**HIST 2130-001: Survey of Middle East History**
**Fall 2012**

**Auburn University**
**Haley 3220**
**TR 9:30-10:45 AM**

Professor: W. Matt Malczycki, PhD
Office hours: MWF 8 AM-12 noon and by appointment
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## SYLLABUS

### I. Course Description and Goals

The catalog description of the course reads: "Introduction to the history and culture of the Middle East in the Islamic Era." It is more accurate to say "this course treats the history of the Middle East from the dawn of Islam to the late twentieth century." The key goal of this course is to gain a basic understanding of the general history of the Middle East in order to better comprehend world events today. By the end of the semester, students should be able to form educated personal opinions and participate in meaningful discussions about the Middle East.

### II. Format

HIST 2130 is a traditional lecture course. The course has a Canvas component where students will find the syllabus, announcements, and other important course resources. The professor will not post his lecture notes on the Canvas module, and he will not provide them to any student for any reason.

This is a university course, so students will have to read and take lecture notes in order to absorb information. Students must demonstrate the degree to which they have mastered the material by writing essay exams. The students are responsible for the material and for their success in this course.

### III. Reading Assignments and Textbooks

There is a reading assignment for every class lecture. Students must do all of the assigned readings before coming to class. There is only one textbook for this course: Arthur Goldschmidt and Lawrence Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, 9th ed. (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2009). It is available at local bookstores. NOTE: There is now a tenth edition. Do not buy that one. The bookstores should have the ninth edition on the shelves.

IV. Grades

Grades in HIST 2130 are determined by student performance on quizzes and exams. Students do not earn points for attendance, but they can lose points for missing lectures. (See "V. Attendance" below.)

*A. Quizzes*

There will be at least ten reading and lecture quizzes during the semester. If there are more than ten quizzes, then the ten highest scores will count toward the overall quiz grade. Each quiz is worth ten points and all the quizzes together are worth one hundred points. The overall quiz grade counts for 25% of the final grade.

There will be three kinds of quizzes: textbook reading quizzes, lecture material quizzes, and in-class discussions.

The textbook and lecture quizzes are very straightforward. Students will have to demonstrate that they have done the reading and/or paid attention to the lectures by responding to a question or topic.

On occasion, in-class discussions will take the place of written quizzes. Students will earn grades based on their level of participation and the quality of their contributions. A "quality contribution" is one that demonstrates that the student has read and thought about the assigned readings. Students who are absent for quizzes earn a score of zero.

*B. Essay Exams*

There will be three in-class essay exams during the semester. Each exam is worth 100 points or 25% of the final grade. Advice for writing a good essay exam will appear on the Canvas module.

*C. Summary and Grading Scale*

There are a total of 400 possible points in HIST 2130-001:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 quizzes | = 100 points | = 25% of total grade |
| Exam 1 | = 100 points | = 25% of total grade |
| Exam 2 | = 100 points | = 25% of total grade |
| Exam 3 | = 100 points | = 25% of total grade |
| TOTAL | = 400 points | = 100% of grade |

Dr. Malczycki will calculate the final grade by adding up the points and dividing the total by four. The grading scale is as follows:

A=100-89.500%
B=89.499-79.500%
C=79.499-69.500%
D=69.499-59.500%
F=59.499% and below.

The grading scale is non-negotiable and the faculty will assign final grades in strict accordance with the scale. There is no extra credit in HIST 2130-001. Poor attendance can affect the grade negatively. (See below.)

## V. Attendance

Students must attend class in order to earn high marks in "Survey of Middle Eastern History." Attendance affects the final grade in the following ways:

3-5 unexcused absences = 10% reduction on final grade (i.e. original final grade x .9 = reported final grade; e.g. 360/400 = .9 x .8 = .81; the student went from an A to a B)

6-7 unexcused absences = 20% reduction on final grade (i.e. original final grade x .8 = reported final grade; e.g. 360/400 = .9 x .8 = .72 = C; the student went from an A to a C)

8+ unexcused absences = student fails the course with an FA

Dr. Malczycki will circulate an attendance ledger at the beginning of class. If a student fails to sign in, the student is counted absent. If a student wants an absence counted as excused, then he/she must submit a valid written excuse within one week of the absence. Dr. Malczycki counts only those reasons specified in Section I, part 4 of the *Student Policy eHandbook* as excused.

Note that attendance is more than a student's physical presence. Students who sleep, read newspapers, surf the net, send text messages, or otherwise ignore or interrupt the lecture will be counted absent and their disruptive behavior will be noted. Students who are more than ten minutes late to class are counted absent. Students should not attend if they are going to be more than ten minutes late.

