

**ATA 535  
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE 1800  
(Citizenship, Violence, Property)**

**(Spring 2022)**

**Dr. Seda Altuğ**

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**Course times: Wednesday: 14:00-17:00**

**Office hours: Tuesday and Monday, 13.30- 15.00 and by appointment**

**Course Description**

This course is organized around the theme of dis(possessed) subjects and dis(possessed) spaces. It does not aim to provide a comprehensive survey of theories of dispossession. Instead, over the course of the semester we will follow key routes into the dialectics of possession and dispossession, considering in particular how models of imperial/colonial and post-colonial urban and rural life are premised on dispossession of certain subjects who are at the same time violently excluded from the national and colonial projects. The task of this course is to interrogate how norms of property are established and concretized, but also challenged from different historical and geographical vantage points. Citizenship, violence and property, then emerge as the three main keywords in this interrogation.

**Requirements:**

- Active participation in classroom discussions (20 %).
- Three position papers with one presentation, 3-5 pages in length (40 %).
- One research paper, 10 pages in length (due at the end of the semester) (40 %).

Please, familiarize yourself with a map, timeline, and glossary. A variety of Middle East maps are available at:

[https://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle\\_east.html](https://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east.html)

<http://gulf2000.columbia.edu/maps.shtml>

Some useful sources on the Middle East:

[www.jadaliyya.org](http://www.jadaliyya.org)

[www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com](http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com)

<http://hazine.info> (online resources and useful guide to libraries and archives)

<http://almashriq.hiof.no/>

[www.merip.org](http://www.merip.org) (The Middle East Research and Information Project)

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Week 1 (23 February): Introduction: main goals and structure**

### **Week 2 (2 March): What is Dispossession?**

Jordana Rosenberg and Chi-ming Yang, *The Dispossessed Eighteenth Century, The Eighteenth Century*, 2014, 55 (2-3), pp. 137- 152.

Robert Nichols, *Theft Is Property! Dispossession and Critical Theory* (Durham, London: Duke University Press, 2020), Introduction.

Robert Nichols, "Disaggregating Primitive Accumulation: The Dialectic of Labour and Land", *Radical Philosophy*, 201, 194.

Brenna Bhandar, *Colonial Lives of Property, Law, Land and Racial Regimes of Ownership* (Durham, London: Duke University Press, 2018), Introduction.

### **Week 3 (9 March): Models and genealogies of Dis(possession) and Empire I**

Huricihan İslamoğlu, "Property as Contested Domain: A reevaluation of the Ottoman land Code of 1858", in Roger Owen (ed.), *New Perspectives on Property and Land in the Middle East*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000), 3-62.

Nora Barakat, "Regulating Land Rights in Late Nineteenth-Century Salt: The Limits of Legal Pluralism in Ottoman Property Law", *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association* 2 (1: 2015), 101-119

Nicholas Blomley, "Making Private Property: Enclosure, Common Right and the Work of Hedges", *Rural History* 18 (1:2007), 1-21.

Vanessa Guéno, "Land Tenure and the concept of "Property": The History of Legal Practice in Syria and Lebanon in the Last Century of the Ottoman Empire" *Chronos* 37, 2018, 111-142.

Krsiten Alff, "Landed Property, Capital Accumulation and Polymorphous Capitalism: Egypt and the Levant" in Joel Bienin, Bassam Haddad, Sherene Seikaly (eds.) *A Critical Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa* (Stanford: Stanford U Press, 2021): 25-45.

### **Recommended readings:**

Zozan Pehlivan, "El Niño and the Nomads: Global Climate, Local Environment, and the Crisis of Pastoralism in Late Ottoman Kurdistan ." *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 63 (3:2020), 316-356.

Martha Mundy and R. Saumarez Smith, "Al-mahr zaytuna: property and family in the hills facing Palestine (1880-1940)", Beshara Doumani (ed.) *Family history in the Middle East: Household, Property and Gender*, (Albany: SUNY Press, 2003).

Pascale Ghazaleh (ed.), *Held in trust: Waqf in the Islamic world*, (Cairo : American University in Cairo Press, 2011), Introduction.

Martha Mundy, "The state of property: late Ottoman Southern Syria (the Kaza Aclun, 1875-1918)", H. Islamoglu (ed.), *Constituting modernity: Private property in the East and West*, (London: IB Tauris, 2004).

Yücel Terzibaşoğlu, "The Ottoman Agrarian Question and the Making of Property and Crime in Nineteenth Century" in Elias Kolovos (ed.), *Ottoman Rural Societies and Economies* (Institute of Mediterranean Studies, Crete: University of Crete Press, 2015).

