



Short Syllabus



Course Title

Social and Cultural History of the Modern Middle East

Lecturer

Dr. Ido Ben-Ami

Contact details

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Semester

year-long course

Short Description

This course examines the history of the people who lived on the margins of the Middle East. Instead of focusing on the history of rulers and elites, we will give voices to those who have been silenced: peasants, women, criminals, slaves, members of the LGBTQ+ community, people with mental health issues, and other minorities. We will explore case studies from Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, and Israel, among other places, and examine how these people lived, socialized, and made sense of the world around them. Special attention will be given to the ways in which different people experienced some of the 'big changes' in the history of the modern Middle East, such as the French and British occupations of Egypt, the Lebanese Civil War, the establishment of Israel, and the Iranian revolution. In addition, we will discuss the obstacles that we are expected to encounter when studying marginalized groups. Students will be acquainted with different theoretical and methodological tools and develop their skills as research historians by reading both primary and secondary materials.

Final grade components

Active Participation and presentations (15%).

Four Response Papers (10%).

Midterm Exam (15%).

Final Take-Home Exam (60%).

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements

Cell phones & any other electronic apparatuses should always be turned off in class.