

Centre for Global Studies
“Perceptions of the Middle East”
CGS 2341G
Huron University College
Winter, 2009
Dr. Bill Acres
Lecture: Thursday evenings: 6pm-7:50 pm
Mandatory seminars and discussions: 8pm-9pm

Dr. Bill Acres: wacres@uwo.ca, bacres@gt.net, Huron University College, office V134, and telephone 438-7224, x. 608. TA: Mr. Jonathan Eeuwes, jecuwes@uwo.ca.
Office Hours: Wednesday, 1-3pm.

The Purpose of the Course:

The purpose of the former ICS “Middle East: Crisis and Continuity” was to bring to attention the “Western” constructions which have prevailed in the region, and which have imposed a series of political situations on the former “Syria” in the old Ottoman Empire (dissolved completely, 1923) in the Twentieth Century through a variety of “isms”: Imperialism, Orientalism, Nationalism, Globalization, and ethnic re-evaluations of both the “crisis” of these “isms” against the cultural continuity which actually existed there. Current politics and global issues, as well as more regional concerns will be discussed in “perceptions” but with more intention than in the past. Middle Eastern identities and the problem of multiple citizenships, religious identities, and expectations among Canadians whose attachments run deep to the region are a highly important part of domestic and foreign policy, for “perceptions” create immediate and often difficult conditions through media for Canadians who are identified as part of a monolith. It is an innovation of this course that each member of the class save those who are preparing the March 6 conference on “Here and There” will create and maintain a Blog for 20% of their final grade. Each blog will be presented for adjudication and comment by the end of March. At least two weekly entries will concentrate on thematic approaches to the Middle Eastern culture, diplomacy, identities, economies—all with a focus on the creator’s perceptions, altered views, and factual and precise understanding of events. Evaluation of the blogs will be made on the grounds on which students have interacted with the themes; their clarity of understanding; the sophistication of their understanding of themselves as having perceptions and mis-perceptions; the sense of themselves as “other”; or, having a multiple world-view founded on their life or that of their family. The topics will be assigned (they are all fascinating) randomly according to the student number. How to proceed with the creation of the bi-weekly entries, including images, readings, media reports, will be discussed in detail at the first class. The topics cover everything from oil to the politics of Turkish rap, from “Obama’s Middle East” to “Ahmenidijad’s Election Campaign, 2009”. Full information will be posted on WebCT *prior* to the first class.

Further, any student in the class who has a special interest in the region and serves as an extracurricular officer on campus is welcome to notify the members of the class of new material, special events, particularly as they are appropriate to the course.

The format of the course: Lectures each Thursday evening at 6, with a short break, until 7:50; then the seminar afterwards at 8pm, room, W116. Lectures and other course materials will be placed on the Reserve Desk at Huron University College. Readings for weeks 1 and 2 are on Reserve from January 12th, 2006. Seminar attendance and participation is mandatory.

Assignments: A critical one is to be handed out at the first class!!

2341G

Two document studies. These are critical commentaries on primary historical and contemporary sources. One of the final examination questions will be written in this form. The assignment sheets will be distributed during the term *two weeks prior to the due date*. Each of these is worth 20%

Final Examination: In addition, there is a take-home examination due in the week following the final class worth 20%. These questions will be given two weeks before the due date.

Grading: A grading sheet will be given to the class so that each member of the class understands what must be undertaken. In summary, each assignment will be graded according to the following criteria: 1) 5%: Format: MLA, APA, Chicago (which I prefer) style, 12 pt. font, required number of pages, words and sources, title page, name, student no., correct referencing—*there is no late penalty* (see first class); 2) 25% Depth of analysis: Analysis using the knowledge gained in class, through readings and discussions. The analysis must be detailed enough to provide a useful document for a previously uninformed reader to understand the topic under discussion. Additional references outside those provided in class are welcomed and recommended if they increase the depth of the analysis, remembering always that the Internet is a vastly inferior research tool, unless the materials presented therein are of peer-reviewed journals, papers, or papers of record. Please refrain from using the latest fluff-ball site to come flying down the pipe. Further, research into individuals and their ideas can only be attempted at a superficial level by using online tools. The Internet is far better as an information tool: gathering facts, phenomena and so forth about political jurisdictions, rather than as a knowledge tool of complex analysis embedded in a precise question. There is no substitute for a research library. Organization:15%: Each piece has a clear logical development, and all points in the analysis are referenced. Originality:15%: There is evidence of creativity in that the topic has been analyzed in an interesting way. Grammar and form: 20%: Paper is free of errors. 20% A clear, unbiased critical analysis of the historical perspective as raised in the subject under discussion. The author or subject under discussion is not treated in jejune, emotionally-charged terms (good/bad, better/worse, more/less) but is presented in a professional style.

