

## Subject overview

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A social and cultural approach to the history of the Middle East and North Africa in the twentieth century. The subject is roughly divided into two main parts. Part one deals with Ottoman reform movement, the gradual disintegration of the Ottoman Empire and the subsequent emergence of imperialism in countries like Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Syria. The second part focuses on nationalism and the independent Arab world. Topics will include Nasserism, progressive nationalisms, Arab Israeli conflict, and the nationalist movements in North Africa.

## Learning Outcomes

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By the completion of this subject, students will be able to:

- Identify the historical contexts and complexities behind MENA history in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Review the basic historical events that have shaped the modern era in the Middle East.
- Explain the necessity to be aware of not only political and diplomatic events but also how these events shape the lives of individual people.
- Recognize that MENA history has to be understood in an interdisciplinary way and that the social sciences can help us to overcome simplistic views about the Middle East and the place of Islam in it.
- Develop a very good intellectual baggage of concepts, conflicting theories and notion to describe Middle Eastern societies in their complexities.
- Identify the commonalities and historical forces that shape different societies in the same way.
- Increase the level of awareness and tolerance among individuals of different cultural backgrounds.

## Assessment overview

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| • Mid Term Exam Essay Question   | 30% of total assessment |
| • Final Exam Essay question  | 30% of total assessment |
| • Weekly summaries   | 20% of total assessment |
| • Participation and two required individual presentations of a topic related to class readings | 20% of total assessment |

## Subject modules

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- North African and Middle Eastern Histories and their Epistemological Debates
- Islam, Power and Authority in Precolonial North Africa: The Moroccan Case
- The Tribe and the State in the Middle East
- North Africa on the Eve of Colonialism
- European Imperialism and the Changing Balance of Power
- The Emergence of Colonial Rule in North Africa
- Colonialism and its Project
- Colonialism, Race and Ethnicity
- Nationalism, Resistance and Colonial Lives
- The Emergence of Nationalism in the Middle East

- The Challenge of Decolonization: Algeria and Palestine
- Social and Cultural Change in the Modern Era
- The Question of Gender in Contemporary MENA History
- The Iranian Revolution
- Islamic Movements in the MENA region
- The Economic and Political Challenges in Contemporary MENA Countries

## Required readings

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- There is no set text. Students will read a variety of journal articles assigned by Academic Teaching Staff.

## Questions?

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If you have questions about any of the subject summaries, please contact us.