

History 145C: The Middle East, 1500-1800

Instructor: Professor Adam Sabra

Class Time: Tuesdays, Thursdays, 11:00-12:15

Location: Arts 1353

Office: HSSB 3260

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, 10:00-11:00

Email: asabra@history.ucsb.edu

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the history of the Middle East region in the early modern period. After a brief overview of the regional situation in the year 1500, we will begin with the Ottoman conquest of much of the Arabic-speaking world and the rise of the Safavid Empire in Iran. We will identify the factors that distinguish these empires from the medieval states that preceded them and address major developments in imperial culture, religious and cultural life, and in the economy. We will pay particular attention to the eighteenth century, in which the whole region experienced profound social and political changes. A discussion of the social history of Istanbul will assist in illustrating the significance of these changes. Finally, we will examine the French occupation of Egypt in 1798, as viewed by a learned Egyptian chronicler.

Texts:

Ebru Boyar and Kate Fleet. *A Social History of Ottoman Istanbul*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Jane Hathaway, *The Arab Lands under Ottoman Rule, 1516-1800*. Harlow: Pearson, 2008.

Douglas A. Howard. *A History of the Ottoman Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

‘Abd al-Rahman al-Jabarti. *Napoleon in Egypt, 1798, al-Jabarti’s Chronicle of the French Occupation*. Princeton: Markus Wiener, 1993.

Roger Savory, *Iran under the Safavids*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1980.

Requirements:

Attendance and participation: 10%

3-5 page paper: 20%

In-class exam: 30%

6-8 page final paper on al-Jabarti: 40%

The shorter paper will be a response to an excerpt from Jean Chardin’s *A Journey to Persia*. The relevant passage will be distributed over GauchoSpace.

Assignments are due in class on the date stated on the syllabus, except the paper on al-Jabarti, which is due at 5pm, and can be turned in at HSSB 4000. Late papers will be graded down at a rate of 1/3 grade per day. No extensions will be granted except in documented medical emergencies.

Your work should be entirely your own. Cases of plagiarism will be punished in accordance with UCSB policy.

Lectures and Readings:

The Middle East in 1500

April 4:

Hathaway, Intro, ch. 1

April 6:

Howard, Intro., ch. 1

April 11:

Howard, ch. 2

Early Modern Empires

April 13:

Howard, ch. 3

April 18:

Hathaway, ch. 2, 3

April 20:

Savory, ch. 1, 2

Empires at their Apogee

April 25:

Howard, ch. 4

Hathaway, ch 4

April 27:

Savory ch 3, 4

Imperial Cultures

May 2:

Boyar and Fleet, ch. 2

May 4:

Savory ch. 6, 7

First paper due

Social and Economic Transformations

May 9:

Savory, ch. 8

May 11:

Hathaway, ch. 7, 8, 9

Religious and Intellectual Life

May 16:

Hathaway, ch. 6

Savory, ch. 9

Eighteenth-Century Transformations

May 18:

Savory, ch. 10

May 23:

Hathaway, ch. 5, 10

May 25: In Class Exam

Life in Early Modern Istanbul

May 30:

Boyar and Fleet, ch. 3, 5

June 1:

Boyar and Fleet, ch. 4, 5

June 6:

Boyar and Fleet, ch. 6, 7

Ottoman Egypt Encounters the French Revolution

June 8:

Robert Tignor, "Introduction", in al-Jabarti, pp. 1-15

Louis Antoine Fauvelet, "Memoirs", in al-Jabarti, pp. 133-165

Edward W. Said, "The Cultural Consequences of the French Preoccupation with Egypt", al-Jabarti, pp. 167-180.

Read al-Jabarti's *Chronicle*, pp. 17-118.

Paper on al-Jabarti due on June 14, 2017, by 5pm.