HISTORY 463: ARAB CHRISTIANS IN MODERN HISTORY

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The seminar will examine the transformation of the Eastern churches into Arab-Christsains in the modern history of the Middle East, their participation in the formation of the nation state, their current decline and the renewed call for their protection. It will provide a brief survey of the early developments of Christian controversies, the encounter with Islam, with European hegemony and Pax Americana post WWII. It will examine the prospects for the survival of Christianity in the Arab world in light of rise of Islamic fundamentalism and Christian emigration to the West. It will introduce students to historical writings on particular periods. The course emphasizes discussion and engagement with assigned readings. Students are expected to engage in original research and articulate conclusions both orally and in writing.

The goal is to help students develop their ability to conduct research, analyze and assess evidence, and articulate sound conclusions both orally and in writing. Students will acquire knowledge and skills that help them develop as informed, engaged, and thoughtful citizens. The seminar emphasizes discussion and engagement with both primary sources and the interpretations of various scholars to prepare them to engage in rigorous historical inquiry and debate. Students will be equipped to analyze and integrate historical evidence relating to politics and states, ethnicity and sectarianism, environment and society, culture and religion, gender and
family. They will acquire a strong foundation in historical knowledge and an ability to balance global and local perspectives and the ability to develop an original historical argument and to communicate complex historical arguments both in writing and orally.

Students will learn how to evaluate scholarly arguments by analyzing responses to previous contributions, investigating use of primary evidence, weighing logical construction and development, and assessing rhetorical style. They will hone their skills in conducting secondary research, familiarizing themselves with library holdings, digital databases, and tools for identifying and acquiring access to published material. They will be able to assess the extent of available published materials on any specific historical topic in their field. Students are expected to write a research paper that makes an original contribution to scholarship. They will learn how to lead discussions; they will have the opportunity to make presentations and they will work closely with faculty.

II. COURSE STRUCTURE
The class session will be a combination of lecture, discussion an research reports. Audio-visual material will be used where appropriate.

III. REQUIREMENTS
(1) Regular attendance and participation in class discussion is expected. (Attendance will be taken.) The discussion is to reflect your familiarity with the reading material. Students are expected to lead the discussion in class on their research. (25%)

(2) Research presentation (25%)

(3) A final research paper (20-25 pp., double spaced). The paper must be analytical and creative. (Topics to be determined in consultation with instructor.) (50%)

Honor System
Upon application Georgetown University, all students pledged to abide by Georgetown University’s Honor System. The pledge reads: I commit myself to be honest in any academic endeavor and to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System. Each student is to be familiar with the University’s Honor System, especially topics covered under A Standards of Conduct which is found in the Undergraduate Bulletin or on line at: <www.georgetown.edu/undergrad/bulletin/regulations.html>. This section of the Bulletin covers cheating, committing plagiarism, using false citations, and so on.

Textbooks: Available at Bookstore:
ARAB CHRISTIANS IN MODERN HISTORY

August 29 Christians in the Arab World: A Vanishing Minority?
Introduction Who are the Christians of the Middle East?
Link vol vi, #5

September 3 Labor Day No class

September 10 The Churches of the Arab World
Reading: Rassam, ch 1-2

Supererogatory: There is extra material on Bb which is supplemental reading if you want to explore further information. It covers the creeds and the councils as well as the divisions.

Discussion Leader: Samuel Gang

September 12 Panel on “Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land Copley
12:00-2:00 Lunch will be served (Please sign up)

September 17 The Christian Encounter with Islam: People of the Book
Reading: Qur'an, Surah 5, 9 (selections); Hadith selections
Haddad, Wadi, "A Tenth-Century Speculative Theologian’s Refutation of the Basic Doctrines of Christianity: al-Baqillani (d. A.D. 1013)" (Bb)
Rassam, ch 4
Badr, CH. 8 (Bb)

