Americans and the Middle East (HI 389)  
Spring 2012

Betty Anderson (banderso@bu.edu)  
FLR 134 MWF: 10:00-11:00

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Office Hours: M 11:00-1:00 and 3:30-5:00; F 11:00-2:00; and by appointment

Course Description:

This course examines the intersecting histories of America and the Middle East from the late 18th century until the present day. In so doing, the course follows the trajectory of the American experience in the region, focusing first on the period when American missionaries and educators engaged in some of the most important intellectual and cultural debates in the region, including those concerned with secularism, modernism, nationalism, and imperialism. After WWII, American political and military institutions came to dominate American actions in the region. Course lectures will focus primarily on events taking place in the Middle East, but will include information about American history when relevant.

The students are required to complete all the readings assigned and take a mid-term and a final. In these exams, the students will be tested not only on their knowledge of historical events but they must be able to analyze the different historical developments and changes taking place during the period of time covered by the course. Answers must incorporate information gleaned from the class lectures, the assigned readings, and the discussions.

The students will also write a 7-8 page paper choosing from a list of questions prepared by the professor. The paper must be turned in on the date specified below; otherwise it will lose 1/2 a grade for each day it is late. Plagiarism will be punished per the guidelines set out in the CAS Academic Conduct Code (http://www.bu.edu/cas/academics/programs/conductcode.html).

In addition to the written work, discussions will take place every week concerning the assigned readings. On these days, the students must arrive in class prepared to analyze and contribute to the topics proposed in order to receive full credit for participation.

Books:

(All other articles are on the Web: http://people.bu.edu/banderso/hi389)
Requirements:

1 mid-term worth 25% of the grade
1 7-8 page paper worth 30% of the grade
1 final exam worth 25% of the grade
Class participation worth 20% of the grade

Week 1: Introduction: First Encounters in the 18th and 19th Centuries (January 18 and 20)

Topics:

- Purpose and goals of the course
- America's Legacy in the Middle East

Readings:

- Cleveland, pp. 1-56
- Lesch, pp. 315-326

Week 2: Modernity in Egypt and the Ottoman Empire (January 23, 25, and 27)

Topics:

- Muhammad Ali's Reforms in Egypt
- Ottoman Tanzimat Reforms
- Conditions in Syria and Lebanon

Readings:

- Cleveland, pp. 61-117
- Henry Harris Jessup, "Selections," Fifty-Three Years in Syria

Week 3: Nationalism on the Eve of World War I (January 30 and February 2 (No Class on February 3))

Topics:

- Young Turks and Arab Nationalism
- Founding of the American Board
- Missionary Ethos

Readings:
Week 4: The Holy Land and the Orient (February 6, 8, and 10)

Topics:

Conflicting Goals: Proselytizing vs. Civilizing
Americanism vs. Civilizing
The Changing Dynamic of Protestant America

Readings:

Melanie McAlister, "Selections," Epic Encounters
John F. Kasson, "Selections," Amusing the Million: Coney Island at the Turn of the Century
Burke O. Long, "Starred and Striped Holy Lands" and "Landscapes of Democracy,"
Imagining the Holy Land: Maps, Models, and Fantasy Travels
Mark Twain, "Selections," The Innocents Abroad or the New Pilgrims Progress

Week 5: World War I (February 13, 15, and 17)

Topics:

Arab Revolt
Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points
Armenian Relief

Readings:

Cleveland, pp. 149-170
Lesch, pp. 15-32
Joseph L. Grabill, "An Unofficial Cabinet" and "Transatlantic Visions and Doings,"
Protestant Diplomacy and the Near East: Missionary Influence on American Policy, 1810-1927

Week 6: Interwar Period ((Tuesday) February 21, 22, and 24) (Monday Schedule of Classes on Tuesday)

Topics:

Modernization of Turkey and Iran
Arab Mandates
American-Saudi Relations
Readings:

Cleveland, 171-237
Robert Vitalis, "Selections," *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier*
Robert D. Kaplan, "Selections," *The Arabists: The Romance of the American Elite* [Note that pages have been skipped]

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**Mid-Term Examination: Wednesday, February 22**

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**Week 7: Palestine Mandate and the Establishment of Israel (February 27 and 29 and March 2)**

Topics:

- Palestine Mandate
- 1948 War
- Harry S. Truman and the Establishment of Israel

Readings:

Cleveland, pp. 239-271
Sean Foley, "Airlift for Allah," *Connections and Ruptures: America and the Middle East*

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**Week 8: Nasser and Arab Radicalism (March 5, 7, and 9)**

Topics:

- Nasser's Revolution
- Ba'ath Party
- Cold War Politics

Readings:

Cleveland, pp. 301-344
Bruce J. Evensen, "Truman, Palestine and the Cold War," *Middle Eastern Studies* (January 1992)
Malcolm Kerr, "'Coming to Terms with Nasser': Attempts and Failures," *International Affairs*

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**SPRING BREAK, March 10-18**

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**Week 9: 1967 War (March 19, 21, and 23)**

Topics:
Causes and Results of the 1967 War  
Rise of Palestinian Fedayeen  
1973 October War  
Egyptian-Israeli Peace: Camp David

Readings:

Cleveland, pp. 345-367  
Lesch, pp. 177-196  
Don Peretz, "The United States, the Arabs, and Israel: Peace Efforts of Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*  
Bernard Reich, "The United States and Israel," *The Contemporary Middle East*

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Week 10: Civil War in Lebanon (March 26, 28, and 30)

Topics:

Lebanese Sectarianism  
Palestinian Fedayeen  
Israeli Invasions

Readings:

Cleveland, pp. 369-395  
Lesch, pp. 79-127  
Anthony Sampson, "Selections," *The Arms Bazaar*

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Week 11: Iranian Revolution and Islamism (April 2, 4, and 6)

Topics:

Mossadeq  
Iranian Revolution  
Egyptian Islamism

Readings:

Cleveland, pp. 397-450  
Lesch, pp. 55-78, 128-147, 467-490  

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**Paper Due: Friday, April 6**
Week 12: Iran-Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan  (April 9, 11, and 13)

Topics:
- Iran-Iraq War
- Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan
- American-Saudi-Pakistani Alliance

Readings:
- Cleveland, pp. 473-497
- Lesch, pp. 327-393, 412-455, 491-506

Week 13: 1990: Gulf War (April 18 and 20) (Monday Schedule of Classes on Wednesday)

Topics:
- Gulf War
- Iraq in the 1990s
- US-Saudi Relations

Readings:
- Cleveland, pp. 499-539
- Lesch, pp. 244-293
- Christopher Layne, "Why the Gulf War Was Not in the National Interest," Atlantic Monthly
- Hans von Spoken, Denis Halliday and Scott Ritter, "Reports to Congress"

Week 14: Palestinian-Israeli Crisis (April 23, 25, and 27)

Topics:
- First and Second Palestinian Intifadas
- Madrid Conference
- Oslo Agreement
- Camp David


Topics:
- Invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq
- Iraqi Sectarianism
- American Withdrawal from Iraq
Tentative Final: Friday, May 11: 9:00-11:00am