Course Title: Demystifying the Middle East: A Primer
Course Code: WSP 139
Instructor: Marwan D. Hanania, Ph.D.
Dates and Times: June 29 and June 30, 10:00am-4:00pm

Course Summary:

This workshop presents the major themes and events that have defined the modern history and realities of the Middle East from the early Islamic periods through the modern era.

- Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:
- Identify the major turning points in modern Middle Eastern history from the founding of Islam 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 region.
- 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)
  - 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)
  - Score will be determined by student attendance and participation. Students must attend the workshop on both days and actively participate in class to receive credit.

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

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Outline:

Introduction: On Studying the History of the Modern Middle East

• Studying the Middle East: Basic Conceptual and Methodological Issues
• The Geography of the Middle East
• The Debate over Orientalism
• Understanding Middle Eastern Studies Today
• Culture, Economy and Civilization in Pre-Islamic Arabia
• The Emergence of Islam

The Founding and Expansion of Islam and Islamic Empires

• The Era of the “Rightly Guided Caliphs”
• The Umayyads
• The Abbasids
• The Incorporation of Arab Lands into the Ottoman Realm
• Ottoman Reform and Centralization
• Ottoman Decline

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

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 US and the Middle East

• The 1967 War and its Aftermath
• The Role of Oil in Middle East Politics
• The 1973 War and the Oil Embargo
• The Historical Role of the United States in the Region

Political Islam

• Origins and Major Theorists
• The Muslim Brotherhood
• The Islamic Revolution in Iran
• The Lebanese Civil War and the Rise of Hizbollah

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• The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Founding of Hamas
• The Rise of Al-Qa‘ida, ISIS, al-Nusra and other extremist organizations

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

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