

# Americans and the Middle East (HI 389)

## Fall 2017

**Betty Anderson** (banderso@bu.edu)  
**HIS 304 TTH: 9:30-10:45**

**Office: Room 306, 226 Bay State Road**  
**Telephone: (617)353-8302**

**Office Hours: T 11:00-12:20 and 2:00-4:00; TH 11:00-12:20; 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 will write 3 five-page papers analyzing an aspect of the course covered in the readings, lectures and films. The papers must be turned in on the date specified below; a late paper will lose 1/3 a grade for each day it is late. Plagiarism will be handled per the guidelines set out in the CAS Academic Conduct Code (<http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>).

Students will complete 3 critical reading exercises as in-class exercises throughout the semester. These will require students to analyze a written text, an image or a film clip for historical context, authorship, and intended audience. In the last three weeks of the semester, students will present their own critical reading exercise – the 4<sup>th</sup> – to the class.

The students will prepare a take-home final, 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, the films, and the discussions.

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

---

**Books:**

**Betty Anderson**, *A History of the Modern Middle East: Rulers, Rebels, and Rogues*. Stanford University Press, 2016.

**Rajiv Chandrasekaran**, *Imperial Life in the Emerald City*. Penguin, 2006.

**Akram Khater**, *Inventing Home: Emigration, Gender, and the Middle Class in Lebanon, 1870-1920*. University of California Press, 2001.

**Anthony Shadid**, *House of Stone*. Houghton Mifflin, 2013.

(All other articles are on the Blackboard site for the class)

**Requirements:**

4 critical reading exercise worth 20% of the grade

3 five-page papers worth 45% of the grade

1 final exam worth 15% of the grade

Class participation worth 20% of the grade

---

**Week 1: First Encounters in the 18th and 19th Centuries (September 5 and 7)****Topics:**

Purpose and goals of the course

America's Legacy in the Middle East

**Readings:**

1) **Anderson**, Prologue and Chapters 1 and 2

2) Robert J. Allison, "Americans and the Muslim World - First Encounters," in *The Middle East and the United States*, ed. David W. Lesch (Westview Press, 2013), pp. 297-308.

---

## **Week 2: Modernity in Egypt and the Ottoman Empire (September 12 and 14)**

### **Topics:**

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

### **Readings:**

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 3
- 2) Daniel Bliss, "Missionary Life in the Lebanon," *The Reminiscences of Daniel Bliss* (Fleming, 1920), pp. 100-138.
- 3) Jean Said Makdisi, *Teta, Mother, and Me: Three Generations of Arab Women* (W.W. Norton and Co., 2006), pp. 141-198.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Critical Reading Exercise, in Class, September 14**

---

## **Week 3: Identity and Immigration in the 19th Century (September 19 and 21)**

### **Topics:**

Young Turks and Arab Nationalism  
Missionary Ethos  
Arab Immigration to the US

### **Readings:**

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 4
- 2) **Khater**, *Inventing Home*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Critical Reading Exercise, in Class, September 21**

---

## Week 4: The Holy Land and the Orient (September 26 and 28)

### Topics:

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

### Readings:

- 1) Melanie McAlister, *Epic Encounters* (University of California Press, 2005), pp. 13-29.
  - 2) Burke O. Long, "Starred and Striped Holy Lands," *Imagining the Holy Land: Maps, Models, and Fantasy Travels* (Indiana University Press, 2003), pp. 43-87.
  - 3) Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad or the New Pilgrims Progress* (Signet Classic, 1966), pp. 333-361.
- 

## Week 5: World War I (October 3 and 5)

### Topics:

Arab Revolt  
Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points  
Armenian Relief

### Readings:

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 5
- 2) Keith Watenpaugh, "The League of Nations' Rescue of Armenian Genocide Survivors and the Making of Modern Humanitarians, 1920-1927," *American Historical Review* (December 2010), pp. 1315-1339.
- 3) Howard S. Bliss, "The Modern Missionary," *The Atlantic Monthly* (May 1920), pp. 664-675.
- 4) Ellen Fleischmann, "Lost in Translation: Home Economics and the Sidon Girls' School of Lebanon, c. 1924-1932," *Social Science and Missions* (2010), pp. 32-62.

**First Five-Page Paper Due: Friday, October 4, 5:00 pm**

---

## Week 6: Interwar Period (October 12)

### Topics:

Modernization of Turkey and Iran  
Arab Mandates  
American-Saudi Relations

### Readings:

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 6
- 2) Robert Vitalis, *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (Stanford University Press, 2007), pp. 31-87.
- 3) Fadia Basrawi, *Brownies and Kalashnikovs* (South Street Press, 2009), pp. 3-116.

