<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| WEEK 1  | Overview of the Middle East WWI- WWII *(Guest Speaker?? )*  
The changing face of the Middle East-The Ottoman Empire, The hunger for oil, Shifting demographics, shifting borders |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 2  | Overview of the Middle East post WWII to present day  
Migrations of Arabs and Jews the rise of new political/ ethnic alliances/ new world order, Pan Arabism, Shia vs Sunni, Oil, Shifting balance of power |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 3  | Islam in the Middle East : Some Basics: Insiders and Outsiders  
Sunni/ Shia/ Muslim Brotherhood/ Jihad/ Expansionism/ Sharia (Muslim Law) |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 4  | Russia : Interests In The Middle East  
Key issues surrounding Putin’s intervention in Syria and related Russian interests. |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 5  | Sunni vs Shia / Iran vs Saudi Arabia and Iraq—Alliances, Proxies, Hegemony |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 6  | Iran’s Expansion Through Proxy —  
Re-establishing the Persian Empire (Caliphate)--The Big Picture |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 7  | Saudi Arabia Alliances |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 8  | SPRING BREAK |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 9  | Turkey’s New Directions ---The Big Picture: Erdogan  
Re-establishing the Ottoman Empire (Caliphate) and shift toward Islamism. Poking around. Friends/ Foes  
Cyprus, Libya, Greece  
Turkeys financial woes. Alliances |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 10 | USA’s interests in the Middle East: Alliances. The Obama Agenda, The Trump Agenda. |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 11 | China’s interest in the Middle East: Alliances  
The Silk Road. An economic expansion. |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 12 | Russia’s interest in the Middle East: Alliances |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 13 | Israel— Israel’s emerging place in the Middle East: a shift in direction  
Peace moves with UAE and Bahrain |                                                                                      |
| WEEK 14 | Israel in light of surrounding conflicts. Update  
The “Palestinian” role in the Middle East conflict and the shift of the Arab world. A redo on the Palestinian issue. Other speculations |                                                                                      |
|         | OPEN |                                                                                      |

revised 10/6/2020
BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR
“The Explosive Middle East”
OLLI: Spring 2021

General resources
Jihad Watch—Robert Bruce Spencer
There are hundreds of additional resources listed on
Jihad Watch Home Page
http://www.jihadwatch.org/

Middle East Forum—Daniel Pipes
Daniel Pipes is one of the best known Middle East
Scholars of our time.
http://www.danielpipes.org/
http://www.danielpipes.org/mef.php
http://www.meforum.org/mef/archive.php
http://www.campus-watch.org/
http://www.meforum.org/mef/reviews/

Islam Watch
http://www.islam-watch.org/iw/aboutus.htm

Act for America -- Brigitte Gabriel
http://www.actforamerica.org/

Frank Gaffney—Center for Security Policy
http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/
http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/the-muslim-brotherhood-in-america/
http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/shariah-awareness-project/

Nonie Darwish
http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Nonie+Darwish

Gatestone Institute
http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/about/

Scholars for Peace in the Middle East http://spme.org/

Caroline Glick - Jerusalem Post Editor Commentator
http://www.carolineglick.com/e/

Arabs (Wikipedia)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabs

Persians and Arabs Myth vs Fact
http://www.us-iran.org/resources/2016/10/21/myth-vs-fact-persians-and-arabs

MUSLIM LAND OWNERSHIP (pdf)
https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/11781156.pdf

CAMERA Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting
http://www.camera.org/

Honest Reporting—A Media Watch Organization
http://honestreporting.com/

SOME SOURCES:
• Country Reports on Terrorism July 2017—US Dept of State Publication/ Bureau of Counterterrorism
• Clarion Project
• DEBKAfile, LTD
• Investigative Project on Terrorism
• Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs
• Jerusalem Post
• Mapping Militant Organizations
• The Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies
• The Israel Project and Tower Magazine

FILMS
“ISLAM: What the West Needs to Know”—
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bY4p39jeAVI