## VI. Improper Behavior, Cheating, and Plagiarism

Improper behavior detracts from everyone's learning experience. It shows a lack of respect not only for the professor but also for one's classmates. Examples of improper behavior include but are not limited to chatting in class, the use of cell phones (including texting) in class, use of laptops, arriving late to class, eating in class, and interrupting the lecturer. (If a student has a question, the student should raise his/her hand.) The instructor reserves the right to define what constitutes improper behavior and will deal with such cases in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Section I, Part 5, the *Student Policy eHandbook*.

Dr. Malczycki prohibits the use of laptop computers, cell phones, cameras, voice recorders, and all other electronic devices in class. Anyone who violates this policy twice will lose a letter grade and then an additional letter grade for every additional infraction. Dr. Malczycki has the right to maintain this policy according to the *Student Policy eHandbook*.

Failure to comply with faculty directions is, according to Auburn University policy, improper behavior. If the faculty ask students to desist from improper behavior and the students refuse to comply, then the faculty are within their rights to file charges with the Dean of Students.

Academic honesty violations (cheating and plagiarism) are very serious and will be dealt with in accordance with the Academic Honesty Code, which one can find in Part I, Section 1 of the *Student Policy eHandbook.* Dr. Malczycki will report violations of academic honesty to the Academic Honesty Committee. Students are required to know the History Department's policy on academic honesty, which can be found at http://www.cla.auburn.edu/history/ug/academic_honesty.cfm.

## VII. Communication with the Faculty

Dr. Malczycki will communicate with the students in class, through Canvas, and via TigerMail. Students can e-mail Dr. Malczycki (wmm0002@auburn.edu) or come to office hours (see above for times and location). Students must use their AU e-mail addresses for all correspondence. Mail from all other servers is processed as junk mail. Students can expect a response to e-mail within three business days (i.e. M-F excluding holidays). If the professor has not replied after three business days, then students should re-send the email. Although it is possible to contact the faculty via phone, students are encouraged to use e-mail instead. Dr. Malczycki will not distribute grades or lecture notes via e-mail.

Students must include the following information in the subject heading of every e-mail: course number (HIST 2130-001), name (i.e. "John Doe"), topic (i.e. "Exam 2"). Dr. Malczycki responds only to e-mail written using the proper forms of address and in correct English. Dr. Malczycki will not respond informal or impolite e-mail.

If a student has a grievance with the faculty, Auburn policy maintains that the student should speak with the faculty directly before going to a chairperson, dean, or higher authority. See Section I, Part 13 of the *Student Policy eHandbook* for details on AU policy.

## VIII. Academic Support

If a student is having trouble with the readings or taking notes, AU has many resources to help. The place to begin is Academic Support Services (315 Martin, 844-4388). The professionals there are always happy to help students develop better study skills.

## IX. Accommodation Policy

It is the policy of Auburn University to provide its students with an accessible campus and equitable learning environment. If you have a disability that requires reasonable academic accommodations, assistive technology, or support services, contact the Office of Accessibility, 1248 Haley Center (334) 844-2096.

Students who need accommodations are asked to electronically submit their approved accommodations through AU Access and to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If a student has a conflict with the posted office hours, and alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please send an e-mail to wmm0002@auburn.edu with the subject "HIST 1010 accommodation meeting." If you have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but

need accommodations make and appointment with the Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT)

X. Miscellanea

*A. Contact with Parents/Guardians*

The Privacy Act of 1974 and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) are federal laws that protect students' privacy. AU policy also protects students' rights to privacy. The faculty cannot and indeed will not discuss grades with parents. Students should contact faculty directly rather than asking their parents to do it for them.

*B. Extra Credit*

There is no extra credit in this course.

*C.* The Student Policy eHandbook *and the* AU Bulletin

*The Student Policy eHandbook* and the *AU Bulletin* are the final arbiters in any disputes between faculty and students. Both are available online.

*D. Faculty absence due to research obligation*

Auburn University fully expects its faculty to conduct research and participate in academic life outside the University. If Dr. Malczycki is going to miss lectures for other research-related reasons, he will inform the students at least a week ahead of time.

XI. Disclaimer

Dr. Malczycki reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time during the semester. Dr. Malczycki will make students aware of syllabus changes in class and via e-mail.

XII. Agreement and Consent

By enrolling in this class you agree to accept the policies described in this document. You have the right to withdraw if you do not accept these policies.

**SCHEDULE**

*Week 1 August 13-17*

Thurs., Aug. 16: Welcome to HIST 2130: Survey of Middle East History

*Week 2 August 20-24*

Tues., Aug. 21: The Middle East Before Islam

Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East,* "Ch. 1: Introduction," 1-12, "Ch. 2.: The Middle East Before Muhammad," 13-24.