Marion Farouk-Sluglett, Peter Sluglett, "The Transformation of Land Tenure and Rural Social Structure in Central and Southern Iraq, C. 1870-1958," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 40 (1: 2008).

#### **Week 4 (16 March): Models and genealogies of Dis(possession) and Empire II**

Timothy Mitchell, *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity* (LA: University of California Press, 2002). Chapter 2, Principles True in Every Country, 52- 78.

David Washbrook, "Sovereignty, Property, Land and Labour in Colonial South India" in Huri Islamoglu (ed.), *Constituting Modernity: Private Property in the East and West*, (London and New York, IB Tauris, 2004), 69-99.

Martin Bunton, "Demarcating the British Colonial State: Land Settlement in the Jiftlik Villages of Sajad and Qazaza" in Roger Owen, (ed.), *New Perspectives on Property and Land in the Middle East* (Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press, 2000), 121- 158.

Christian Lund, "Rule and Rupture: State Formation Through the Production of Property and Citizenship", in Christian Lund and Michael Eilenberg (ed.s), *Rule and Rupture: State Formation Through the Production of Production of Property and Citizenship* (London: Blackwell, 2017), 1-29.

#### **Week 5 (23 March): Empire, Violence and Imaginaries of the Rural Environment**

Faisal H. Husain, "Changes in the Euphrates River: Ecology and Politics in a Rural Ottoman Periphery, 1687-1702," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 47 (2016): 1-25.

Priya Satia, "Rebellion of Technology" Development, Policing and the British Arabian Imagery" in Diana Davis and Edmund Burke III (ed.), *Environmental Imaginaries of the Middle East and North Africa*, (Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2011), 3- 59.

Jennifer L. Derr, *The Lived Nile: Environment, Disease, and Material Colonial Economy in Egypt* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2019), Chapter 1.

Sara Pursley, "Gender as a Category of Analysis in Development and Environmental History," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 48 (2016), 555-60;

Brenna Bhandar & Alberto Toscano, "Representing Palestinian dispossession: land, property, and photography in the settler colony", *Settler Colonial Studies* .1- 19.

### **Recommended readings:**

Alan Mikhail, "An Irrigated Empire: The View from Ottoman Fayyum," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 42 (4, 2010): 569-590.

Alexis Wick, "History, Geography and the Sea," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 48 (4, 2016): 743-745

### **Week 6 (30 March): Property, Race and Slavery**

Cheryl I. Harris, "Whiteness as property", *Harvard Law Review* 106 (8: 2006), 1707- 1791.

Brenna Bhandar, "Title by Registration: Instituting Modern Property Law and Creating Racial Value in the Settler Colony", *Journal of Law and Society* 42 (2:2015), 253-282/Brenna Bhandar, "Property Abolitionism: Race, Colony, Body, Land", *The Disorder of Things Blog*, May 10, 2019.

Ceyda Karamürsel, "Transplanted slavery, contested freedom and vernacularization of rights in the reform era Ottoman Empire", *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 59 (3: 2017), 690-714.

Bruce Hall, "Memory, Slavery and Muslim Citizenship in the Post-Emancipation Circum-Saharan World," *L'Ouest Saharien* 10/11 (2020), 95-108.

Justin Leroy, "The Question of Recovery?: Slavery, Freedom, and the Archive", *Social Text* 125, (4: 2015). Introduction/ Destin Jenkins, "Ghosts of the Past: Debt, the New South, and the Propaganda of History" in Destin Jenkins and Justin Leroy (eds.), *Histories of Racial Capitalism* (NY: Columbia University Press, 2021).

### **Week 7 (6 April): Empire and its afterlives**

Muriam Haleh Davis, "Colonial Capitalism and Imperial Myth in French North Africa" in Joel Bienin, Bassam Haddad, Sherene Seikaly (eds.) *A Critical Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa* (Stanford: Stanford U Press, 2021): 161- 178.

Ottoman History Podcast, Muriam Haleh Davis "Development, Race, and the Cold War in Algeria", 2016.

<http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2016/11/development-race-algeria.html>

Jordanna Bailkin, "Where Did the Empire Go? Archives and Decolonization in Britain", *American Historical Review*, AHR Roundtable On Decolonization, 2015, 884-899.

Ceyda Karamürsel, "Shiny Things and Sovereign Legalities: Expropriation of Dynastic Property in the Late Ottoman Empire and Early Turkish Republic", *International Journal of Middle East Studie* 51 (3: 2019), 445-463.

Inder S Marwah, Onur Ulas Ince and Robert Nichols, "Empire and its Afterlives" *Contemporary Political Theory* 19 (2020), 274- 305.

### **Week 8 (13 April): Dispossession, technology and space**

Eyal Weizman, *Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation*, (London: Verso, 2006), Introduction.

