POLS 3408: Comparative Politics of the Middle East

Spring 2021 (ONLINE COURSE)
School of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Department of Political Science
3 credit.

Instructor: Dr. Walid Kazziha
E-Mail: wkazziha@aucegypt.edu
Online office hours: Sunday and Wednesday 1:00-2:00 pm. (Via Zoom)

Methods of Communication in This Course:
Since this is an online course two major methods of contact will be employed:
a) Zoom meetings for the purpose of all class discussions, and the Instructors' lectures.
b) E-Mail messaging between students and instructor. Instructor will respond within 24 hours to messages received from students.

Course Description:
This course seeks to introduce the students to the basic historical events, and the political processes, which have led to the emergence and development of political entities in the modern Middle East.
A select number of Middle East political systems will be examined to identify the commonalities as well as the disparities among the peoples and countries of the region. 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 Learning Outcomes:
Upon completing the requirements of the course students will be
1. Enabled to identify the various categories of political systems in the Middle East, and the basic differences among these categories.
2. Equipped with appropriate tools of analysis that would allow them to recognize the political and strategic specificities that distinguish the Middle East, from other regions of the world.
3. Qualified to construct arguments, evaluate governments political performance, critique leaders actions, and synthesize political events in the Middle East.

Course Material, Required Readings: (available to students via email)
1. Textbook, Ismael, T.Y., and Ismael, J. S., Government and Politics of the Contemporary Middle East: Continuity and Change, 2nd edition, Routledge, (2015)
2. Online Films and Documentaries which the Instructor will share with the students via Zoom.

Recommended but not required readings:
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 Pappe, The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine, 2009.

Course Content:
The course will be roughly divided into two parts:
1. The first part will examine the various historical phases which led to the emergence of the modern state system in the Middle East.
2. Part two will focus on the study of specific states in the Region with emphasis on those that are representative of various categories of political systems in the ME.

Calendar of the Course:
Part 1:
Lecture 1, January, 31, 2021
Introductory lecture by the Instructor to explain the course paradigm.

Lecture 2, Feb. 3
Lecture by the Instructor on the evolution of some Middle East political entities in the context of Ottoman Reform. First phase.

Lecture 3, Feb 7
Discussion of readings: The Burden of History: from Empire to Nation States, pp. 23-55, and pp. 59-75.

Lecture 4, Feb. 10
Lecture by the Instructor: The separation of Arabia, Sudan, and Libya under sectarian tribal leaderships in the remote peripheries of the Ottoman State.

Lecture 5, Feb 14
Discussion: the First World War and the emergence of new states in the Arab East under the Mandatory Powers.

Lecture 6, Feb. 17
Lecture by the Instructor: Three Understandings: Hussein-McMahon Correspondent, Sykes-Picot Agreement, and the Balfour Declaration.

Lecture 7, Feb 21
Lecture continued.

Lecture 8, Feb 24
Discussion of the reading authored by Eugene Rogan: The Emergence of the Middle East into the Modern State System.

Lecture 9, Feb 28
Lecture by E. Rogan on YouTube: https://youtu.be/pyKoqjFD9TU

Lecture 10, March 3
Review Session for the midterm.

Lecture 11, March 7
MIDTERM TAKE HOME QUESTIONS EMAILED TO STUDENTS AT 10:00 am TO BE COMPLETED BY 6:00 pm, on March 7

Part 2: Iran, Syria, and Lebanon.

Lecture 12, March 10
Discussion of The Legacy of Islam: Continuity and Change, pp. 75-98, in Ismael.

Lecture 13, March 14
Lecture by Instructor: The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Rise of a Shii Arc of power in the Middle East.

Lecture 14, March 17 (International Day possibly no classes)
Discussion of the reading assignment: Textbook: The Islamic Republic of Iran, pp 146-225.

Lecture 15, March 21
BBC documentary: The Iranian Revolution. Shared with students via zoom.

Lecture 16, March 24
Closing lecture on Iran by the Instructor: Iran's Regional Role: Saudi Arabia, and Israel.

Lecture 17, March 28
.BBC documentary: The Syrian Civil War. Shown via Zoom screen sharing

Lecture 18, March 31
Review session, in Zoom meeting, in preparation for the second exam.

SECOND TAKE HOME EXAM DUE FOR SUBMISSION ON April 4, by 6:00 p.m. students will receive the exam by email at 10:00 a.m.
Students should prepare for this second exam by studying the assigned readings the chapter on Iran, in addition to the lectures, documentary, and Zoom meetings discussions.

Lecture 19, April 7,
Lecture by Instructor: The Syrian Arab Republic, Assad Regime 1970-2000

Lecture 20, April 11
Lecture by Instructor: Bashar Assad, and the Eruption of the Civil War, 2000-2020

Lecture 21, April 14
Discussion of the assigned Chapter on Syria in Textbook by T. Ismael. pp 303-351.

Lecture 22, April 18
Lecture by Instructor on the Lebanese Confessional System.