Due Dates:

The document studies are due in weeks 6 and 11, the final exam on April 10, and the Blog at the end of March.

Mark breakdown: Document Studies: 1 and 2, 20% each, final examination 20 %, Blog and presentation in cyberspace (WebCT) 20% Seminar participation, conduct, and understanding. Attendance is mandatory—absences will deduct 1.5% each to a total of 13.5%.

Important note on seminar discussions and class conduct:

All discussions are to be on the readings, not wild geopolitical rants gained from excessive television viewing. The rapid-fire vacuity of such current morselettes of McIntellectual vapidness, such as the McLauchlin Group, or Crossfire are not welcome here. If you wish to indulge your propensity to solve the problems of the world at the end of the week, go to the Ceeps. The grade is based on the intention: to gain a clearer understanding of the process of mapping the Middle Eastern region as a cultural, political, and religious entity within the expanding globalization of our times.

Therefore, all sarcasm aside, the discussion and lecture material demands your full engagement in understanding new information, rather than the retrenchment of established positions. Each of us brings a different perspective to the material. I have developed this course so that I may learn (a continuous process). In-class discussions will adhere to the Huron University College Code of Conduct and new policy in Diversity and Equity among students. Serious infraction of these basic rules will lead to expulsion from the course.

A note on marking all assignments will be distributed at the first class. Please take a copy for absent friends, yourself, and keep it in your course file. Each assignment, including the Honours summary report will included a copy of this.

Texts: Coursepack for CGS 2341G, James Gelvin, *A History of the Middle East* (Oxford University Press), 2nd edition, 2008.

Outline
Weekly lectures, seminars, discussions and readings:
CGS 2341G
Dr. Bill Acres

January 2009: Continuity:
Background to the History to 1919, contemporary issues, and their relationship.

Week One, 8 January 2009:

Lecture: Introduction to the course

Crisis and Continuity and the metaphor of the Map

All following readings are in the coursepack unless otherwise designated.

Reading for general background: Benedict Anderson, "Census, Map, Museum", , Chapter 10

Gelvin, Pt III—January Reading for background

Week Two: 15 January- No class

Week Three: 22 January

The importance of the disintegration of Empires: Past and Present

Reading: Niall Ferguson, *Empire: The Rise and Demise of British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power* (Basic Books, 2003), "Empire", chapter 9

Week Three, January 25:

Empires and Imperialism in the Middle East: 1919-2007

Readings: Margaret Macmillan's Governor-General award-winning, *Paris, 1919*, chapter 26, "The End of the Ottomans".

Note: First seminar meeting this evening, with orientation and assignment discussion.

February 2009: Beginning the Blogs
Discourses, media, and "difference"

NOTE: The following weekly entries are to be read as follows: the entire class will read the background materials, while the seminar class alone will read

Week Four: February 2

Lecture: The shaping of Pan-Turkism, Zionism, Islamism.

Gelvin: Pt IV, for February.

Seminar

E. J. Hobsbawm, *Nations and Nationalism*, Huron Library Reserve Desk. Woodrow Wilson: *14 points*; Readings on Arab Nationalism, *Middle East and Islamic Reader*.

Week Five February 5

Lecture: Orientalism and the Orientalists

Film interview, Edward Said

Readings: for all

Orientalism, Said, Coursepack, Part II, Imaginative Geography and Its Representations:
Orientalizing the Oriental'

Seminar reading and discussion only:

Imagining the Middle East, Thierry Hentsch, trans. Fred Reed, Black Rose Books, 1992,
Chapter VII, "The Deadly Frontier"

Assignment Alert!