---

## Week 7: Palestine Mandate and the Establishment of Israel (October 17 and 19)

### Topics:

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

### Readings:

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 7
- 2) Sean Foley, "Airlift for Allah," *Connections and Ruptures: America and the Middle East* (American University of Beirut, 2011), pp. 383-394.
- 3) Malcolm Kerr, "'Coming to Terms with Nasser': Attempts and Failures," *International Affairs* (January 1967), pp. 65-84.
- 4) Betty Anderson, *The American University of Beirut: Arab Nationalism and Liberal Education* (University of Texas Press, 2011): pp. 119-150.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Critical Reading Exercise, in Class, October 19

---

## Week 8: Nasser and Arab Radicalism (October 24 and 26)

### Topics:

Nasser's Revolution  
Ba'ath Party  
Cold War Politics

### Readings:

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 8
- 2) Rashid Khalidi, "The Superpowers and the Cold War in the Middle East," in *The Middle East and the United States*, ed. David W. Lesch (Westview Press, 2013), pp. 156-174.
- 3) 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* (May 1972), pp. 116-125.
- 4) Paul Thomas Chamberlin, *The Global Offensive: The United States, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Making of the Post-Cold War Order* (Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 14-75.

## Second Five-Page Paper Due, Friday, October 27, 5:00pm

---

## Week 9: Arab-Israeli Wars (October 31 and November 2)

### Topics:

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

### Readings:

- 1) **Shadid**, *House of Stone*
- 2) Betty Anderson, *The American University of Beirut* (University of Texas Press, 2011), pp. 151-182.

---

## Week 10: Civil Wars (November 7 and 9)

### Topics:

Lebanese Sectarianism  
Palestinian Fedayyeen  
Israeli Invasions

### Readings:

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 9
  - 2) Mark Gasiorowski, "US Foreign Policy toward Iran during the Mussadiq Era," in *The Middle East and the United States*, ed. David W. Lesch (Westview Press, 2013), pp. 55-69.
  - 3) Kamal Abdel-Malek and Mouna El Kabla, ed., *America in an Arab Mirror* (Palgrave, 2011).
  - 4) Elizabeth Thompson, "Sayyid Qutb and Ali Shariati: The Idea of Islamic Revolution in Egypt and Iran," *Justice Interrupted: The Struggle for Constitutional Government in the Middle East* (Harvard University Press, 2013), pp. 276-308.
- 

## Week 11: Iranian Revolution and Islamism (November 14 and 16)

### Topics:

Mossadeq  
Iranian Revolution  
Egyptian Islamism

### Readings:

- 1) Ali R. Abootalebi, "What Went Wrong in Iraq?" in *The Middle East and the United States*, ed. David W. Lesch (Westview Press, 2013), pp. 361-375.
- 2) Hans von Spoken, Denis Halliday and Scott Ritter, "Reports to Congress."
- 3) Marvin G. Weinbaum, "The United States and Afghanistan," in *The Middle East and the United States*, ed. David W. Lesch (Westview Press, 2013), pp. 394-415.
- 4) Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, "Islamist Perceptions of US Policy in the Middle East," in *The Middle East and the United States*, ed. David W. Lesch (Westview Press, 2013), pp. 449-472.

**Third Five-Page Paper Due, Friday, November 17, 5:00pm**

---

## Week 12: No Class (Watch Film to be Determined) (November 21)

---

## **Week 13: Wars (November 28 and 30)**

### **Topics:**

Iran-Iraq War  
Afghanistan  
Gulf War  
Iraq in the 1990s  
US-Saudi Relations

### **Readings:**

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 10 and Epilogue
- 2) **Chandrasekaran**, *Imperial Life in the Emerald City*

## **Beginning of 4<sup>th</sup> Critical Reading Exercises (Weeks 13-15)**

---

## **Week 14: Palestinian-Israeli Crisis (December 5 and 7)**

### **Topics:**

First and Second Palestinian Intifidas  
Madrid Conference  
Oslo Agreement  
Camp David

### **Readings:**

- 1) Sunaina Maira, *Jil Oslo: Palestinian Hip Hop, Youth Culture, and the Youth Movement* (Tadween Publishing, 2013), pp. 70-179.
  - 2) Marc Levine, *Heavy Metal Islam* (Three Rivers Press, 2008), pp. 1-20 and 106-138.
- 

## **Week 15: Palestinian-Israeli Crisis (December 12)**

### **Topics:**

First and Second Palestinian Intifidas  
Madrid Conference  
Oslo Agreement  
Camp David

---

**Final: Scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 9:00-11:00am (To be Arranged as a Take-Home Exam)**