

**THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO**  
**POLS. 4605-01 INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

**Dr. Kareem Mahmoud Kamel**

**Class: Waleed C138 MR 11:30 am – 12:45 pm**

**Office Hours: Room HUSS 2028 MR 1:00– 2:00 pm or by appointment**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this course is to survey and critically assess the dialectical relationships between the Middle East and the great powers of our time, beginning from the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire to present. The emphasis is on the political, economic, strategic and cultural dimensions of East-West relations and the role of Western powers in shaping the Middle East.

Throughout the course, students are expected to gain a solid understanding of the key methodological and theoretical frameworks used to assess international politics in the Middle East and develop a keen awareness of the dilemmas, dynamics, debates, and persistent legacies involving key issues shaping the region. The themes that will be discussed involve colonialism and state formation, *Orientalism*, superpower intervention, globalization, the political economy of oil, the Arab-Israeli conflict, identity politics, the dynamics of political Islam, democratization, the consequences of 9/11 and the war on Iraq in addition to other contemporary dynamics of regional transformation and crises particularly in the aftermath of the “Arab Spring”.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS & STUDENT EVALUATION**

#### **- Attendance/Participation (10%):**

Despite the class having a significant lecture component, attendance/participation are essential aspects of the course and reflect an important dimension of student commitment. Students are expected to read the assigned material before coming to class, punctually attend, take good notes (**powerpoints will NOT be handed to students!**) and actively and meaningfully participate in class discussions. They are also expected to respond to any queries the instructor might ask about the readings or current events. **An attendance sheet will be created to record student attendance. I will personally take attendance at the end of every class once the student roster is finalized.**

- **In order to avoid unnecessary disruption, students must avoid drifting in or leaving the room while class is in session. Those who show up 10 minutes or more after the beginning of class will not be allowed in and they will be considered absent.**
- **The use of mobile phones during class is strictly prohibited (including SMS or any other messaging service). Please either switch off your phones or put them on silent/sleep mode before entering class. Repetitive violation of this policy will negatively impact your participation grade.**
- **SEVEN absences (the equivalent of more than 3 weeks of class) will result in an automatic F for the course. Less than seven absences will negatively affect your participation grade.**
- **Exceptions to the absence policy will ONLY be made if the student has a serious, documented, and verifiable excuse that is acknowledged by the Office of Student Affairs (or clinic) and brought to my notice within a maximum period of one month from the time the absence took place. Later excuses will not be accepted.**

**- Midterm Exam (20%) – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>**

The exam is intended to test the depth of your knowledge of the reading material and your ability to comparatively assess the writings & arguments presented by different scholars and readings.

**- Book Review (20%) – DUE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> IN CLASS**

**The book chosen shall be approved by the instructor. The book review should be a minimum of 3,000 words.** It should include a summary discussing the main issues in the book and highlighting the major arguments of its author & a critical analysis in which the student reflects on the main themes of the book and evaluates the viability/consistency/coherence of the points of view put forward by the author.

**- Term paper (30%) – DUE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> IN CLASS**

Each student is required to select a specific topic relevant to any of the themes discussed in the course and present **one term paper of a *minimum* of 4,000 words.**

**- Final Exam (20%):** A non-comprehensive final exam will be administered during the final examination period (TBA by university).

**Points are distributed as follows:**

Attendance/Participation	10%
Midterm	20%
Book Review	20%
Term paper	30%
Final Exam	20%

**Grading Scale (100 points):**

A	93-100
A-	89-92
B+	85-88
B	81-84
B-	77-80
C+	73-76
C	69-72
C-	65-68
D+	61-64
D	57-60
F	Below 57

**VERY IMPORTANT**

- **All references must be *clearly* and *consistently* cited in your written assignments. Any form of plagiarism will result in an F in the course, and possible request for dismissal from the university.**
- **No modification in any of the deadlines specified in the syllabus will be granted.**
- **In order to ensure fairness, every student has only one chance at every method of assessment. No extra credit assignments, re-takes, re-submissions, re-drafts or make-up exams will be granted to compensate for any grade a student deems unsatisfactory.**
- **All written assignments (hard copies) have to be handed in to the instructor in person in class on the designated date of submission.**

- **Late papers without an official, verifiable, emergency excuse will not be accepted.**

## **REQUIRED READING MATERIAL**

- All readings should be done before coming to class, and students should be prepared to engage in and/or lead class discussions.