Nicholas Blomley, "The Territory of Property", *Progress in Human Geography* 40 (5:2016) , 93- 609.

Alvaro Sevilla-Buitrago, "Capitalist Formations of Enclosure: Space and the Extinction of the Commons", *Antipode*, 2015, 1- 22. <https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12143>

Daniel Neep, *Occupying Syria under the French mandate: Insurgency, Space and State Formation*, (London: Cambridge University Press, 2012), Chapter 6, Urban Planning, Hygiene and Counter Insurgency, 131- 164.

### **Week 9 (20 April): Property and governance of minorities**

Ayşe Parla and Ceren Özgül, "Property, Dispossession, and Citizenship in Turkey; Or, the History of the Gezi Uprising Starts in the Surp Hagop Armenian Cemetery", *Public Culture*, 28 (3: 2016), 617–653.

Hiba Bou Akar, *For the War Yet to Come, Planning Beirut's Frontiers*, (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2018), Prologue and Constructing Sectarian Geographies, 1- 34.

Michael Fischbach, *Records of Dispossession : Palestinian Refugee Property and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, (NY: Columbia University Press, 2003). Chapter 1.

Yücel Terzibaşoğlu, "Land Disputes and Ethno-Politics: North-western Anatolia, 1877-1912", in S. Engerman and J. Metzer (ed.), *Ethno-Nationality, Property Rights in Land and Territorial Sovereignty in Historical Perspective* (Routledge: London, 2004).

Ümit Kurt and Taner Akçam, *The Spirit of the Laws: The Plunder of Wealth in the Armenian Genocide* (NY: Berghahn, 2015), Chapter 7.

**Recommended reading:**

Yaşar Tolga Cora, Female Labor, Merchant Capital, and Resilient Manufacturing: Rethinking Ottoman Armenian Communities through Labor and Business, *Journal of The Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 61 (2018), pp. 361- 395.

**Week 10 (27 April): Infrastructure, Logistics and Development**

Rafeef Ziadah, "Circulating power: humanitarian logistics, militarism and the United Arab Emirates" *Antipode* 51 (5: 2019), 1684-1702.

Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins, "Failure to Build: Sewage and the Choppy Temporality of Infrastructure in Palestine", *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 2020, 0(0), 1-15./ Omar Jabary. "Road 443: Cementing Dispossession, Normalizing Segregation and Disrupting Everyday Life in Palestine", In *Infrastructural Lives*, (London: Routledge, 2014), 128-150/

Joanne Randa Nucho, *Everyday Sectarianism in Urban Lebanon: Infrastructures, Public Services, and Power* (NY: Princeton University Press, 2017). Chapter 2.

Bassam Haddad, "Enduring Legacies: The Politics of Private Sector development in Syria" in Fred Lawson (ed.) *Demystifying Syria* (London: Saqi, 2009), 19- 55.

**Week 11 (4 May): Property and Archives and Things**

Aaron G. Jakes and Ahmad Shokr, "Finding Value in Empire of Cotton", *Critical Historical Studies* 4 (1: 2017), 107 – 136.

Michelle Caswell, "Thank You Very Much, Now Give Them Back": Cultural Property and the Fight over the Iraqi Baath Party Records, *The American Archivist* 74 (1:2011), 211-240.

Rebecca Stein, "Dispossession Reconsidered: Israel, Nakba, Things", *Ethnologie Française* 45 (2:2015), 309- 320.

Zerrin Özlem Biner, *States of Dispossession: Violence and Precarious Coexistence in Southeast Turkey*, (Philadelphia: UPenn Press, 2020), Chapter 2, Ruined Heritage, 62-81.

## **Week 12 (11 May): Dispossession and Neoliberalism**

David Harvey, "The New Imperialism: Accumulation by Dispossession." *The Socialist Register*, 40, 2004.

Tuna Kuyucu and Özlem Ünsal, "Urban Transformation' as State-led Property Transfer: An Analysis of Two Cases of Urban Renewal in Istanbul", *Urban Studies*, 47(7), 2010, pp. 1479–1499.

Robert Parks, "Claiming Bits and Pieces of the State: Squatting and Appropriation of Public Domain in Algeria", *Middle East Law and Governance*, 11, 2019, pp. 103- 135.

Sarah El-Kazaz, "Building 'Community' and Markets in Contemporary Cairo", *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 2018, pp.476- 505.

Mona Fawaz, "The politics of property in planning: Hezbollah's reconstruction of Haret Hreik (Beirut, Lebanon) as case study", *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38 (3), pp. 922-934.

## **Week 13 (18 May): Property and Postwar Reconstruction , tba**