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HSTR 264H.01: Islamic Civilization - Modern Era

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After a brief discussion of the life of the Prophet Muhammad, the teachings of Islam, and sketching the nineteenth century background (the disintegration and collapse of the Ottoman and Persian empires), this course will examine in greater detail, the political history of the Middle East and Central Asia since the beginning of the twentieth century. Special attention will be given to the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the struggle for the leadership in the Arab world, and the rise of Arab nationalism after the end of Second World War. The geographic emphasis will be on the Arab Middle East, but time permitting we will discuss the most important “hot spots” such as Afghanistan and the former Soviet Republics of Central Asia.

First Text: Daily Life in Ottoman Empire
Author: Mehrdad Kia
First Exam: March 7, pp.1-146
Second Exam: April 9, pp.147-237
Third Exam: April 29, 1:10-3:10, pp.257-408

Second Text: A Concise History of the Middle East
Author: Arthur Goldschmidt
First Exam: pp.1-146
Second Exam: pp.147-237
Third Exam: pp.257-408

Third Text: A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict
Authors: Ian Bickerton and Carla Klausner
First Exam: pp.1-15
Second Exam: pp.16-115
Third Exam: pp.116-360

Grade for the Course

First Exam: 25%
Second Exam: 25%
Third Exam: 25%

Paper on the Annual Central and Southwest Asia Conference: 15%

Attendance: 10%

Please Note: There will be no incomplete given in this course. Two absences will result in loss of a grade.

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