“The Inter-Arab System: Unity and Division
From World War I to the 'Arab Spring’”

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Wednesdays– 12:15-15:45

This course seeks to understand one of the most important factors shaping the modern and contemporary politics of the Middle East: the complicated relationships between Arab countries, and the interaction between inter-Arab dynamics and other dimensions of Middle Eastern political life such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, Great Power penetration, and the rise of political Islam. Employing both "realist" and "constructivist" theories of international relations, it will analyze the evolution of the system from its infancy at the beginning of the 20th century, through the pan-Arab heyday of Gamal Abdel Nasser in the 1950s and 1960s, the subsequent consolidation of a more normative state system and its eventual, albeit partial undermining by the “Arab Spring” upheavals. In examining inter-Arab dynamics against the background of challenges posed from within the Arab world, by non-Arab regional actors – Israel, Turkey and Iran – and by Great Powers, the course will seek to understand matters such as the changing nature of modern Arab identity, Arab state formation, the effect of supra-national and sub-national ideologies on the behavior of Arab elites, and the underpinnings of the foreign policies of Arab states.

Course Requirements:

1. Paper –50% of grade
2. Final take-home exam –50% of grade
3. Class Attendance and Participation - mandatory

I. Introduction - State, Nation and Region –Varying Perspectives on Inter-Arab Relations and Arab Nationalism


Documents:

Kawakibi – “The Excellence of the Arabs”
Azoury – "Program for the Arab Fatherland"
Sharif Hussein – “Territorial Demands”
Jurji Zaydan – “Arabs and Turks Before the Constitution”, pp. 395-408
“Are the Syrians Arabs? Or What Are They”, pp. 409-416

II. World War I and the Emergence of Arabism


(Fuller picture in Gelvin, *Divided loyalties: nationalism and mass politics in Syria at the close of Empire* (Berkeley, CA:, Univ. of California Press, 1998)).

Documents:

Husayn-McMahon Correspondence
Sykes-Picot Agreement

III. The Inter-War Years – An Arab Proto-System


IV+V. The Creation of the Arab League, and the Crystallization of the Arab State System, 1942-1954

Y. Porath, pp. 257-319, 353-60.


Document: Arab League Charter
Map: Arab Invasion of former Mandated Palestine - 1948

VI. The Heyday of Pan-Arabism, 1955-1967


VII. The Watershed – June 1967


Documents: Nasser’s Speech to Arab Trade Unionists, May 26, 1967
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/nasser1.html

Nasser’s Resignation Speech, June 10, 1967

VIII. From Thawra to Tharwa – 1967-1980


A. Dawisha, p. 252-313


Documents:
Khartoum Summit Resolutions:
http://www.sixdaywar.org/content/docs.asp#khartoum

IX. The Iran-Iraq War and the Return to Geography – 1980-1990


A. Sela, pp. 221-320.
X. Gulf War - Arab Quake


Y. Sayegh, “System Breakdown in the Middle East?,” Martin Kramer, (ed.), *Middle Eastern Lectures*, No. 2 (Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Univ., 1997), pp. 57-68.


XI. Searching for a New Regional Order


A. Sela, pp. 320-40, 403-05.


Document: The Beirut Declaration

XII and XIII. From Gulf War III to the Arab Spring – the End of the Arab State System?

Readings:


Documents: Arab Human Development Reports http://www.arab-hdr.org/
Key Social and Economic Indicators