

HISTORY 258 AE
MIDDLE EASTERN MONARCHIES
FEBRUARY 2010

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Given for the first time, this course will examine the monarchical order in the modern Middle East, its fall or endurance, in the course of the twentieth century. Following a theoretical consideration of the concept of monarchy as a form of government in its Middle Eastern context, the course will analyze the fortunes of the royal dynasty of Muhammad Ali in Egypt up to 1952 and that of the Hashemites in Iraq up to 1958, dates that seemed to augur a terminal stage of monarchy in the region. In fact, monarchical rule lasted. Examples of such monarchies as the Jordanian branch of the Hashemites, the Saudi dynasty and select Gulf kingships, will be studied with a view to explaining their endurance by contrast with the resounding failure of their forerunners.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Students will become acquainted with the literature dealing with the subject of monarchy in the modern Middle East in both Arabic and English. They will be encouraged to think in comparative terms with a view to developing a nuanced understanding of the varied nature of monarchy in the region and its various modes of operation. Oral reports will nurture student confidence and ability to communicate effectively. Final term papers will enable them to conduct library research and allow to knit their findings into a narrative account that is carefully structured, critical and lucid.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Because this is a transnational survey, there no single book available for the course. Instead students will be assigned select readings incorporated into two files that can be obtained from the University Bookstore situated in Bliss Hall. Concise material relating to the course is readily available in Jafet's Reference Room in such publications as *The Encyclopedia of Islam* (Online), *the Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World*, *Historic World Leaders*, and *Political Leaders of the Contemporary Middle East and North Africa*.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

In addition to assigned readings, students are required to report on and discuss in class relevant select readings of moderate size (15%), do a mid-term test (25%), submit a Term Paper involving research work (30%), and sit for a Final Exam (30%). Percentages could vary depending on class progress.

CLASS ATTENDANCE, TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS.

Rules and regulations governing attendance as well as tests and final, as these appear in the *University Undergraduate Catalogue, 2009-10* as well as the *Student Handbook, 2009-10*, will be enforced. Any form of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Faculty Disciplinary Committee.

S. Seikaly

Office Hours: T Th 2:00-3:00 PM and Monday 10:30-12 AM and by appointment
College Hall # 438