

POLITICAL SCIENCE 227  
Middle East Politics/Society/INTST  
Instructor: Dr Iraj Paydar  
Winter Quarter 2012

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We are delighted to have you study Middle East Politics/Society this quarter. This class meets for lectures Monday – Friday 11:30am – 12:20am. You are required to fully participate in the discussions. There will be no make-up exams, except under exceptional circumstances. The final exam will be given only as the schedule indicates, and exceptions will be made only under special circumstances. Prior to such requests, the student must have had good attendance and class participation. Please refrain from talking to your friends during the lecture hours. Anyone who is engaged in such behavior will be asked to leave the class. Anyone who misses class, has not read the materials, and/or has not done the homework will get 1 point off his/her total points, students who are four minutes or more late to class, the same will apply.

**Required Text:**

Joseph N. Weatherby, The Middle East and North Africa, Longman, 2002.

**Recommended Text:**

Anderson, Roy, Politics & change in The Middle East: Sources of Conflict & Accommodation, Prentice Hall, 2008

Davidson, Lawrence, A Concise History of the Middle East, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, Westview Publishing, 2004

Palmer Monte, The Politics of the Middle East, Thomson, 2007

Hussain 20 hair, Global Islamic Politics, Longman, 2003

Roskin Michael, Politics of the Middle East Cultures and Conflicts, Prentice Hall, 2008

Barnstone, Tony, Literatures of the Middle East, Prentice Hall, 2002

Kamrava Mehran, Democracy in The Balance: Culture & Society in the Middle East. Chatham House, 1998

Watt, Montgomery, Islamic Political Thought, Edinburg University Peress, 1998

**Course Description:**

The Middle East is an important region due to its vast oil reserves and strategic values, as well as for its rich cultural heritage. This course entails a discussion of two major elements which have shaped the current Middle East: the Islamic religion as a socio-economic and political force and European power politics of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and more recently United States involvement in the area. An in-depth analysis of different governmental structures and revolutionary movements will be undertaken. Problems of modernization, stability and intra-regional conflicts and terrorism will be discussed.

**Course Requirements:**

Students must read the required text, attend classes, participate in class discussions, take two essay exams with identifications, complete one project paper and a group presentation.

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will have attained knowledge and understanding of Middle East Politics and will be able to discuss orally and in writing the following topics:

1. Traditional cultures of the Middle East
2. The foundation of Islam
3. The political legacy of Islam
4. Western imperialism
5. State system
6. Economic change/modernization
7. Political elites (analysis)
8. International relations/modern Middle East
9. Revolutions in the Middle East
10. Analysis and perspective of different governmental structures in the Middle East
11. Terrorism: inside and out

**Specific Course Outcomes:**

1. Active participation in course discussions
2. Group participation to analyze lecture materials and assigned chapters
3. Presentation of topics with clarity
4. Reading maps, charts and figures
5. Understand the historical concepts terms and events
6. Understand the social political economic impact of historical events that have taken place
7. Positive student interaction and respect of on another.
8. Students will learn activity, think critically, communicate with clarity and interact in a diverse and complex environment.

**Grading:**

First mid-term	25%	
Second mid-term	25%	Project Paper
Final mid-term	25%	
Presentation	25%	

**Grading is not on a curve. The following point scale will apply:**

A	= 93 – 100	C+	= 77 – 79	D-	= 60 – 62
A-	= 90 – 92	C	= 73 – 76	F	= 59 and below
B+	= 87 – 89	C-	= 70 – 72		
B	= 83 – 86	D+	= 67 – 69		
B-	= 80 – 82	D	= 63 – 66		

### **TOPICAL OUTLINE**

Week 1	Middle East Geography	Ch – 1 Weatherby
Week 2	The Geostrategic Middle East & North Africa	Ch – 2 Weatherby
Week 3	The Politics of Religion in The Middle East & North Africa	Ch – 3 Weatherby
Week 4	<b>First Mid-Term</b> The Politics of Culture in The Middle East & North Africa	Ch – 4 Weatherby
Week 5	The Politics of Islamic History, Colonialism, and Nationalism in the Middle East and North Africa	Ch – 5 Weatherby
Week 6	The Politics of Issues	Ch – 6 Weatherby
Week 7	<b>Second Mid-Term</b>	
Week 8	Some Final Thoughts for Americans About Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	Ch – 7 Weatherby
Week 9	Special Topics: Iran	Lecture
Week 10	Turkey & Egypt	Lecture
Week 11	<b>Final Exam</b>	

