

Cities in the Middle East: Mecca to Dubai (HI 390) Fall 2017

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EPC 206 TTH: 12:30-1:45

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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 Middle Eastern history through the lens of its cities, focusing on Mecca, Damascus, Jerusalem, Baghdad, Cairo, Istanbul, Tehran, Beirut, Damascus, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha. In these cities, caliphs, presidents and kings have ruled; religious clerics adjudicated Islamic law; architects and artists constructed magnificent monuments; and merchants traded the world's goods. Cities have also been the centers for literary and scientific experimentation, educational expansion, and social entertainment. Today, they are the epicenter for both political protest and neoliberal globalization. A close examination of the region's cities provides a window on to developments in governance, religion, and culture. Classes will include historical lectures, discussions about the readings, and displays of images, music and films that illustrate the diversity of experiences to be found in Middle Eastern cities.

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 4th – 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.

Ebru Boyar and Kate Fleet, ed., *Social History of Ottoman Istanbul*, Edition 10. Cambridge University Press, 2010.

(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: Mecca (September 5 and 7)

Readings:

1) **Anderson**, Prologue

2) Jonathan Berkey, The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society in the Near East, 600-1800 (Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 39-53.

3) K.N. Chaudhuri, Trade and Civilization in the Indian Ocean: An Economic History from the Rise of Islam to 1750 (Cambridge University Press, 1985), pp. 34-51.

Week 2: Umayyad Damascus and Jerusalem (September 12 and 14)

Readings:

1) Jonathan Berkey, The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society in the Near East, 600-1800 (Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 76-90 and 113-129.

2) Oleg Grabar, Formation of Islamic Art (Yale University Press, 1987), pp. 43-71.

1st Critical Reading Exercise, in Class, September 14

Week 3: Abbasid Baghdad (September 19 and 21)

Readings:

- 1) Zayde Antrim, Routes & Realms: The Power of Place in the Early Islamic World (Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 33-53.
- 2) Samer Ali, Arabic Literary Salons in the Islamic Middle Ages: Poetry, Public Performance, and the Presentation of the Past (University of Notre Dame Press, 2010), pp. 13-32.
- 3) Janet Abu-Lughod, Before European Hegemony: The World System A.D. 1250-1350 (Oxford University Press, 1991), pp. 185-211.

2nd Critical Reading Exercise, in Class, September 21

Week 4: Fatimid, Mamluk and Ottoman Cairo (September 26 and 28)

Readings:

- 1) Sheila Blair and Jonathan M. Bloom, The Art and Architecture of Islam 1250-1800 (Yale University Press, 1994), pp. 85-113.
 - 2) André Raymond, Cairo (Harvard University Press, 2000), pp. 201-215.
 - 3) Nelly Hanna, Making Big Money in 1600: The Life and Times of Isma`il Abu Taqiya, Egyptian Merchant (Syracuse University Press, 1998), pp. 1-42.
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Week 5: Ottoman Istanbul (October 3 and 5)

Readings:

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 1
- 2) **Boyar and Fleet**, Chapters 2, 4, 5, and 6
- 3) Gülru Necipoglu, Architecture, Ceremonial, and Power (MIT Press, 1992), pp. 111-122, 159-183.

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

Week 6: Safavid Isfahan and Timurid Samarqand (October 12)

Readings:

- 1) Jean Calmard, "Shi'i Rituals and Power II. The Consolidation of Safavid Shi'ism: Folklore and Popular Religion." Safavid Persia (I.B. Tauris, 1996).
 - 2) Gülru Necipoglu, "Framing the Gaze in Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Palaces." Ars Orientalist, 1993.
 - 3) Lisa Golombek, "Tamerlane: Scourge of God." Asian Art (Vol. II, No. 2): pp. 30-61.
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Week 7: 19th Century Istanbul (October 17 and 19)

Readings:

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 2
- 2) **Boyar and Fleet**, Chapter 8
- 3) Diana Barillari and Ezio Godoli, Istanbul 1900: Art Nouveau Architecture and Interiors (Rizzoli International Publications, 1996), pp. 9-32.
- 4) Zeynep Çelik, The Remaking of Istanbul: Portrait of an Ottoman City in the Nineteenth Century (University of Washington Press, 1986), pp. 31-48.

