The Emergence of the Modern Middle East –
Prof. Asher Susser – 1882-0602

This course will discuss the emergence of the modern Middle East from the fall of the
Ottoman Empire, at the end of the First World War to the present. It will discuss the
Ottoman legacy in the region and the Western imperial impact on the creation of the Arab
state system. The course will discuss the rise and retreat of Arab nationalism, the
problems of internal cohesion of the Arab states, issues of religion and state, and the
evolution of Islamist politics. It will also focus on the evolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.
and its impact on the region and will conclude with an in depth analysis of the “Arab Spring” by placing these contemporary revolutionary events in their historical context.

Part one:
1. Intro
2. Modernity, Tradition and the Age of Reform
3. The Rise of Nationalism; The Demise of Empire
4. The Creation of the Middle East State System

Part two:
1. Independence and revolutionary politics in the Arab world
2. The beginnings of the Arab-Israeli conflict
3. The escalation and de-escalation of the Arab-Israeli conflict from 1948 to 1973
4. The escalation and de-escalation of the Arab-Israeli conflict from 1973 to the present
5. The Middle East from 1967 to the present including the Arab Spring

This is an on-line course on Coursera. It offers a novel learning experience, which allows the student to determine her or his own pace, and combines several mediums: pre-recorded short lectures, short readings from primary and secondary sources, and discussion questions. The course is offered in English, with Hebrew subtitles.

Requirements:
A final test that will account for 100% of the final grade. The test will take place on campus and not online. The multi-choice exam is held on campus in both English and Hebrew.

Practice quizzes; At the end of each week, you will find an online quiz. Use it as practice.