

HIST 532 READING SEMINAR: MIDDLE EAST
Spring 2019—Tuesday 2:00-4:50
Clark B-352

Professor James E. Lindsay
Email: James.Lindsay@ColoState.EDU

Office: Clark B-352
Office Hours: T 10:00-12:00pm

FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for redress of grievances.

WARNING:

Although this university values and encourages civil expression and respectful personal behavior, you may at any moment, and without further notice, encounter ideas, expressions and images that are mistaken, upsetting, dangerous, prejudiced, insulting, or deeply offensive. We call this *education*.

(Jonathan Rauch, [A New Trigger Warning for College Kids](#))

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:

This seminar is designed to acquaint you with major themes in pre-modern and modern Middle East history and historiography. To that end, we will read together 15 books on a range of topics—historiography, religion, law, women, politics, warfare, travel, trade, material culture, inter-communal relations, etc. Most of the books (including the ridiculously expensive ones) are available as e-books in Morgan Library or will be posted as PDFs on canvas.

REQUIRED READINGS—NOT AVAILABLE AS E-BOOKS IN MORGAN LIBRARY

Bernard Lewis, *The Middle East: A Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years*
Christian C. Sahner, *Christian Martyrs under Islam: Religious Violence and the Making of the Muslim World*
Eugene Rogan, *The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East*
Daniel Gordis, *Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn*

REQUIRED READINGS—AVAILABLE AS E-BOOKS IN MORGAN LIBRARY OR ON CANVAS

Robert Hoyland, *In God's Path: The Arab Conquests and the Creation of an Islamic Empire*
Jacob Lassner, *Medieval Jerusalem: Forging an Islamic City in Spaces Sacred to Christians and Jews*
Nancy Khalek, *Damascus after the Muslim Conquest: Text and Image in Early Islam*
Mark R. Cohen, *Poverty and Charity in the Jewish Community of Medieval Egypt*
Simon Sebag Montefiore, *Jerusalem: The Biography*
Thomas Madden, *Istanbul: City of Majesty at the Crossroads of the World*
Justin Marozzi, *Baghdad: City of Peace, City of Blood—A History in Thirteen Centuries*
Max Rodenbeck, *Cairo: The City Victorious*
Sholeh Quinn, *Shah Abbas*
Raymond Ibrahim, *Sword and Scimitar: Fourteen Centuries of War between Islam and the West*
Dan Hummel, *A Covenant of the Mind: Evangelicals, Israel, and the Construction of a Special Relationship (Canvas)*

GRADING: Plus/minus grading will be used in this course.

A 93.00-100.00 (A 95)	B- 80.00-82.99 (B- 82)	D 60.00-69.99 (D 65)
A- 90.00-92.99 (A- 92)	C+ 77.00-79.99 (C+ 77)	F 0.00-59.99
B+ 87.00-89.99 (B+ 87)	C 73.00-76.99 (C 75)	
B 83.00-86.99 (B 85)	C- 70.00-72.99 (C- 72)	

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation (10%)
 Review Essays (60%)
 Historiographical Essay (30%)

MISSED CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Missed classes and late assignments will be excused only with written proof of university-sanctioned activities, personal illness, or family emergency.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

For University policies on “Academic Integrity/Misconduct” and “Procedures for Dealing with Academic Dishonesty,” see the [Colorado State University Catalog](#). See specifically the CSU definitions of “Cheating” and “Plagiarism”. Any instances of cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty, etc. will result in a grading penalty ranging from a failing grade on the assignment to a failing grade in the course; the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services will be notified.

HONOR PLEDGE

Each course faculty/instructor shall provide the opportunity for students to sign an affirmative honor pledge on any course components of the faculty/instructor’s choosing. The honor pledge shall include one of the following statements and may be expanded according to faculty/instructor’s, department, or college practices and policies:

HONOR PLEDGE: I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance.

HONOR PLEDGE: I will not give, receive, or use any unauthorized assistance.

See <http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-responsibilities/>.

WRITING FOR THIS COURSE

I expect you to be able to communicate in acceptable formal prose. Your ability to construct an effective argument in clear, lucid, and idiomatic prose is essential for you to succeed in this course. [Essays written with errors in spelling, idiom, and syntax are unacceptable for college-level work](#). All assignments must be uploaded to Canvas.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Participation in class discussion is a crucial part of the course and an important part of your grade. Three points that should be intuitively obvious to all but the most deluded: 1) since you are expected to come to class each day prepared to discuss the daily readings, if you do not come to class you cannot participate in our discussions; 2) if you do not do complete the readings, you will have nothing intelligent to say about them; 3) you should be prepared to answer intelligently and thoughtfully all questions on the readings during class discussions.