Lecture 23, April 21
Lebanon, Discussion assigned reading: Chapter on Lebanon by Ismael.

Lecture 24, May 5
Lecture by Instructor, Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Lecture 25, May 12
Discussion based on the reading in Ismael's, chapter on Israel and Palestine, pp. 359-423

Lecture 26, May19
STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE BY EMAIL THE QUESTIONS OF THE FINAL EXAM ON THE LAST DAY OF CLASSES, May 19, AND WILL SUBMIT THEIR ANSWERS BY 6:00 PM, ON THAT SAME DAY.

Requirements of the course:
Students in the course are required to complete the following tasks:
1. Participate in all Zoom meeting discussions and read the assignments in preparation for each meeting. 10%.
2. Complete the first Midterm take home exam on March 7, worth 30% of the total grade.
3. Similarly students are expected to hand in the second midterm take home exam (30%) on April 4.
4. The final take home exam (30%) will be due for submission on May 19.

All take home exams will be submitted on time to the Instructor via email.

Assessment	# of Instances	% of Overall Grade
Participation in Discussions in Zoom Meetings	1	
Take Home Exams	3	90% (30% each)

Grading Scale

A (95-100)
A- (90-94)
B+(86-89)
B (81-85)
B- (78-80)
C+(75-77)
C (71-74)
C- (68-70)
D+(63-67)
D (60-62)
F (0-59)

University Policies:

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all online lectures and interact. This will ensure that students have completed the relevant course lectures and readings. Students are also expected to engage with other students via the discussion threads and the online class sessions.

Academic Integrity Policy:

AUC academic fraud and dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following categories:
o cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, obtaining unfair advantage, unauthorized access to academic or administrative systems, aiding and abetting, impersonation, threatening harm, and copyright infringement.
o For more elaboration about AUC academic integrity policy, please check the following link Academic Integrity:
o https://documents.aucegypt.edu/Docs/Policies/AUC%20Accepta ble%20Use%20Polic y.pdf
o https://documents.aucegypt.edu/Docs/Policies/Code%20of%20E thics.pdf
o https://documents.aucegypt.edu/Docs/about_Policies/Reformatt ed%20disability%20p olicy.pdf

Online Course Requirements:

Students are responsible for the following:
For students to do well in this course they must keep up to date with the online lectures, missing even one lecture can cause students to be confused in future lectures. This is not a self-paced course, students are expected to participate in the online discussion sessions via Zoom, as well as read other student's responses when placed on email. I strongly urge you to check your emails on a daily bases. Your contribution must be insightful and reflect a depth of understanding in the subject matter.

Online Course Components:
This course has several required online components. Students are responsible for completing the reading material in a timely manner, listen to the lectures sent to you via email, or recorded on cloud by the Instructor in Zoom. Participate in class activities, as well as attend all the Zoom lectures.

Course Navigation:
All class material and relevant information will be available and delivered on Email, including the syllabus as well as any readings or instructions outlined by the Instructor.

Netiquette Guidelines:
Communication is very important in this online course. In order to maintain a positive online environment for our class, we all need to follow the netiquette guidelines summarized below.
All students are expected to:
1. Show respect for the instructors and for other students in the class.
2. Express differences of opinion in a respectful and rational way.
3. Maintain an environment of constructive criticism when commenting on the work of other students.
4. Stay on topic when involved in group discussions or other collaborative activities.
5. Be careful when using acronyms. If you use an acronym it is best to spell out its meaning first, and then put the acronym in parentheses afterward, for example: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). After that you can use the acronym freely throughout your message.
6. Use good grammar and spelling, and avoid using text messaging shortcuts.

Information and Technology Literacy:
Off-Campus library access:
The university library website is lib.aucegypt.edu. When you access one of our libraries' subscription databases from off-campus, you will be directed to a "proxy-screen" which asks you for a username/password to identify you as an AUC Community member. Once you enter your AUC username and password (details below) you will be directed to the database.

Technology requirements:
Students will need Internet access and a PC computer or a Macintosh with the latest version of a web browser. Students can access Blackboard/ Moodle anywhere Internet access is available. There are some guidelines to follow that will make the learning experience much more productive. Below are some recommendations:
• Firefox Web or Google Chrome browser are the browsers that work best with Blackboard and Moodle.
• If wireless connectivity problems are encountered, it is best to switch to a hardwired connection

Services for students with disabilities:
If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disabilities Services during the first few days of the semester. More information can be found at https://www.aucegypt.edu/student/well-being/disability-services

Student Resources Centers
University Writing Center:
Provides a place where all University students, faculty, and staff are welcome to discuss their writing with trained writing consultants. The AUC serves online students. More information can be found here, https://www.aucegypt.edu/academics/mohamed-taymour-writing-and-communication-center/writing-center-reservation-system

University Career Center Services:
The American University in Cairo's Career Center offers a variety of services to help students and graduates identify their career goals and paths, as well as gain work experience while studying at AUC.
https://caps.aucegypt.edu/students/index.htm