Discussion Leader: Benjamin Brazzel

September 24 The Christian encounter with Islam
Reading: “Role of Christians under Abbasid rule” Badr ch 16 (Bb)
“Christianity in the Umayyad Era” (Bb)
“The Copts in the Fatimid Era,” (Bb)
“Christians in the Non-Arab Islamic Eras” (Bb)

Discussion Leader: Paul Rockord
Research Report: Benjamin Brazzel
October 1 From Brothers in Distress to Victims of Plunder: The Crusades  
Reading: Tate *The Crusades: Warriors of God*  
Cragg, ch 5 (ER)  
Badr, ch 18 (Provides 2 perspectives: Western and Eastern) (Bb)  
Arab Historians of the Crusades(Bb)  
Warriors of God(Bb)  
Christian Reaction to Muslim Conquest of Jerusalem(Bb)  

Discussion Leader: Deniz Yuksel  
Research Report: Minas Rasoulis  

Bibliography for Research Project Due  

October 8 Holiday-No class  

October 15 From Imperial Subjects to Protected People  
Reading: Tadros, ch 2  
Masters, chs 1-5  
Badr 21 Bb)  
Tanzimat (Bb)  

Discussion Leader: Analise Pflueger  
Research Report: Lea Nicolas  

October 22 East-West Relations: Colonialists and Missionaries  
Reading: Joseph, *Christian-Muslim Relations and Inter-Christian Rivalries East*, ch3-5 (on reserve)  
Wessels, chapter 8  
Khalaf, *Protestant Missionaries in the Levant* (reserve)  
Masters, ch 6 & Conclusion  
“From Religious to American Proselytism” (Bb)  

Discussion Leader: Leonardo Mendez  
Research Report: Lauren Meyer  

October 29 The Copts of Egypt  
Reading: Tadros, chs 3-7  
Born in the Wrong Age (Bb)  
Renewal of the Church (Bb)  

Guest Lecturer: Samuel Tadros  
Discussion Leader: Lea Nicolas  
Research Report: Hunter Estes
November 5 Arab Nationalism and Socialism
   Reading: Cragg, *The Arab Christians*, ch 7
   Salibi, ch 2 (on reserve)
   Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age* chs 10 & 11 (on reserve)
   “Christian and the Arab Renaissance” (Bb)
   “Christians and Arabism” (Bb)
   “Damascus Notables and the Rise of Arab nationalism” (Bb)

Discussion Leader: Yasmine Salam
Research Report: Naomi Smith & Benjamin Brazzel

November 12 Lebanon
   Reading: to be assigned
   Phares, Epilogue (on reserve)

Guest Lecturer: Graham Pitts
Discussion Leader: Lauren Meyer
Research Report: Deniz Yuksel & Paul Rockford

Draft of Research Paper Due

November 19
Palestine/Israel I
   Reading: Reuther, chs 1, 3-5, 8
   Wagner, *Dying in the Land of Promise*, chs 9 & 10 (on reserve)
   “Jerusalem” (Bb)

Guest Lecturer: Paul Salem
Discussion Leader: Naomi Smith
Research Report: Leonardo Mendez

November 26 Syria/Iraq
   Reading: To be assigned
   Rassam, ch 6

Guest Lecturer: Kevin Martin
Discussion Leader: Minas Rasouli
Research Report: Analise Pflueger

Research Paper due

December 3 Middle Eastern Christians after 9/11 (Arab Spring and Diaspora)
  Reading: Tadros
  Rassam, Suha, *Christianity in Iraq* chapter 7 & 8
  Christian Minorities in the Middle East in Transition” (Bb)
  “Minorities in Contemporary Islamist Discourse” (Bb)

Discussion Leader: Tamara Masri
Research Report: Yasmine Salam & Samuel Gang

December 10 The Reconstitution of the Christians of the Middle East in Diaspora
  Haddad, “Arab-American Christian Scholars and the Study of the Middle East,” (Bb)
  Badr, Vision (Bb)
  “Good Copt Bad Copt” (Bb)
  Additional material will be assigned

Discussion Leader: Hunter Estes
Research Report: Tamara Masri & Minas Rasouli