

## **Narrating the Modern Middle East in History and Literature**

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This Gateway workshop will survey the modern history and literature of the Middle East and North Africa, through the themes of Arab nationalism, sectarianism, Gulf futurism, Israel/Palestine, and revolution. We'll focus on the continuities and ruptures of the twentieth century that forged and challenged identity, community, nation, and traditions in Egypt, Algeria, Iran, Turkey, Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, and the Gulf states. Through various sources, media, and literature, we will discuss mainstream narratives as well as integrate voices that haven't been "given permission to narrate." As this workshop is led by both a historian and a scholar of literature, all materials will be discussed in both historical and aesthetic terms. We aim to offer a deep enough historical background to appreciate the political complexities of the contemporary Middle East while also providing a wide-ranging introduction to the region's cultural richness, variety, and vibrancy. We'll also discuss and prepare exercises that may be brought to classrooms.

Readings:

**Monday** – Egypt and Algeria: independence and Arab Nationalism

James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A History*, chs. 1-2, 5-6 (pdf)

Naguib Mahfouz, *Miramar*

**Tuesday** – Turkey and Iran: revolution and religion

Halide Edib Adivar essay (pdf)

Sait Faik stories (pdf)

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis* (film: in class)

**Wednesday** – Israel/Palestine: migration

Ghassan Kanafani, "Return to Haifa" (pdf)

S. Y. Agnon, "From Lodging to Lodging" (pdf)

Sami Michael, "The Artist and the Falafel" (pdf)

Nurit Zarchi, "Madame Bovary in Neve Tsedek" (pdf)

**Thursday** – Iraq and Lebanon: sectarianism

Rabih Alameddine, *An Unnecessary Woman*

**Friday** – Gulf States: oil, water, desert and Arab futurism

Chris Low, "The Water Prince" (pdf)

Gulf short stories: Raja Alem; Ghazi Algosaibi; Taleb Alrefai (pdf)

Sophia Al-Maria and Fatima Al Qadiri, "The Desert of the Unreal" (pdf)