

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

History 245: History of Lebanon, 634-1920

Spring 2010

Abdulrahim Abu-Husayn

Office: College Hall, 446

Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 T.Th

Email: [ahusayn@aub.edu.lb](mailto:ahusayn@aub.edu.lb)

**Mobile Phones: Mobile phones should be OFF OR SILENT and may not be answered. Violators will receive one warning. Each violation thereafter will result in five (5) points being removed from the final grade of the student.**

Learning outcomes: the course aims at familiarizing students with the broad outlines of the local and imperial history of the territories that came to constitute Lebanon from the Arab conquest in the seventh century AD to the creation of Greater Lebanon in 1920. Upon completion of the course, students would have acquired knowledge of:

major sources for reconstructing the history of Lebanon,  
the rise and evolution of communities, local institutions and indigenous leaderships  
the demographic map of Lebanese regions  
relations between the population of 'Lebanese' regions and central authorities  
the shared and distinctive features in the historical record of 'Lebanese' regions  
the internal and external environment of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century civil war  
the rise of a sense of Lebanonism and Lebanese nationalism

In addition students are expected to improve their skills in the following areas:

critical approach to 'received' versions of Lebanese history  
critical understanding of historical texts through analysis of such texts  
improve thought processes about different aspects of Lebanese history  
improve writing skills  
improve oral communication skills through class discussion and presentation

Resources Available to Students:

Two textbooks are assigned for this course:

K. Salibi, *The Modern History of Lebanon*, London, 1968

K. Salibi, *A House of Many Mansions, the History of Lebanon Reconsidered*, London, 1988.

Additional readings are available on reserve in Jafet Library as indicated in the schedule below.

Grading Criteria:

Class participation: 10%

Class attendance: 10%

short research paper or book review: 20%

mid term exam: 30%

final exam: 30%

Schedule: Readings indicated in the schedule do not include readings from the textbooks.

**Week 1-2: Introduction, sources for the history of Lebanon, different views on the history of Lebanon.**

K. Salibi, *Maronite Historians of Medieval Lebanon*, chs. 1, 2

A. Hourani, 'Historians of Lebanon', in P. Holt and B. Lewis, *Historians of the Middle East*.

A. Abu-Husayn, 'Duwayhi as a Historian of Ottoman Syria'

**Weeks 3-4 : Lebanon from the Arab conquest to the Ottoman conquest: the formation of the Maronite and Druze communities:**

M. Moosa, 'the relation of the Maronites of Lebanon, the Mardaites and al-Jarajima'

K. Salibi, 'the Maronite Church in the Middle Ages and its Union with Rome'.

- , the Buhturids of the Garb, Medieval Lords of Southern Lebanon’.
- , ‘the Muqaddams of Bsarri: Maronite Chieftains of Northern Lebanon’.
- , ‘Mount Lebanon Under the Mamluks’

**Weeks 5 - 6: Lebanon Under the Ma’ns (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries):**

- K. Salibi, ‘Northern Lebanon Under the Dominance of Gazir’.
- , ‘the Secret of the House of Ma’n’.
- A. Abu-Husayn, ‘The Ottoman Invasion of the shuf: a reconsideration’.
- , ‘The Korkmaz Question: a Maronite Historian’s Plea for Ma’nid Legitimacy’.
- , ‘The Long Rebellion: The Druzes and the Ottomans, 1516-1697’.
- , ‘The Shiites in Lebanon and the Ottomans in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries’

**Weeks 7 -9: Lebanon Under the Shihabs:**

- K. Salibi, ‘the Lebanese Emirate, 1667-1841’.
- I. Harik, the Iqta’ System in Lebanon: a comparative Political View’.
- A. abu-Husayn, ‘ the Feudal System of Mount Lebanon as Depicted by Nasif al-Yaziji’.

**Weeks 10-11:**

Lebanon and the Eastern question: the Egyptian interlude and the fall of the Shihabs, Ottoman reform, local rebellion and civil war, foreign intervention and:

- Y. Porath, ‘the Peasant Revolt of 1858-1860 in Kisrawan’
- L. Fawaz, ch.1 (changing Worlds), ch. 3 (Civil War in the Mountain), ch.5 (the International Response) and ch. 7 (Reconstruction and the restoration of Order in Mount Lebanon) of *An Occasion for War: Civil Conflict in Lebanon and Damascus in 1860*.
- J. Spagnolo, ch. 1 ( the Maronites and the French Presence in the Ottoman Empire: the Background) of *France and Ottoman Lebanon, 1861-1914*.

**Weeks 12-13 : Self Rule: the double Kayimakamate and the Mutasarifiyya:**

- L. Fawaz, ch. 8 (Peace settlement) of *An Occasion for War: Civil Conflict in Lebanon and Damascus in 1860*.
- J. Spagnolo, ch. 2 ( Sectarian Conflict and the International Settlement of 1860-1861) and ch. 9 (Currents of Change at the Turn of the Century) of *France and Ottoman Lebanon, 1861-1914*
- E. Akarli, Ch. 1 ( the Road to a Special regime in Mount Lebanon), ch. 4 ( the Administrative Council), ch. 5 (Taxation and Fiscal Administration), ch. 7 ( Confessionalism, Notables and Administrative Positions) of *The Long Peace: Ottoman Lebanon, 1861-1920*.

**Week 14: The Intellectual and Political Formation of Greater Lebanon**

- M. Buheiry, ‘Bulus Nujaym and the Idea of Grand Liban Ideal’.
- M. Zamir, ch. 1 (‘The Emergence of a Lebanese Entity’) and ch. 2. ( the Establishment of Greater Lebanon) of *The Formation of Modern Lebanon*.

**Course Policy:**

The course follows a lecture-discussion format. Students are expected and encouraged to participate in class discussion. They are also expected to have read the assignments as indicated in the schedule.

All relevant University and Faculty policies and regulations as they appear in the *Sudent Handbook* and the AUB website apply.