Document Studies are due in the Sixth (following) week: *Middle East and Islamic Reader* (Grove Press, 2003), Marvin Guttelman and Stuart Schaar, eds. (Huron College Library Reserve Desk)

Background readings to the document.

UN Resolutions: The Creation of the State of Israel, A. United Nations General Assembly, The Partition Plan: Resolution #181 (1947); B. UN General Assembly, Palestinian Right of Return: Resolution # 194 (1948)

Week Six, February 12

Nationalism, War, and Terror

Reading: as above, and Michael B. Oren, *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East* (Ballantine, 2003), The Context: Arabs, Israelis, and the Great Powers, 1948-1967'.

Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship (Cambridge University Press, 2001), Chapter 8, "Agents of political change", Gershon Shafir and Yoav Peled, Huron College Reserve Desk

Conference Week, Week Seven, 19 February, 2009

Week Eight: February 26, 2009

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Michael Lynk, Faculty of Law, The University of Western Ontario

"The Baath Party: Rise and Metamorphosis", John F. Devlin, *The American Historical Review*, Volume 96, Issue 5 (Dec. 1991), 1396-1407

"War Making and State Power in the Contemporary Middle East", Thierry Gongora, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Volume 29, Issue 3 (Aug. 1997), 323-340

Week Nine, March 5, 2009:

Conference Day, "Here and There: Multiple identities and Citizenship"

The conference team has already been appointed: they do not do a presentation this term.

Background Readings: others which will be distributed, these are in the coursepack:

"The Kaba, Gender, and Rites of Pilgrimage", William C. Young, *International Journal of Middle East Studies* Volume 25, Issue 2 (May, 1993), 285-300.

"Gender and Citizenship in Middle Eastern States", Saad Joseph, *Middle East Report*, Volume 10, Issue 198, Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East (Jan-Mar., 1996), 4-10.

"Women and the Women's Equal Rights Law in Israel", Nitza Bercovitch, *Middle East Report*, Volume 0, Issue 198, 19-21

"Secularist and Islamist Discourses on Modernity in Egypt and the Evolution of the Postcolonial Nation-State", in *Islam, Gender, and Social Change*, eds. Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad and John L. Esposito (Oxford University Press, Oxford: 1998), 85-99.

Week Ten: March 13: What is Turkey? Asia or Europe?

Background and seminar readings: *Ararat*, Atom Egoyan

Assignment Alert: Second Document Study, TBA, is due next week. It will be distributed at this class.

Week Eleven, March 20

Intifadehs

"Projecting Jerusalem", Edward Said, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Volume 25, Issue 1, (Autumn, 1995), 5-14

Honours:

"Symbols versus Substance: A Year after the Declaration of Principles", Edward Said, Mouin Rabbani, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Volume 24, Issue 2 (Winter, 1995), 60-72.

"National Vision and the Negotiation of Narratives: The Oslo Agreement", Jeffrey Michaels, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Volume 24, Issue 1 (Autumn, 1994), 28-38

"Redefining Oslo: Negotiating the Hebron Protocol", Lamis Andoni, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Volume 26, Issue 3 (Spring, 1997), 17-30.

"The Intifadeh and the Peace Camp in Israel: A Critical Perspective", Edy Kaufman, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Volume 17, Issue 4 (Summer, 1988), 66-80

"Human Rights and the Mass Movement: The First Year of the Intifadeh", Joost Hiltermann, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Volume 18, Issue 3 (Spring, 1989), 126-133;

"From Intifadeh to Independence", Edward W. Said, *Middle East Report*, Volume 10, Issue 158, Palestine and Israel in the US Arena (May-June, 1989), 12-16

Week Twelve: March 27

Take Home examination will be distributed, and due in one week.

Review and discussion on the final will take place this evening. The seminar may be earlier than usual.

Please note: Certain themes will recur in the course, including the "Road Map" to Palestinian-Israeli sovereign relations; the reconstruction of Iraq; the Saudi situation; and world opinion on the Middle East situation, generally. Therefore, members of the class are invited to read and to share a wide variety of their own materials and reference

Week Thirteen: Review Class lecture, 2.5 hours, based on summary materials.

Week Fourteen: April 10 Examination is due. This cannot be late!

