

HISTORY 239
HISTORY OF THE ARAB EAST AND EGYPT FROM 1516-1798
FIRST SEMESTER, 2009 -10

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This undergraduate course, covering a period of about three centuries, surveys the history of the Arab East and Egypt under Ottoman control, beginning with the dramatic overthrow of the Mamluk Sultanate in 1516-17 and the incorporation of the region under consideration into the robust, and expanding, Ottoman Empire and ending with the shock of European intrusion into the region towards the end of the 18th Century. The course aims to examine, and evaluate, the nature of Ottoman domination and the mechanisms employed to perpetuate Ottoman control for about four centuries. Attention will be given to political history, in particular the rise of local autonomies in the 17th and 18th centuries, but the course aspires to provide a broader socio-economic, legal and intellectual picture of Arab society as it evolved at the time. Although constituting a geographical continuum, Egypt and the Arab East, that is the Fertile Crescent, will be studied, for pragmatic reasons, as separate entities.

COURSE OUTCOME

The course will introduce students to both primary sources bearing on the subject as well as secondary literature in the form of books and articles. It aims to awaken among them awareness of the uniqueness of the era under consideration, and enable them to identify continuities or ruptures between the era under consideration and their own with a view to developing a critical awareness of their cultural heritage and modes of identity formation. Oral reports will develop their communication skills while a longer term paper will refine their research skills as well as their ability to write a documented, objective and reasoned account.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

The assigned text for the course, on sale at the University bookstore, carries the following title: Jane Hathaway, *The Arab Lands under Ottoman Rule, 1516-1800*. It is supplemented by two files (one involving Egypt, the other the Fertile Crescent (not including Iraq). The two files include select, but required, readings relating to different aspects of the history and life of the regions under consideration. The files are also on sale in the University bookstore. Students are advised to read relevant short entries relating to the subjects under discussion in the second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Islam* which is available in a Jafet online data base as well as the *Encyclopedia of the Ottoman Empire*, available in the Jafet Reference Room.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

In addition to assigned readings, students will be required to report and discuss in class select readings of moderate size dealing with significant issues relating to what is being studied. The final course grade will be based on a mid-term test (20%), a class presentation (10%), a term paper (30%) and a final exam (40%),

ATTENDANCE, EXAMINATIONS AND PLAGIARISM

Rules and Regulation, governing attendance as well taking tests and examinations, as these appear in the University Undergraduate Catalogue 2009-10 as well as in the Student Handbook, 2009-10 will be enforced. "Plagiarism is a violation of the University's academic regulations and is subject to disciplinary action."

S. Seikaly, College Hall # 438

Office Hours: T R 12:30 – 2:00 PM, WF 12-1:00 PM

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