You are allowed one (1) absence without penalty. You must be present the entire class period to be considered present for that day. Each absence thereafter will result in a loss of 10% of your attendance and class participation grade, so schedule your late arrivals, early departures, absences, etc. wisely. Come to class on time and of course be respectful of your classmates even if you disagree

with their points of view. N.B. Arriving late and leaving early will be counted as an absence. Please leave your pets at home.

ANALYTICAL BOOK REVIEW ESSAYS

Each week you will submit analytical book review essays that critically analyze the assigned monographs. You will be evaluated on your 11 best essays. Analytical book review essays should consist of complete sentences and follow correct rules of grammar, spelling, and usage. Each paper should reflect the very best writing of which you are capable. Each paper should be 3-4 double-spaced, typed pages (ca. 900-1,200 words), and should include your name and page number on each page. No bibliography or cover page is necessary.

Since a good analytical book review essay can take a variety of approaches, the approach you choose will be judged on the clarity, content, and effectiveness of your analysis. Be sure to provide *specific* examples of the author's thesis, argument, method, and evidence in your analysis. In addition, you should make a serious attempt to relate the featured work to other course readings and explain its significance for the scholarly debates our readings have addressed. To receive credit for your book review essay, you must turn in a hard copy of your essay and be present for the discussion on the day that it is due. You will also need to upload a copy of your essay to Canvas by the beginning of class on the day that it is due.

FINAL HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ESSAYS

You will write a coherent, substantive, and well-argued integrative historiographical essays (12-20 pages, 3,600-6,000 words) based on the topic question below. Since the question can be answered with a variety of approaches, the integrative approach you choose will be judged on the clarity, content, and effectiveness of your argument and analysis.

Q: Based on our readings for this seminar, what are the major historiographical issues and themes of Middle East history and historiography? In addition to the relevant actors, events, subject matter, etc. of Middle East history, you will need to address the specific kinds of historiographical problems the various types of sources present and the historical methods the authors of our readings have employed in using these sources to enhance our understanding of Middle East history and historiography. Of particular importance is your analysis of how the pre-modern period informs our understanding of the modern period.

This essay is the kind of integrative historiographical essay you would be expected to write for an M.A. minor field exam in Middle East history and historiography. An excellent integrative historiographical essay (that is, an A integrative historiographical essay) will account for these issues with specific evidence from each of the monographs for the relevant section of the seminar.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE PRE-MODERN AND MODERN MIDDLE EAST

1. January 22: Introduction to Course and a Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years
Lewis, "Why Study History?" (**Canvas**)
Lewis, *The Middle East: A Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years* **No Review Essay**

UNIT ONE: PRE-MODERN HISTORY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY

2. January 29: The Arab Conquests and the Creation of an Islamic Empire
Hoyland, *In God's Path* **Essay 1**
3. February 5: Forging an Islamic City in Spaces Sacred to Christians and Jews
Lassner, *Medieval Jerusalem* **Essay 2**

4. February 12: Damascus after the Muslim Conquest: Text and Image in Early Islam
Khalek, *Damascus after the Muslim Conquest* **Essay 3**
5. February 19: Religious Violence and the Making of the Muslim World
Sahner, *Christian Martyrs under Islam* **Essay 4**
6. February 26: Poverty and Charity in the Jewish Community of Medieval Egypt
Cohen, *Poverty and Charity in the Jewish Community of Medieval Egypt* **Essay 5**
7. March 5: Jerusalem: The Biography
Montefiore, *Jerusalem: The Biography* **Essay 6**

UNIT TWO: MODERN HISTORY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY

8. March 12: Istanbul: City of Majesty at the Crossroads of the World
Thomas Madden, *Istanbul: City of Majesty at the Crossroads of the World* **Essay 7**

SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS

9. March 26: *Baghdad: City of Peace, City of Blood—A History in Thirteen Centuries*
Justin Marozzi, *Baghdad: City of Peace, City of Blood—A History in Thirteen Centuries* **Essay 8**
10. April 2: *Cairo: The City Victorious*
Max Rodenbeck, *Cairo: The City Victorious* **Essay 9**
11. April 9: Shah Abbas
Sholeh Quinn, *Shah Abbas* **Essay 10**
12. April 16: *Sword and Scimitar: Fourteen Centuries of War between Islam and the West*
Raymond Ibrahim, *Sword and Scimitar* **Essay 11**
13. April 23: The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East
Eugene Rogan, *The Fall of the Ottomans* **Essay 12**
14. April 30: Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn
Daniel Gordis, *Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn* **Essay 13**
15. May 7: Evangelicals, Israel, and the Construction of a Special Relationship
Dan Hummel, *A Covenant of the Mind (Canvas)* **No Review Essay**

16. May 14: Historiographical Essay Due.