*Please read the attached policies of the Social Science Division.*

## **SUMMARY OF RULES OF CRITICAL THINKING**

1. Engage in active information acquisition.
2. Be suspicious of individuals' self-reports of their own attitudes.
3. Don't jump to conclusions.
4. Beware of tautologies, or truisms.
5. Remember that correlation is not the same as causation.
6. Avoid over-simplification by considering alternative explanations.
7. Go beyond the obvious: discover what variables create the observed phenomenon.
8. Poke holes in all arguments, even your own.
9. Realize what your value judgments are.
10. Attempt to conquer your biases.
11. Define your terms.
12. Beware of prescriptive arguments.

## ORAL PRESENTATION CRITIQUE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC: \_\_\_\_\_

**Key: 1 = Needs Improvement; 3 = Average; 5 = Excellent**

1. <u>Nonverbal Signals</u> (eye contact, general confidence level, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	_____
2. <u>Voice Quality</u> (very effective delivery, talking too fast, slowly, softly, loudly, monotone, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	_____
3. <u>Preparation</u> (organized information, notes, practiced, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	_____
4. <u>Level of Interest Presentation</u> Created (audience involvement, creativity, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	_____
5. <u>Content of Information &amp; Analysis, Audio/Visual Display</u>	1	2	3	4	5	_____

## OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF PRESENTATION:

1. Strengths:

2. Weaknesses:

**Current U.S. – Middle East Politics Reading list:**

Aruri, Naseer 2003 *Dishonest Broker: The US Role in Israel and Palestine*. South End Press, Cambridge.

Carothers, Thomas & Ottaway, Marina 2005 *Uncharted Journey: Promoting Democracy in the Middle East*. Carnegie Press, Washington.

Cordesman, Anthony & al-Rodhan, Khalid 2006 *Iran's Weapons of Mass Destruction: The Real and Potential Threat*. CSIS, Washington.

Crawford, John 2005 *The Last True Story I'll Ever Tell*. Penguin Publishing, New York.

Diamond, Larry 2005 *Squandered Victory: The American Occupation and the Bungled Effort to Bring Democracy to Iraq*, Times Books, New York.

Esposito, John L. 2002 *Unholy War: Terror in the name of Islam*. Oxford University Press, New York.

Hedges, Chris 2003 *War is a Force that gives Us Meaning*. Anchor Books, New York.

Johnson, Chalmers 2004 *Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire* Owl Books, New York.

Khalidi, Rashid 2005 *Resurrecting EMPIRE: Western Footprints and American's Perilous Path in the Middle East*, Beacon Press, Boston.

Langton, Christopher (ed.), 2005 *The Military Balance 2005-2006*, International Institute for Strategic Studies, Routledge, London, (Volume 105, Number 1).

Lifton, Robert Jay 2003 *Superpower Syndrome: America's Apocalyptic Confrontation With the World*. Nation Books, New York.

Patai, Raphael 2002 *The Arab Mind*. Hatherleigh Press, New York.

Ross, Dennis 2004 *The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Publishing, New York.

Roy, Oliver 2004 *Globalized Islam: The Search for the New Ummah*. Columbia University Press, New York.

Sneh, Ephraim 2005 *Navigating Perilous Waters: An Israeli Strategy for Peace and*

*Security*. Routledge Curzon Press, New York.

Stevenson, Jonathan 2003 *Strategic Survey 2002/03*, International Institute for Strategic Studies, Oxford University Press, London.

Stevenson, Jonathan ed. 2004 *Strategic Survey 2003.04*, International Institute for Strategic Studies, Oxford University Press, London.

Woodward, Bob 2002 *Bush At War*. Simon & Schuster, New York.