94.

Carson, Austin. "The War in Afghanistan (1979–1986)." In *Secret Wars: Covert Conflict in International Politics*, 238-82. PRINCETON; OXFORD: Princeton University Press, 2018.

### **Week 10**

## **The United States and the rise of Muslim Radicalism**

### **Readings**

Avon, Dominique, Anaïs-Trissa Khatchadourian, and Jane Marie Todd. "1982/1985–1991: A Militia of Professional Revolutionaries for the Disinherited Fringe." In *Hezbollah: A History of the "Party of God"*, 11-38. Cambridge, Massachusetts; London, England: Harvard University Press, 2012

Little, Douglas. "Genesis: Containment and Cold War in the Muslim World." In *Us versus Them: The United States, Radical Islam, and the Rise of the Green Threat*, 15-52. University of North Carolina Press, 2016.

Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, "Islamist Perceptions of US Policy in the Middle East," in *The Middle East and the United States*, ed. David W. Lesch (Westview Press, 2013), pp. 449-472.

### **Week 11**

#### **The US and The Saudi Alliance**

Jonathan Marshall, "Saudi Arabia and the Reagan Doctrine," *Middle East Report*, No. 155, (Nov. - Dec., 1988), pp. 12- 17

William Ochsenwald , "Saudi Arabia and The Islamic Revival," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 13, No. 3. (Aug., 1981), pp. 271-286.

### **Week 12**

#### **Fall of the USSR and the Gulf War**

Shafeeq Ghabra, "The Iraqi Occupation of Kuwait: An Eyewitness Account," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (Winter, 1991), pp. 112-125

Fred Halliday, "The Gulf War and Its Aftermath: First Reflections," *International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-)* Vol. 67, Issue 2. Date: 04/01/1991 Pages: 223-234.

### **Week 13**

Wrap up and revise

Kipper, Judith. "The Role of the U.S. in the New Middle East." *The Brown Journal of Foreign Affairs* 1, no. 1 (1993): 103-07.