

**UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**WINTER SESSION 2017-2018, SECOND TERM**

**Subject to change**

**HISTORY 379 A01 – WESTERN IMPERIALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND  
NORTH AFRICA (CRN 21813)**

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**Office Hours:** Fridays, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.; and by appointment.  
Requests for individual consultation are welcomed and encouraged.  
**Course Meetings:** Mondays and Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. to 2:20 p.m., in Clearihue  
A211

**Outline of Course Content**

If you are someone who has gravitated towards the title of this course, you may regard as self-evident the notion that the profound historical legacies, and arguable continuance, of Western imperialism within the Middle East and North Africa are exemplified throughout the region's ongoing tumult. Relevant illustrations are ubiquitous: for instance, the violent determination of the self-proclaimed Islamic State (best known as ISIS), itself largely an outgrowth of the United States' 2003 invasion of Iraq, to demolish the 1916 "Sykes-Picot borders" emerging from British and French, and initially also Russian and Italian, colonial designs on Ottoman territories being fought over during World War I; recent iterations in a centuries-long series of Western military interventions into the Middle East, in the form of, e.g., NATO's 2011 role in the deposing of Libyan leader Muammar al-Qadhafi, continuing operations against ISIS within Iraq, Syria, and elsewhere, and military aid for Saudi incursions into Yemen and Bahrain; the deeply intractable Israel-Palestine conflict, similarly tracing as it does, in significant measure, to the supplanting of Ottoman by Western imperial power amidst the end of WWI; and acutely enduring Iranian and Afghan consciousness of repeated colonial challenges to local sovereignty. Moreover, these examples have been drawn into a new,



HSTR 379 will utilize a mixed lecture and discussion format, as we strive for a stimulating classroom setting in which timely, provocative, and challenging historical phenomena and analytic viewpoints are covered in an open, reflective, and respectful manner. Please be sure to attend class diligently, as it will establish the framework for your understanding of the curriculum; and you will be held responsible, in the evaluative components of the course (details on this matter follow below), for critically engaging with the content of what has been said in the classroom.

### **Course Texts**

There are four required texts for HSTR 379. The following three are available for purchase at the UVic Bookstore: Juan Cole, *Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008); Sean McMeekin, *The Ottoman Endgame: War, Revolution, and the Making of the Modern Middle East, 1908-1923* (New York: Penguin, 2015); and Timothy Mitchell, *Carbon Democracy: Political Power in the Age of Oil* (London and New York: Verso, 2013). The further required text is: M.E. McMillan,

## **Methods of Evaluation**

**UVic Undergraduate Percentage Grading System:**

**We will employ the UVic Percentage Grading Scale, which is as follows:**

Passing Grades	Grade Point Value	Percentage	Description
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**Comments About Specific Assignments (Subject to Adjustment):**

**Reading Responses:** Each of these two papers should be **approximately 1000 words/4 double-spaced, numbered, twelve-point type pages, in addition to title page, and bibliography or list of works consulted.** Please select any **one of the course readings** (it is recommended that, in each instance, you choose one appropriate to where we have been in the curriculum thus far, but this is not required), and develop a thesis-based critical discussion of what the reading contributes to our understanding of Western imperialism in the Middle East and North Africa—including, if appropriate, the enduring significance of this mode of imperialism. Please select **at least one relevant primary source, and one additional secondary source from outside the course readings,** to







[through Library catalogue]. Recommended: Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2002), pp. 263-314, 532-536 [from 'Part IV: The Age of European Empires (1800-1939)'] [through CourseSpaces].

**(5) Diverse Revolutionary Forces of the Early Twentieth Century (February 5, 8):** McMeekin, *Ottoman Endgame*, pp. 33-81; Mitchell, *Carbon Democracy*, pp. 43-65.

**\*\*\* NB: First Reading Response Paper due Thursday, February 8 \*\*\***

**\*\*\* NB: Monday, February 12 and Thursday, February 15, no class due to Reading Break \*\*\***

**(6) Historical and Religious Factors Behind Nineteenth and Early-Twentieth Century Islamic Reactions to Western Imperialism – a Guest Lecture by UVic History PhD Candidate Kamran Bashir (February 19, tentative):** Nikki R. Keddie, 'The Revolt of Islam, 1700 to 1993: Comparative Considerations and Relations to Imperialism', *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 36, no. 3 (1994), pp. 463-487 [through Library catalogue]; 'Sayyid Abu'l-Hasan 'Ali Nadwi, 'Muslim Decadence and Revival'', pp. 107-128 in Roxanne L. Euben and Muhammad Qasim Zaman, *Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden* (Princeton, NJ and Oxford, UK: Princeton Univ. Press, 2009) [through CourseSpaces].

**(7) Supplanting Ottoman Imperialism with British and French Imperialism—World War I, Its Precursors, and Its Aftermath (February 22, 26, March 1, 5):** McMillan, *From the First World War to the Arab Spring*, pp. 9-14, 69-75, 93-144; McMeekin, *Ottoman Endgame*, pp. 83-495; Mitchell, *Carbon Democracy*, pp. 66-85; Ian S. Lustick, 'The Balfour Declaration a Century Later: Accidentally Relevant', *Middle East Policy*, vol. 24, issue 4 (2017), pp. 166-176 [through Library catalogue].

**\*\*\* NB: Wednesday, February 28 is the last day for withdrawing from a course without penalty of failure \*\*\***

**\*\*\* NB: Second Reading Response Paper due Monday, March 5 \*\*\***

**(8) The Emergence, and Crumbling, of Twentieth-Century British and French Imperialism, and the Ascendancy of Nationalist States (March 8, 12, 15, 19):** McMillan, *From the First World War to the Arab Spring*, pp. 147-191; Mitchell, *Carbon Democracy*, pp. 86-199; watching the movie 'The Battle of Algiers' (in class). Recommended, on CourseSpaces: Roger Owen,



## Principles of Academic Integrity

- appeal a decision made by the President under the provisions of section 61 of the University Act to the Senate Committee on Appeals in accordance with the Senate Committee on Appeals' Terms of Reference and Procedural Guidelines. Deans who receive an appeal of the decision of a Chair should attempt to make a finding with respect to the appeal within 21 business days. In the case of a successful appeal, any penalty will be rescinded.

### Penalties

#### Penalties for First Academic Integrity Violation

In situations where a determination is made that a student has committed a first academic integrity violation, the following penalties

