World War I and its settlement shaped the modern Middle East. The end of the Ottoman Empire and the emergence of successor states in search of internal ideology and regional influence have characterized the region to this day. This course addresses both the Middle East and the broader topic of struggle and survival during cataclysmic events such as a world war. It is a research–based class in which students will learn how to better research conflict and how to develop a thematic approach to the study of conflict given the many perspectives of those affected by it. The course will also discuss the ways in which a conflict can transform a region. Students are expected to write a long paper (20 – 25 double–spaced pages) on one example of struggle and survival.

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday, 2:30 pm–4:30 pm, Fares Center, Mugar 129
Wednesday, 8:00 am–10:00 am, Fares Center, Mugar 129
(Sign–up sheets available at the Fares Center)

RESEARCH PAPER:
Students are required to write a research paper (20 – 25 double spaced pages) on a conflict of their choosing. Topics must be pre–approved by November 2. The paper must be written exclusively for this class and delivered to the Fletcher School Registrar's office by 12:00pm on Monday, December 13.

Please note this date and arrange your travel and other plans around it, as it cannot be changed. Incompletes are not an option in this course.

GRADES:

- **Paper** – the research paper will account for 60% of your final grade.
- **Presentation** – your student presentation will account for 30% of your final grade.
- **Class participation** – participation in class will account for 10% of your final grade.
REQUIRED BOOKS:


– Available at the Campus Bookstore and on reserve in the Ginn Library. –

OTHER READINGS:

– All other readings will be available on Blackboard under “Course Documents.” –

FARES LECTURE SERIES:

Throughout the semester there will be lectures as a part of the Fares Center Lecture Series, which students are strongly encouraged to attend. To date, these include:

- **Thursday, September 9, 12:30pm**: **Federico Velez**, “Higher Education Strategic Plans in Abu Dhabi and Dubai: The Tale of Two Global Cities,” in Mugar 129

- **Wednesday, September 15, 5:30pm**: **Ali Banuazizi**, “Iran: Sanctions, Negotiations, and Support for the Democracy Movement,” in Cabot 7th floor

- **Thursday, September 23, 12:30pm**: **Gulru Necipoğlu**, “Architectural Dialogues Across the Mediterranean: Domes Sanctuaries in the Ottoman Empire and Renaissance Italy,” in Mugar 129

FARES LECTURE:
Federico Velez, “Higher Education Strategic Plans in Abu Dhabi and Dubai: The Tale of Two Global Cities,” Thursday, September 9, 12:30pm, Mugar 129

– Week 1 –
Tuesday, September 14
History from a bird’s eye view Part I – this class will cover the Great War as it evolved in the theatres of war in the Middle East from a bird’s eye view. We will read and discuss some of the major texts on the Middle East during WWI.


FARES LECTURE:

Wednesday, September 15, 5:30pm, Cabot 7th floor

– Week 2 –

Tuesday, September 21

History from a Bird’s Eye View Part II – this class will continue to review the history of WWI in the Middle East.


FARES LECTURE:

Gulru Necipoglu, “Architectural Dialogues Across the Mediterranean: Domes Sanctuaries in the Ottoman Empire and Renaissance Italy,” Thursday, September 23, 12:30pm, Mugar 129

– Week 3 –

Tuesday, September 28

Collecting people’s experiences Part I (Letters, Diaries, Memoirs) – this class will introduce the importance of collecting individual accounts of war that document day–to–day life and the impact that the Great War had on a personal level.

Gibram, Khalil. “Dead are my people.” In The Treasured Writings of Khalil Gibram. USA: Castle Books, 1981. (4 pages)


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**Week 4**

**Tuesday, October 5**

Collecting people’s experiences Part II (Poetry, memoirs, and other personal accounts) – a continuation of how personal accounts, including poetry and prose, tell the story of the Great War as it was experienced by individuals.


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**Week 5**

**Tuesday, October 12**

Collecting people’s experiences Part III (Poetry, memoirs, and other personal accounts)


*The Turco–Armenian Question: The Turkish Point of View*. National Congress of Turkey, 1919. Pp. 34–53 (of the PDF). (20 pages)


**Optional:** Tab, Black (pseud.). *On the road to Kut: A Soldier's Story of the Mesopotamian Campaign*. London: Hutchinson & Co., 1917. (Offers the rare perspective of the war from someone serving in the rear.)

**FARES CENTER CONFERENCE:**

“ENGAGING THE MIDDLE EAST: AFTER THE CAIRO SPEECH”

*Thursday, September 14 – Friday, October 15, ASEAN Auditorium, Cabot Intercultural Center*

-- *Students are strongly encouraged to attend this conference.* --

---**Week 6**---

*Tuesday, October 19*

Getting your hands dirty at the library — what can you learn from non–web–based sources?

20 Tips for Senior Thesis Writers. (11 pages)
Perspectives of War – This class will discuss how WWI was understood differently by all of the various actors involved in and affected by it, and how factors such as status, ethnicity, location, economic class, religion, and political affiliation played a part in defining their perspective.


**FARES LECTURE:**

— Week 8 —
Tuesday, November 2
Alliances in War – How and why do many people form unusual alliances across distinct categorizations during times of struggle and conflict?


Other letters (optional): http://www.christmastruce.co.uk/letters.html.


— Week 9 —
Tuesday, November 9
Drawing conclusions from many perspectives – what can you say or write about a war that is understood so differently by so many individuals? This class addresses what to do with the research you have uncovered, and why it matters how you frame your writing on war.


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**Week 10**

*Tuesday, November 16*

What do we learn from studying war? Why is it important to investigate these historical questions of perspective when it comes to war? What impact does this history have on the region today?


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**Week 11**

*Tuesday, November 23*

Class Presentations

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**Week 12**

*Tuesday, November 30*

Class Presentations

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**Week 13**

*Tuesday, December 7*

Make–up class **Thursday, December 2, 5:30–7:30pm**, location TBA

Class Presentations