Course Title: The History of the Modern Middle East
Course Code: HIS 198
Instructor: Marwan D. Hanania, Ph.D.

Course Summary:
This course presents the major themes and events that have defined the social, economic and political history of the Middle East from World War I to the Present.

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:
• Identify the major turning points in modern Middle Eastern history from the late Ottoman period to the present.
• Analyze the role played by individual leaders and global powers in shaping the Middle East.
• Understand the major socio-economic and political processes that have shaped the history of the modern Middle East.
• Understand some of the different scholarly perspectives on key issues such as the legacy of European colonialism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the impact of oil, the rise of nationalism and the role of political Islam in the region.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:
• No Grade Requested (NGR)
  o This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
• Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  o Score will be determined by student attendance and participation.
• Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  o Grading will be based on student attendance and participation as well as an 8-10 written paper that addresses a major theme pertaining to the modern Middle East.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.
Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1: The Breakup of the Ottoman Empire and the European Colonial Period
  • The Capitulations and Increasing Economic Dependence on Europe
  • Imperialism and Modernity
  • The Young Turk Movement
  • World War I and the Arab Revolt
  • The Era of the Mandates

Week 2: Nationalism and the Arab-Israeli Conflict
  • Herzl and the Inception of Zionism
  • Jewish Immigration and the emergence of Palestinian nationalism
  • The Politics of the British Mandate
  • The 1947-1949 War and the Creation of Israel (1948)
  • The Free Officers Movement in Egypt
  • The Suez War of 1956 and the Consolidation of Arab nationalism

Week 3: The US and the Middle East
  • The 1967 War and its Aftermath
  • The Role of Oil in Middle East Politics
  • The 1973 War
  • King Faysal of Saudi Arabia and the Oil Embargo
  • The Historical Role of the United States in the Region
  • US Policy toward Iraq and Iran

Week 4: Political Islam
  • Origins and Major Theorists
  • The Muslim Brotherhood
  • The Islamic Revolution in Iran
  • The Lebanese Civil War and the Rise of Hizbollah
  • The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Founding of Hamas
  • The Rise of Al-Qa’ida
  • ISIS, al-Nusra and other extremist organizations

Week 5: The Arab Spring and Recent Civil Wars
  • The Origins of the Arab Spring
  • Events in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt
  • Events in Yemen, Bahrain, Iraq and Syria

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions:
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