- A set of articles and chapters from a variety of sources will be assigned on a weekly basis and **made accessible to students as shown in the reading schedule below. The main textbooks for the course will be the following (to be purchased if available in the bookstore).**

- Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2016) 4<sup>th</sup> Edition
- Fred Halliday, *The Middle East in International Relations: Power, Politics, and Ideology* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) **(uploaded on blackboard)**

## **TOPICS & TENTATIVE READING SCHEDULE**

- **Week of September 11<sup>th</sup> – Introduction to the IR of the Middle East – A Conceptual Appraisal**
  - Louise Fawcett, *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 21-38  
(Fred H. Lawson, “International Relations Theory and the Middle East”)
  - Fred Halliday, *The Middle East in International Relations*, pp.1-72
- **Week of September 18<sup>th</sup> – Orientalism & the Legacy of Western Intervention**
  - Louise Fawcett, *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 39-61  
(Eugene L. Rogan, “The Emergence of the Middle East into the Modern State System”)
  - Zachary Lockman, *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History & Politics of Orientalism*, pp. 66-147 **(on blackboard)**
  - Ian Lustick, “The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Powers: Political ‘Backwardness’ in Historical Perspective” *International Organization* Vol. 51 (Autumn 1997): pp. 653-683 **(on blackboard)**
- **Week of September 25<sup>th</sup> – The Cold War in the Middle East**
  - Raymond Hinnebusch, *The International Politics of the Middle East*, pp. 1-4, 14-53 **(on blackboard)**
  - Fred Halliday, *The Middle East in International Relations*, pp. 97-129
  - Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp.356-379  
(Michael Hudson, “The United States in the Middle East”)
- **Week of October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Globalization & the Post-Cold War Middle East**
  - Louise Fawcett, *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 79-101  
(Bahgat Korany, “The Middle East Since the Cold War: The Multi-Layered (In)security Dilemma”)
  - Fred Halliday, *The Middle East in International Relations*, pp. 130-164
  - Clement Henry, “The Clash of Globalizations in the Middle East”, pp. 104-128 **(on blackboard)**
- **Week of October 9<sup>th</sup> – Oil & the International Politics of the Gulf**
  - Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp.105-130  
(Giacomo Luciani, “Oil and Political Economy in the International Relations of the Middle East”)

- Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 304-323  
(F. Gregory Gause III, "The International Politics of the Gulf")
- **Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> – MID-TERM REVISION**
- **Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – MID-TERM EXAM**
- **Week of October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Palestine & Dynamics of the Arab-Israeli Conflict**
  - Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 259-284  
(Charles Smith, "The Arab-Israeli Conflict")
  - Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 285-303  
(Avi Shlaim, "The Rise & Fall of the Oslo Process")
  - Janice Gross Stein, "War & Security in the Middle East" pp. 208-227 **(on blackboard)**
- **Week of October 30<sup>th</sup> – Identity Politics in the Middle East**
  - Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 155-175  
(Raymond Hinnebusch, "The Politics of Identity in Middle Eastern International Relations")
  - Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 176-195  
(Peter Mandaville, "Islam and International Relations in the Middle East")
- **Week of November 6<sup>th</sup> – The Rise & Development of Political Islam THURSDAY, NOV 9<sup>th</sup> BOOK REVIEW DUE**
  - Gilles Kepel, *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam*, Ch: 3 pp. 61-80 and Ch: 9 pp. 205-236
  - Olivier Roy, *The Politics of Chaos in the Middle East*, Ch:4 pp.141-159 **(on blackboard)**
- **Week of November 13<sup>th</sup> – Regionalism and Foreign Policy-Making in the Middle East**
  - Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 196-217  
(Louise Fawcett, "Alliances and Regionalism in the Middle East")
  - Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 218-235  
(Marina Calculli with Matteo Legrenzi, "Middle East Security: Conflict and Securitization of Identities")
  - Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 239-258  
(Raymond Hinnebusch and Anoushiravan Ehteshami, "Foreign Policymaking in the Middle East")
- **Week of November 20<sup>th</sup> onwards – Democratization, the Arab Uprisings, and the IR of the Arab Spring**
  - Mehran Kamrava, "The Rise and Fall of Ruling Bargains in the Middle East" in *Beyond the Arab Spring: The Evolving Ruling Bargain in the Middle East*, pp. 17-45. **(on blackboard)**
  - John Foran, "Global Affinities: The New Cultures of Resistance Behind the Arab Spring" in *Beyond the Arab Spring: The Evolving Ruling Bargain in the Middle East*, pp. 47-71 **(on blackboard)**
  - Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 131-154  
(Augustus Richard Norton, "The Puzzle of Political Reform in the Middle East")
  - Louise Fawcett, ed. *International Relations of the Middle East*, pp. 324-355  
(Larbi Sadiki, "The Arab Spring: The 'People' in International Relations")

- Madawi Al-Rasheed, "Saudi Internal Dilemmas and Regional Responses to the Arab Uprisings" in Fawaz Gerges, ed. *The New Middle East: Protest and Revolution in the Arab World*, pp. 353-379.

- **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> – TERM PAPER DUE – SUBMISSION IN CLASS**