

Politics of the Middle East

Political Science
Spring 2008
Office Hours: M & W 4:30-5:30
Also available by appointment

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I. Course Overview:

This course is designed to introduce students to Middle Eastern Politics. We will examine important historical junctures that have contributed to current political issues confronting the region. These include the Arab-Israeli conflict, Arab Nationalism, the role of religion in politics, democratization/political liberalization, and the consequence of oil on economic development. We will also examine the domestic politics of several countries, including: Turkey, Iran, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq.

II. Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance and participation:
It is essential that you attend every class and participate. Attendance accounts for 10 percent of your grade.
2. Writing Assignment:
There is one term paper (10 to 12 pages) for this course. Students are to study in-depth one issue confronting the Middle East or one state in the region. Topics can include: the change in leadership in Syria or Jordan; the consequences of a high population growth rate for Egypt, Iran, or Jordan; the social condition of women; environmental pollution of the Red or Dead Seas; the role of oil in development; the lack of water in the region; democratization/political liberalization in a Middle Eastern state; the impact of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the region; the peace process in the Middle East; etc.... Students are expected to read and cite in their bibliography a minimum of 10 sources for this paper. These sources must be scholarly books and journal articles, not newspapers, magazines, or web sites.
3. Mid-Term and Final Exams:
Two exams will be given in this course, a mid-term and final. All students must take the exam at the scheduled time. The exams consist of short ids and long essays.

III. Grades:

Student performance is assessed on the following basis:

Mid-term.....	30%
Term Paper.....	30%
Final.....	30%
Attendance	10%

Grading Scale

95-100	A	77-79	C+
90-94	A-	73-76	C

87-89	B+	70-72	C-
83-86	B	69-60	D
80-82	B-	Below 60	F

IV. Course Material:

William L. Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East* (Westview Press 2004).

Electronic Course Reserve available online.

V. Rules and Regulations:

- 1) All wireless devices (cell phones and computers) must to be turned off during class.
- 2) No guests (this includes children) are allowed to attend class without prior permission from the professor. No guests will be allowed to attend more than one class. Guests that are disrupting class will be asked to leave along with their host.
- 3) Examination Procedure: Once an examination has started the student **MAY NOT** leave the examination room until the examination is completed. If a student leaves the room, the examination, for that student, is over. Also, no talking until everyone has completed and turned in the exam.
- 4) Early Examinations: No early examinations will be given.
- 5) Make up exams: Available only under special circumstances and student must contact professor **within 48 hours** of the exam date to arrange a make up exam.
- 6) Late Assignments: Assignments turned in after their due date will be reduced one grade per late course day. **Emailed assignments will not be accepted.**
- 7) Excuses: If there is a death in the family, a major illness, or a religious holiday, which necessitates an extension for your assignment, it must be documented. The proper documentation includes a **dated obituary, a letter from your doctor, and/or a letter from your religious leader** (I will call the doctor to confirm the information and this doctor cannot be your parent/relative).
- 8) Academic Misconduct: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If caught, the Policy on Academic Misconduct (3.2.1) of the University's Code of Student Conduct will be followed. This course will have an account with a plagiarism service provider (www.turnitin.com), which is capable of identifying the originality of any assignment.
- 9) During this course we will discuss controversial and emotional issues. This requires laying down ground rules for this course: students do not speak unless called upon; only one person can speak at any given moment; students will respect one another in this course—meaning there will be no talking back to your classmates; and we will respect each other's opinion.

VI. Course Outline

January 14 **Class Introduction and Introduction to the Middle East**

January 16 **The Ottoman Empire**

Cleveland Chapters 3 (Just *skim* the chapter)

January 21 *No class, Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

January 23 **The Ottoman Empire continued and the Young Turks**

Cleveland pages 133 to143

- January 28 **The Young Turks**
Cleveland Chapter 9
- January 30 **Turkey**
Cleveland pages 175 to 185
- February 4 **Turkey**
Cleveland pages 277 to 288
- February 6 **Challenges confronting Turkey**
Marvine Howe, *Turkey Today* Chapters 1, 2,
- February 11 **Challenges confronting Turkey (Term paper topic due beginning of class)**
Marvine Howe, *Turkey Today* Chapters 7, and 12
- February 13 & 20 **Islam**
Roy Andersen et al., *Politics and Change in the Middle East* Chapter Two.
- February 18 No Class Presidents' Day*
- February 20 **Iran**
Cleveland pages 185 to 192
- February 25 **Iran**
Cleveland pages 288 to 300.
- February 27 & March 3 **The Iranian Revolution**
Cleveland pages 423 to 440
Ervand Abrahamian, *Iran Between Two Revolutions* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982) Chapter 11.
- March 5 **Challenges Confronting Iran**
Azadeh Kian-Thiebaut, "Political and Social Transformations in Post-Islamist Iran," *Middle East Report*, (Autumn, 1999).
- March 10 to 14 Spring Break No Classes*
- March 17 **Challenges Confronting Iran and Review for the Midterm**
Olivier Roy, "Tensions in Iran: The Future of the Islamic Revolution," *Middle East Report*, (Summer, 1998).

March 19 MidTerm

March 24 The Middle East and Imperial Powers

Cleveland Chapters 11 and 12

March 26 & 31 Jordan

Don Peretz, *The Middle East Today*, chapter 12, “The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.”

April 2 & 7 Jordan

Beverley Milton-Edwards and Peter Hinchcliffe, “Abdullah’s Jordan: New King, Old Problems,” *Middle East Report*, (Winter, 1999).

Lamis Andoni, “King Abdallah: In His Father’s Footsteps?” *Journal of Palestine Studies*, (Spring, 2000).

April 9, 14, 16 & 21 Egypt

Cleveland Chapter fifteen

Cleveland pages 374 to 382 and 392 to 395

Papers Due April 23rd Before Class begins

April 23 & 28 Iraq

Don Peretz, *The Middle East Today*, Chapter 15, Iraq.
Amatzia Baram, “The Future of Ba’thist Iraq: Power Structure, Challenges, and Prospects,” in Robert R. Satloff, ed., *The Politics of Change in the Middle East*.

April 30 Review for the Final

May 7 Final Exam