

Comparative Politics of the Middle East, Pol. Sci 3408.

Instructor: Dr. Walid Kazziha,

Office hours: Sunday and Wed. 1:00-2:00, or by appointment Tues. 12:00-2:00

Office 2018, HUSS Building,

Spring 2020

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)	March 1st	35%
Quiz #1 (35 minutes)	April 5th	30%
Quiz #2 (25 minutes).	May 6th	25%
Final In-class Exam (15 minutes).	May 13th.	10%

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 (49->)

All exams and quizzes will be in the form of Multiple-Choice questions.

Make Ups

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, or in multiple choice format).

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, as well as the recent introduction of "Trump's Peace Plan".

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or his 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.

The Teaching Assistant is available to help students to locate the reading assignments, and explain some aspects of the readings and lectures. HE IS NOT THE INTERMEDIARY between the students and the instructor, and does not represent the instructor or speak in his name unless announced clearly by the instructor. Students should communicate directly with the instructor, whenever they need his assistance, and should consult with him directly in any matter related to their absence from the course or problems of a personal or academic nature they face in the course.

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 remove all cellphones when you enter the classroom.

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

"ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Students are expected to commit to the principles of academic integrity.

Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another persons' work as one's own, using Internet or other sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, etc.

Plagiarism for assignments and/or reports may result in a zero grade for the assignment and/or the report in question. Cheating during an examination may result in a zero grade for this examination. Further action, according to university regulations, would also be implemented.

You should be aware that all written work might be submitted to “[Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com)”, the detection prevention software. By signing this syllabus, you will acknowledge that you have understood that any detected plagiarism will have to be reported.

The University's statement on academic integrity, from which the above statement is drawn, is available at <http://www.aucegypt.edu/academics/integrity/Pages/default.aspx>