Thurs., Aug. 23: The Prophet Muhammad
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East,* "Ch. 3: The Prophet at Mecca," 25-38.

*Week 3 August 27-31*
Tues., Aug. 28: Islam: The Basics
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East,* "Ch. 4: What is Islam?," 39-48.

Thurs., Aug. 30: The Rightly Guided (Rashidun) Caliphs and the Spread of Islam
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East,* "Ch. 5: The Early Arab Conquests," 49-64.

*Week 4 September 6-10*
Mon., Sept. 3rd: Labor Day = no classes (But be sure to be back on campus come Tuesday!)

Tues., Sept. 4: The Umayyad Caliphate
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East,* "Ch. 6: The High Caliphate," 65-71.

Thurs., Sept. 6: The Political History of the Abbasid Caliphate
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East,* "Ch. 6: The High Caliphate," 71-80.
**IMPORTANT: 15th Class Day = Last day to withdraw from a course with no grade assignment and last day to apply for refund!**

*Week 5 September 10-14*
Tues., Sept. 11: Buyids, Saljuqs, Crusaders, and Mongols
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East,* "Ch. 7: Shiites and Turks, Crusaders and Mongols," 81-99.

Thurs., Sept. 13: Abbasid-Era Culture
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East,* "Ch. 8: Islamic Civilization," 99-120.

*Week 6 September 17-21*
Tues., Sept. 18: Mamluks, Mongols, Ottomans, and Safavids
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 9: Firearms, Slaves, and Empires," 121-158.

Thurs., Sept. 20: Catch-up & Review
PLEASE NOTE: "Catch up and Review" does not mean "Blow off and Snooze." There is a good chance that we will get behind. We'll probably need this time to bring ourselves up to date.

*Week 7 September 24-28*
**Tues., Sept. 25: EXAM 1**

Thurs., Sept. 27: The Slow Decline of the Ottomans and Safavids
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 10: European Interests and Imperialism," 147-158.

*Week 8 October 1-5*
Tues., Oct. 2: The 19th Century
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 11: Westernizing Reform in the Nineteenth Century," 159-173.

Thurs., Oct.4: The Age of -Isms
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 12: The Rise of Nationalism," 177-198.
**Fri. Oct. 5: Mid-Semester/36th Class Day = last day to withdraw without grade penalty**

*Week 9 October 8-12*
Tues., Oct. 9: World War I and the Creation of the Modern Middle East
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 13: The Roots of Arab Bitterness," 197-214.

Thurs., Oct. 11: Rising Powers of the Interwar Years: Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 14 Modernizing Rulers in the Independent States," 215-242.

*Week 10 October 15-19*
Tues., Oct. 16: Egypt, Iraq, and Syria Before the Revolutions
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 15: Egypt and the Fertile Crescent under European Control," 243-270.

Thurs., Oct. 28: Palestine and the Yishuv
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 16 The Contest for Palestine," 271-292.

*Week 11 October 22-26*

**Tues., Oct. 23: EXAM 2**

Thurs., Oct. 25: The Creation of Israel and the Failure of the Old Guard
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 17: Israel's Rebirth and the Rise of Arab Nationalism," 293-326.

*Week 12 October 29- November 2*

Tues., Oct. 30: From the Six Day War to Camp David
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 18: War and the Quest for Peace," 327-364.

Thurs., Nov. 1: The Failure of Secularism and the Rise of Islamism
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 19: The Reassertion of Islamic Power," 365-396.

*Week 13 November 5-9*

Tues., Nov. 6: The Failure of Secularism and the Rise of Islamism (Cont.)
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 19: The Reassertion of Islamic Power," 365-396.

Thurs., Nov. 8: Gulf War I
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 20: The Gulf War and the Peace Process," 397-420.

*Week 14 November 12-16*

Tues., Nov. 13: The Present
Reading assignment: Goldschmidt & Davidson, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, "Ch. 21: The War on Terrorism," 421-454.

Thurs., Nov. 15: The Middle East Since 2009

*Week 15 November 19-23*

Thanksgiving Break = no classes = (WDE, Baby! WDE! Let's eat turkey & BEAT 'BAMA!)

*Week 16 November 26-30*

Tues., Nov. 27: Catch up and Review
Thurs., Dec. 29: Catch up and Review
**IMPORTANT: AU eValuate opens at 8 AM (closes 12/2/12, 11:59 PM)**

**FINAL EXAM/EXAM 3: MONDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2012, 8AM, HALEY 3220**