

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester Spring Year 1984

| <u>COURSE NO.</u> | <u>COURSE TITLE</u>   | <u>INSTRUCTOR</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 371               | The Modern Arab World | Humphreys         |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the political, social, and cultural evolution of the Arab lands from the mid-eighteenth century down to the present. For the most part we will be dealing with the eastern Arab countries, with particular focus on Egypt, Lebanon, and the Palestine conflict. The course attempts to address a series of problems: the decay of established political and economic structures in the 18th century; attempts at military and administrative modernization by Middle Eastern states in the early and mid-19th century; the growing European presence in all domains of life down to World War I; the emergence of new ideologies as a response to internal weakness and foreign pressure; the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the emergence of "independent" Arab states under French and British tutelage; the struggle for national independence after World War II; the quest for Arab unity; the impact of the Arab-Israeli conflict; economic growth and social destabilization after World War II; the reassertion of Islam as a political ideology in the region.

LECTURES

Two per week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:25-3:40.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Mid-term Examination (20%)

Final Examination (40%)

Essay, 7-10 pages, on one of a choice of topics supplied by the instructor, or (in exceptional cases) negotiated with him on an individual basis. (40%)

Fourth Credit: a book review of 3-5 pages on some book chosen from a list supplied by the instructor. (M-T 20%; Final 30%; Essay 30%; Book Rev. 20%)

GRADING SYSTEM

as above

REQUIRED READINGS

Arthur Goldschmidt, Concise History of the Middle East (Westview)

A. H. Hourani, Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 1798-1939 (Cambridge)

Fouad Ajami, The Arab Predicament (Cambridge)

Charles Issawi, Economic History of the Middle East and North Africa (Columbia) OPTIONAL

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