3rd Critical Reading Exercise, in Class, October 19

Week 8: 19th Century Ottoman Beirut and Damascus (October 24 and 26)

Readings:

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapters 3 and 4
- 2) Ilham Khuri-Makdisi, The Eastern Mediterranean and the Making of Global Radicalism, 1860-1914 (University of California Press, 2013), pp. 35-59.
- 3) Samir Kassir, Beirut (University of California Press, 2010), pp.129-159.

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

Week 9: 19th Century Cairo and Tehran (October 31 and November 2)

Readings:

- 1) Timothy Mitchell, Colonising Egypt (University of California Press, 1991), pp. 63-94.
 - 2) Ziad Fahmy, Ordinary Egyptians: Creating the Modern Nation through Popular Culture (Stanford University Press, 2011), pp. 96-133.
 - 3) John T. Chalcraft, The Striking Cabbies of Cairo and Other Stories: Crafts and Guilds in Egypt, 1863-1914 (State University of New York, 2004), pp. 145-170.
 - 3) Mansoor Moaddel, "Shi'i Political Discourse and Class Mobilization in the Tobacco Movement of 1890-92." In A Century of Revolution Social Movements in Iran. Edited by John Foran (University of Minnesota Press, 1994).
 - 4) Ervand Abrahamian, "The Crowd in the Persian Revolution." Iranian Studies (Autumn 1969): 128-150.
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Week 10: Urban Life under Colonialism (November 7 and 9)

Readings:

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapters 5, 6 and 7
 - 2) Samir Kassir, Beirut (University of California Press, 2010), pp. 301-326.
 - 3) Abigail Jacobson, From Empire to Empire: Jerusalem between Ottoman and British Rule (Syracuse University Press, 2011), pp. 53-81.
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Week 11: Urban Protest after Independence (November 14 and 16)

Readings:

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapters 8 and 9
- 2) Kemal H. Karpat, The Gecekonu: Rural Migration and Urbanization (Cambridge University Press, 1976), pp. 78-95.
- 3) Ahmed Abdalla, The Student Movement and National Politics in Egypt: 1923-1973 (Al Saqi Books, 1985), pp. 149-175.
- 4) Ahmad Ashraf, "Bazaar-Mosque Alliance: The Social Basis of Revolts and Revolutions." International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society (Summer 1988): 538-567.

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

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

Week 13: The Social City (November 28 and 30)

Readings:

- 1) **Anderson**, Chapter 10
- 2) Lara Deeb and Mona Harb, Leisurely Islam: Negotiation Geography and Morality in Shi'ite South Beirut (Princeton University Press, 2013), pp. 1-30.
- 3) Mark Allen Peterson, Connected in Cairo: Growing Up Cosmopolitan in the Middle East (Indiana University Press, 2011), pp. 138-169.

Beginning of 4th Critical Reading Exercises (Weeks 13-15)

Week 14: Urban Persian Gulf (December 5 and 7)

Readings:

- 1) Miriam Cooke, Tribal Modern: Branding New Nations in the Arab Gulf (University of California Press, 2014), pp. 99-122.
 - 2) Yasser Elsheshtawy, "Cities of Sand and Fog: Abu Dhabi's Global Ambitions," in The Evolving Arab City: Tradition, Modernity and Urban Development. Edited by Yasser Elsheshtawy (Routledge, 2008), pp. 258-304.
 - 3) Ahmad Kanna, Dubai, The City as Corporation (University of Minnesota Press, 2011), pp. 1-42 and 105-134.
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Week 15: 21st Century Urban Protest (December 12)

Reading:

Anderson, Epilogue

Final: Scheduled for Saturday, December 16, 12:30-2:30pm (To be Arranged as a Take-Home Exam)