



POLS/HIST/INST 276

Spring 2018

MODERN MIDDLE EASTERN HISTORY AND POLITICS

Final Exam Essay Questions

The in-class final exam for this course will be on Tues., May 8, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. The exam will consist of the following two essay questions. You should spend time prior to the exam thinking about how you will answer these questions, but you will not be allowed to use any books or notes during the exam. Each of your essays should include an introduction with thesis statement that explicitly responds to the essay prompt, body paragraphs with specific evidence from the course readings in support of your thesis, and a brief conclusion.

Essay #1

"One of the most vexing problems in the political history of the modern Middle East...has been the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians" (Mehran Kamrava, *The Modern Middle East: A Political History since the First World War*, p. 299).

Drawing upon your reading of Kamrava's *The Modern Middle East* and Ajami's *The Dream Palace of the Arabs*, write an essay in which you identify and discuss the most important causes of this conflict and the major obstacles standing in the way of peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Essay #2

An enduring theme in the history of the modern Middle East is what Fouad Ajami calls a "Sisyphean quest for modernity" (*The Dream Palace of the Arabs*, p. 232).

Drawing upon your reading of Kamrava's *The Modern Middle East* and Ajami's *The Dream Palace of the Arabs*, write an essay in which you identify and discuss the main obstacles in the Arab world to political, economic, and social modernization.