

A History of Modern Egypt



History 491
9 -11:30 AM

Dr. Akram Khater
Office Hours: Daily, 8-9

Course Description

This course looks at the history of modern Egypt (1805 – 1990s). The general framework will be a political history that traces events from the foundation of the modern state under Muhammad 'Ali to the current period of Hosni Mubarak. However, the focus will be on understanding the creation of modern Egypt by looking at examples of various cultural productions (film, architecture, music, and literature) over the course of the past two centuries. Our main concern will be to understand how Egyptians came to understand and depict themselves, as well their relationship to the outside world especially the "West." In other words, we will look at how Egyptians have sought to modernize themselves and their society at the same time that they maintained a sense of "authenticity" or *Asalah*. The tensions between memories of the past (invented or real) and desires for the future are the historical dynamic that we will be exploring together.

Expectations, Policies and Grading

The primary class format will consist of discussions of readings supplemented by some film viewings, sound recordings and discussions. Students are expected to attend all classes, participate in class discussions, and complete all reading assignments and written work on time.

Academic Integrity. I will strictly enforce NC State's standards of academic honesty. I expect that student's signature on any test or assignment means that you have neither given nor received unauthorized aid. Please refer to the following website for further details:

http://www2.ncsu.edu/prr/student_services/student_conduct/POL445.00.1.htm

Disability: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653.

http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/offices/affirm_action/dss/ For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the [Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php) (http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php).



REQUIREMENTS

Each student is responsible for the following assignments:

- ⊛ Students will write a research journal documenting their observation of Egypt. This will be a daily journal that will reflect on the various readings we have for the class, and integrate at the same their encounters with Egyptian life in all of its facets—this will include a more systematic reflection on the field trips we undertake. I will collect this journal once half-way through the semester and then again at the end of the program. (35%).
- ⊛ Students will write one critical review (5-7 pages) of a particular collection of readings and/or supplementary media. The choice of the reading and the media will be cleared with the instructor beforehand. (30%)
- ⊛ Class attendance and participation in discussion. **I will only allow one unexcused absence in this class. Subsequently, each absence will reduce your final grade by one-half of a letter grade** (i.e. A- > B+). In addition, students will be responsible for leading parts of class discussion on a rotating basis. (35%)

I will be assigning (+/-) grades in this course.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

The Beginning of the State System (1805 – 1922)

Sunday June 8th – Thursday, June 12th

- ⊛ Afaf Lutfi Marsot, *A short history of Modern Egypt*, pp. 54 -81
- ⊛ Qasim Amin, *The New Woman*, (Selections)
- ⊛ Huda Shaarawi, *Harem Years* pp. 62- 82
- ⊛ Nabawiya Musa, *Selections*
- ⊛ André Raymond, *Cairo* (Harvard University Press, 2000): 291-338.
- ⊛ Ilbert, Robert, and Mercedes Volait, "Neo-Arabic Renaissance in Egypt, 1870-1930," *Mimar* 13 (1984): 26-34.
- ⊛ Taha Husayn, *The Days* – Selections
- ⊛ Field Trip: The Citadel of Muhammad 'Ali

The Liberal Experiment (1922 – 1952)

Sunday, June 15th – Thursday, June 19th

- ⊛ Afaf Lutfi Marsot, *A short history of Modern Egypt*, pp. 82 - 106
- ⊛ Film: *The Nightingale's Prayer*
- ⊛ Walter Armbrust, "*Mass Mediations: The Golden Age before the Golden Age.*"
- ⊛ Naguib Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley*
- ⊛ Taha Husayn, *The Future of Culture in Egypt*, selections
- ⊛ Hassan al-Banna, *Five Tracts of Hassan al-Banna*, selections



- ✿ Inji Aflatoun, *We Egyptian Women*
- ✿ Field Trip: Modernity, Urban Space, Architecture and Power

The Nasser Years (1952 – 1970)
Tuesday, June 24th – Thursday, June 26th

- ✿ Afaf Lutfi Marsot, *A short history of Modern Egypt*, pp. 107 -131
- ✿ Virginia Danielson, *Umm Kulthum* – pp. 1- 20
- ✿ Roy Olivier, *The Failure of Political Islam*, Chapter 3
- ✿ Film: *Salah al-Din*
- ✿ Literature: Gamal al-Ghitani *Zayni Barakat*
- ✿ Sadiq al-Azm, *Failure of religion* (selections)
- ✿ Field Trip: State Edifices

From Sadat to Mubarak (1970 – 2002)
Sunday, June 29th – Wednesday, July 2nd

- ✿ Afaf Lutfi Marsot, *A short history of Modern Egypt*, pp. 132 - 147
- ✿ Film: TBA
- ✿ "'Oh Boy, You Salt of the Earth': Outwitting Patriarchy in Raqs Baladi"
Cassandra Lorius.
- ✿ "New Nightingales of the Nile: popular music in Egypt since the 1970,"
Virginia Danielson
- ✿ Walter Armbrust. 1996. Chapter 2 of **Mass Culture and Modernism in Egypt**.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- ✿ Lila Abu Lughod. 1993 (Spring). "Finding a Place for Islam: Egyptian
Television Serials and the National Interest." **Public Culture** 5 (3): 493-514.
- ✿ André Raymond, *Cairo* (Harvard University Press, 2000): 338-74.
- ✿ Field Trip: Construction of Public Spaces – "The Arab Street"