

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Semester 2 Year 1982-3

Course No.

371

Course Title

The Modern Arab World

Instructor

Humphreys

Course Description

The purpose of the course is to investigate the political, social, and cultural evolution of the Arab lands from the late eighteenth century down to the present. We shall be dealing with the eastern Arab countries (Egypt, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Fertile Crescent) for the most part; North Africa (Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco) will be discussed only in passing. The course will focus on two countries whose histories reflect the problems of this long period with particular clarity--Egypt and Lebanon. Among these problems are the following: the decay of established political and economic structures in the 18th century; attempts at military and administrative modernization by the states of the region in the early and mid-19th century; the growing European presence (economic, political, military, and cultural) down to World War I; the emergence of new ideologies as a response to perceived weakness and decadence; the partial integration of the region in a world economy throughout the period; the assertion of national independence after World War I; the quest for Arab unity after World War II; the impact of international conflicts on the region; the Arab-Israeli conflict; economic growth and social destabilization since World War II.

Written Work

A mid-term examination, final examination; one essay (ca. 10 pp.) on any one of several topics to be proposed by the instructor.

Grades

Mid-terms 20%; Final, 40%; Essay, 40%

Readings

To be purchased:

- W. R. Polk, The Arab World (Harvard U. P.)
- Sylvia Haim, Arab Nationalism (Univ. of California Pr.)
- Yusuf Idris, In the Eye of the Beholder (Bibliotheca Islamica)
- Fouad Ajami, The Arab Predicament (Cambridge U. P.)
- Charles Issawi, An Economic History of the Middle East and North Africa (Optional)

On Reserve:

- A. H. Hourani, Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 1798-1939
- Charles Issawi, An Economic History of the M. E. and N. Africa