VOX—News summaries on Turkey, Syria and the Middle East by Vox News contributors

CLARION PROJECT: Several films of importance:
Obsession, Iranium, The Third Jihad (Available on YouTube)

BOOKS/ AUTHORS/TOPICS
Ahrenfeld, Rachel – (Terror Financing)
Lewis, Bernard (History of Middle East)
Peters, Joan (History of Palestine/Israel conflict)
Pipes, Daniel (History and Current Issues)
Nonie Darwish (An Egyptian Muslim Woman’s reflections on Islam and other current issues).
Brigitte Gabriel (History of Lebanon circa 1975)
Edwin Black “Farhoud”
Points of View

Whenever I teach a class at OLLI on The Middle East or on Israel, there are inevitably students who get hot under the collar because the class is not promoting their particular understanding of events.

Please do not go to the office and complain that this class has a point of view. They have heard it all before!

From the outset, I am here letting you know that certain topics will present a point of view. It is hard to talk about current events without expressing a point of view at times.

Sometimes there are two very different views to an issue — along with the ever present mitigating factors, historical realities, facts and assumptions that come into play. That said, I will try to be clear about “the facts” and ask that you do the same. This class is not designed to “promote” a particular point of view but keep in mind “western culture” is not the same as the “culture of the Middle East”. In that sense, we are all colored by our culture. That said, your opinions are welcome.

Mostly, I will try to present an overview of opposing arguments where there is a controversial topic with two or more valid but conflicting views, I will try to be “long” on facts and “short” on opinions and ask that you do the same. This class is not intended to be a “soap box” for a particular position. All points of view are welcome so long as they are undergirded by facts.

Our periodic guest speakers are knowledgeable and will be willing to entertain questions that challenge all of our opinions. Films and video clips are selected less because I agree with everything said but because they may bring certain important concepts to light.

If you disagree with me or with a guest speaker or another student, please find a way to ask your question or make your comment politely and without anger or irritation. We may disagree but we don’t hate one another because we may not see the world in exactly the same way.

There is a lot of “opinion” posing as “news” out there. We will make a valiant attempt to discern between news, facts and opinions.

Our Basic Starting Points:

- **On Islam**: According to its own writings, Islam is not simply a religious faith but also a political social military and economic ideology with expansionist goals. The battle for hegemony between Sunni and Shia Islam is an important factor in world affairs. Islam claims to be incompatible with Democracy and instead advocates for a world in which Shar’ia (Islamic Law) dominates.

- **On Israel**: Israel since 1948 has been a successful sovereign nation. It lives in a neighborhood and a world that often seems to deny that right.

- **On Saudi Arabia**: Saudi Arabia is a net exporter of oil and with it Wahhabi Islamic ideology through the funding of educational institutions and mosques throughout the world.

- **On Iran**: Iran is an exporter of oil and terrorism. Iran funds much of its expansionism through proxies (like Hezbollah) and by trafficking in drugs. Its tentacles reach throughout the world including the Americas. Iran is aiming at the production of a nuclear weapon which will give it hegemony throughout the Middle East. Many scholars agree that Iran is focused on reestablishment of the Persian Empire of ancient times.

- **Turkey**: Is currently transitioning from a Western secular democracy into an Islamic dictatorship. Many scholars suggest that Turkey’s goals are directed to re-establishing the Turkish Ottoman Empire (Sunni).

- **On Syria**: Syria is the unfortunate battleground of multiple opposing forces. It represents the final leg (along with Iraq) of an attempt by Iran to set up another Shi’ite Islamic Caliphate. Players on this hegemonic battleground include Turkey, China and Russia.

Susan Warner  FALL 2020 / SPRING 2021
COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will see the Middle East as the crossroads of the contemporary world’s most explosive forces. From ancient times, the Middle East has been pivotal in world affairs. This is an advanced class for students who follow the news of the Middle East and its history since World War I.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

MFA Temple University (Communications). Susan has been leading groups, teaching, researching and writing about the history and current affairs related to antisemitism, Israel and the Middle East for over fifteen years.