Course Syllabus

History 242: Social History of the Modern Middle East, 1800-1920
Fall 2009-2010
Monday and Wednesday 4:00-5:30 in Nicely 211

Dr. Malek Sharif
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Office: Nicely 208, ext. 4282
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00 pm and Tuesday 2:00-3:00 pm

Course description: This course examines the historical trajectory and character of social
groups –including peasants, workers, middle and upper strata of society—in the 19th and early
20th century Middle East. Explores how the rise of modern interventionist states has
transformed everyday social life. It also considers the effects, characteristics, and limits of the
region’s integration into the world economy.

Learning outcome:
- Acquainting students with different approaches to social history
- Introducing the transformation in historical perspective due to ‘new school in historical
writing’
- Practicing criticism of Eurocentric perceptions
- Introducing the Subaltern school and the horizons it opened both on the level of sources and
interpretation
- Encouraging scrutiny of various primary source material
- Developing skills in focused discussions and oral presentations.

Course requirements: The course will be held in 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.

Grading criteria:
Class participation: 10%
Class attendance: 10%
Short presentation: 10%
Mid term exam: 35%
Final exam: 35%

Course etiquette: Mobile phones (cellular phones/cellulaires) should be OFF and PUT
AWAY. Violators will receive one warning. Each violation thereafter will result in five (5)
points being deducted from the student’s final grade.
Course Schedule:

Week 1
Oct 5  General Introduction
Oct 7  General Introduction

Week 2

Week 3

Week 4

Week 5
Nov 4  Chalcraft, John: “The Cairo Cab Drivers and the Strike of 1907”, in: Jens Hanssen, et.al. (eds.): *The Empire in the City. Arab Provincial Capitals in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Beirut, 2002), pp. 173-198.

Week 6
Week 7

Nov 18 Revision

Week 8
Nov 23 MIDTERM


Week 9
Nov 30 HOLIDAY

Dec 2 Krämer, Gudrun: “Moving Out of Place. Minorities in Middle Eastern Societies, 1800-1914”, in: Peter Sluglett (ed.): The Urban Social History of the Middle East, 1750-1950 (Syracuse, 2008), pp. 182-223.

Week 10


Week 11


Week 12

VACATIONS

**Week 13**


Jan 6  HOLIDAY

**Week 14**


**Week 15**


Jan 20  Revision