A survey of modern Middle Eastern history, focusing on why the contemporary Middle East is what it is. The class will run as a combination of lectures and discussions of reading materials. I expect that you will attend all classes unless you have a very good reason to be elsewhere. There will be one mid-term exam (which includes a separate map test) and a final exam. In addition, you will write two short essays on assigned topics and a 10-page/3500-word research paper on a topic of your choice, due Monday, May 6.

Grade basis:
- 2 short essays, 10% each
- Research paper 25%
- Mid-term exam 25%
- Final exam 30%

Required texts:

Disability services statement:
Hamilton College will make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation(s) and would like to make a formal request for this course, please discuss it with me during the first two weeks of class. You will need to provide Allen Harrison, Associate Dean of Students (Elihu Root House; ext. 4021) with appropriate documentation of your disability.

January 22 – 25
Wednesday: Introduction — Muhammad’s community and empire

April 4 – 8
The European challenge
M: The Auspicious Event
W: Tanzimat
F: Qajar Persia for sale


February 11 – 15 Era of reform
M: Religious reform and reaction
W: Modernization and women
F: The Young Turks

Reading: Cleveland/Bunton, Chpts. 6, 7. Esposito, Chpt. 4. Şükrü Hanıoğlu, Brief History of the Ottoman Empire pp. 109–149.

Feb. 18 – 22 Early nationalism
M: Ferment in Persia
W: Arabs in the late Ottoman period
F: The Turks and the war


Feb. 25 – March 1 World War I creates the Middle East
M: A peace to end all peace
W: Balfour
F: New dynasties


March 4 – 8 New countries, new problems
M: Ataturk
W: Reza Khan
F: Palestine

Reading: Cleveland/Bunton, Chpts. 10, 11, 13. Abrahimian, Chpt. 3. Bickerton and Klausner, Chpt. 3

March 11 – 15 Who’s really in charge?
M: Syria under the Mandate
W: Iran and the Superpowers
F: International crises


MARCH 16 – 31 SPRING BREAK
April 1 – 5
Independence at last
M: Suez Crisis
W: Nasserism
F: NO CLASS (Pan-Arabism and its discontents)


April 8 – 12
Political challenges
M: NO CLASS (Ba’athist Iraq)
W: Turkey and the generals Essay 2
F: The State of Israel


April 15 – 19
A people without a land
M: Six Day War
W: Pyrrhic victory Essay 2 due
F: The Shah and the United States


April 22 – 26
Revolutions
M: Road to revolution **annotated bibliographies due**
W: Rise of revivalist Islam
F: The Palestinian problem


April 29 – May 3
Oil and trouble
M: Lebanon
W: Intifada to Iraq
F: Wars in the Persian Gulf


May 6 – 10
Authoritarian stasis
M: Post-Khomeini Iran **research papers due at 5:00 PM**
W: Syria under Asad
F: New world order?

May 13
M: Review

FINAL EXAM  Friday, May 17, 7 – 10 PM