

POLS 3408

Walid Kazziha

Spring 2018

Please note that this is a tentative course outline which will be subject to some modifications and adjustments. Please keep on top of the readings.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to introduce the students to the basic historical events, and the political processes, which have been influential in the emergence and development of political entities in the modern Middle East. It is also the objective of this course to equip the students with the various tools of political analysis, which will enable them to understand the contemporary politics of the region, especially as an increasing number of countries face internal upheavals, civil wars, and challenges from within the region and outside it.

It is intended to achieve the objectives of the course by examining the commonalities as well as the disparities among the peoples and countries of the Middle East. Issues such as the nature of the states, civil society, the role of religion in politics, ideologies, impact of the West, and the consequences of international and regional interventions will be addressed.

Course Requirements and Grading

Midterm Exam (35 minutes) Date to be Arranged, 35%

Quiz #1 (30 minutes) Date to be Arranged, 30%

Quiz #2 (25 minutes) Date to be Arranged, 25%

Final In-class Exam (15 minutes) Date to be Arranged, 10%

Total 100%

A (91-100), B+ (83-86), C+ (72-74), D+ (61-64)

A- (87-90), B (79-82), C (69-71), D (56-60)

B- (75-78), C- (65-68), D- (50-55), F (>50)

Exams and quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions and will be conducted in class. (Alternative format to multiple-choice might be used in conducting one or two quizzes, but it will be preceded by formal announcement by the instructor.)

Make Up Quizzes / Midterm Exam –

Are only possible if a student has a legitimate reason and provides necessary documentation, acceptable to the instructor.

Note: Make ups may be in an alternative format (such as definitions and or a short essay).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Ismael, T.Y., and Ismael, J. S., *Government and Politics of the Contemporary Middle East: Continuity and Change*, 2nd edition, Routledge, (2015)

In addition, occasionally, the instructor will refer students to some online articles relevant to topics under discussion.

RESERVE READINGS, (recommended but not required)

Owen, Roger 2013: *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*, (London, New York, : Routledge, 3rd edition)

Penney Angrist, Michele (ed.) 2013: *Politics, and Society in the Contemporary Middle East*, (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2nd Ed.)

Fred Jerome, *Einstein on Israel and Zionism*, 2009. Ilan Pappé, *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*, 2009.

Course Outline

(Tentative and subject to change if and when it is necessary. Any change will always be preceded by an official announcement made in ample time by the instructor in the classroom or through Banner. Students are encouraged to read the assignments ahead of time).

Week 1 & 2- Introduction to the course. Emergence of the Middle East State System.

Text: *The Burden of History: from Empire to Nation States*, pp 23-55, and pp. 59-75.

Topics which will be discussed relate to the break down of the Ottoman Empire after WWI, and the emergence of new political entities in the Middle East.

Week 3 & 4- Islam in Politics.

Text: *The Legacy of Islam: Continuity and Change*, pp. 75-98.

Topics, The re-emergence of Islam as a major political force in Middle Eastern politics, and its impact on the modern state system in the Middle East.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Rise of a Shii Arc of power in the Middle East

Text: *The Islamic Republic of Iran*, pp 146-225.

Topics of interest include Khomeini's contribution to Shii thought, and the expansion of Iranian influence in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon.

Week 5 & 6 The Syrian Crisis and the aftermath of Lebanon's Civil War.

Text: *The Syrian Arab Republic and the Lebanese Republic*, pp 303-351.

Topics: Defining the various political forces in Syria and prospects of conflict resolution. The regional powers and their input in the Syrian crisis as well as Lebanon's precarious situation.

Week 7 & 8 Egypt's Predicaments after two revolutions.

Text: *The Arab Republic of Egypt*, pp 440-490.

Topics: discussions will focus on the major predicaments facing Egypt today, with reference to the continuing crisis in civil liberties as well as the struggle for economic survival.

Week 9 & 10, The Arab Gulf States and the Gulf Cooperation Council.pp 499-576. Students will only be responsible for that section of the chapter covering Saudi Arabia. The rest of the chapter is not included.

Topics: the rising power of Saudi Arabia and prospects of its depletion as a result of its overreach.

Week 11 & 12, (Final Quiz in class) Israel and Palestine. pp. 359-423.

The chances of peace in the light of Palestinian divisions and Israel's tilt to the right.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cellphones when you enter the classroom.

Please Note: Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated