

# **POLS/INTST 227 – Middle East Politics and Society**

**Item# 5368 or 5299 Winter 2018**

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Office Hours: Fridays from 8-9 or by appointment

Class Times and Location: Daily from 9:30-10:20B-237

**Course Structure:** This is a project-based learning course meaning lectures are limited and more time will be spent working on projects and conducting research.

In class lectures, discussion, and activities with required reading and out of class research. All readings, assignment guides, and other information will be posted on the **Canvas site** for the class. This site will be active so please be sure to check it frequently.

**Course Description:** Entails an understanding of Islam as a fundamental socio-economic and political force, the European power of politics of early centuries, U.S. involvement in the region, comparative analysis of governments, political cultures, economic development, regional conflict and terrorism.

## **Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

- Identify the causes and assess the consequences of major economic, social, political, and cultural developments in the Middle East
- Articulate the geopolitical importance of the Middle East in relation to foreign powers and assess the role of Western colonial powers in shaping the modern Middle East
- Compare and contrast diverse viewpoints and articulate well-reasoned arguments regarding contemporary political, economic and social issues in the Middle East
- Use the comparative method as an analytical tool to better understand similarities and differences among countries and cultures in the Middle East
- Explain the foundation of Islam and its impact on the political, social, and economic development of the modern Middle East
- Explain the roots of extremism in the Middle East and its impact on political, economic, and social development

## **Grade Requirements:**

Participation	50 pts
Weekly Reflections	100 pts
Weekly Discussion posts	100 pts
Simulation	50 pts
Cultural Poster	100 pts
Country Poster	100 pts
Policy Memo/Research Poster	100 pts
<b>Total:</b>	<b>600 points</b>

## **Course Assignments:**

**Attendance and Participation** - This course is designed to be an experiential learning course meaning we will be using class time to actively learn the material. Attendance and participation are an important part of learning the material and building important skills. Activities include: short writing assignments, short group

presentations, group discussions, video recordings, simulations, debates. Students are permitted to miss class without penalty for approved activities including school trips, religious holidays, and extended illness. Failure to attend 85% of classes (missing more than 10 days of class) and/or to participate in class activities will result in a 0/50 points.

**Weekly Reflection** – Each week students will submit a one page reflection and response to a prompt. Responses should reference at least one of the readings and a point or discussion from class. Each reflection is worth 10 points – 5 points for referencing readings and 5 points for referencing class material. Please note – these are reflections and should be your thoughts on the material covered. More precise guidance is available in the assignments on Canvas.

**Weekly Discussion Post** – Each week students will locate an interesting article, video, etc. related to the MENA region and post it to the discussion group, along with 3-4 sentences on what you took from the source or what you found interesting or providing critical analysis. Each post is worth 10 points – 5 for posting something relevant and legitimate and 5 for giving a short statement about the material.

**Simulation** – Towards the end of the course, we will simulate a negotiation amongst different actors in the MENA region over a contentious issue. Students will represent countries and spend two days negotiating with one another in an attempt to reach some kind of resolution or agreement. Attendance is mandatory for both days of the simulation and students will submit a negotiating plan and a reflection.

**Cultural Poster** – As part of this course we will be working with the Arab Culture Student Association at Bellevue College to provide cultural information for an Arab Culture Night. Students will select an artist, art form, or art tool (instrument, material, etc.) to research and create a short information poster about. Details can be found in the assignment on Canvas.

**Country Poster** – Each student will select a country from the MENA region to research and create a poster which will include information on the political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of the country. Details can be found in the assignment on Canvas.

**Policy Memo/Research Poster** – Each student will select an issue of interest to research, formulate an opinion about, and write a short policy memo outlining that opinion. Students will then convert their memos into posters which will be displayed as part of a poster session during the last week of class. Students may work in teams, but must each complete their own research and submit their own work to receive credit. Details can be found in the assignment on Canvas.

### **Required Text:**

There is no required textbook for this course - all readings and video links will be made available on the Canvas course site.

If you are unfamiliar with the recent history of the region, please consult Cleveland, William and Marin Bunton. 2012. *A History of the Modern Middle East (Fifth Edition)*. Cambridge, MA: Westview Press – I have copies in my office and at the library.

### **Course Rules:**

1. **Attendance** – **students are expected to attend all classes.** I will take attendance on a daily basis and you will receive points for attending and participating in the in-class activities.

2. **Cell phones and computers are not permitted during class** other than during designated times, unless you have accommodations from the DRC.

3. I reserve the right to assign additional readings that are not initially listed in the syllabus.

4. **Late assignments** are not accepted unless discussed with the instructor AHEAD OF TIME.

5. Students will participate in group work and discussions. There will be class discussions, projects, and peer reviews which will take place in smaller groups. Students are expected to participate in group activities, contribute to group production, and maintain a civil and open learning environment. **\*\*Offensive** language, comments or actions will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from the class and possible disciplinary action. We will design class discussion rules as a group during the first week of class.

6. We will be discussing violence in its various forms which will include sensitive topics. Please contact me if you are concerned about any of the topics covered in the class.

7. **Affirmation of Inclusion** - Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

8. The **Disability Resource Center** serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact [asn@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:asn@bellevuecollege.edu) or 425.564.2764. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125. Autism Spectrum Navigators (Links to an external site.)

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at Disability Resource Center (Links to an external site.)

9. **Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity** - Cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at [http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050\\_Student\\_Code.asp](http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp)

10. **Public Safety and Emergencies** - Public Safety is located in the K building and can be reached at **425-564-2400** (easy to remember because it's the only office on campus open 24 hours a day—2400). Among other things, Public Safety serves as our Parking Permits, Lost and Found, and Emergency Notification center. Please ensure you are signed up to receive alerts through our campus alerting system by registering at <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/alerts/?ref=footer> If you work late and are uneasy about going to your car, Public Safety will escort you to your vehicle. To coordinate this, please phone ahead and let Public Safety know when and where you will need an escort. Please familiarize yourself with the emergency postings by the door of every classroom and know where to go in the event of an evacuation. Your instructor will be asked if anyone

might still be in the building, so check in before you do anything else. Emergency responders will search for anyone unaccounted for. **If a major emergency occurs, please follow these two rules: 1) Take directions from those in charge of the response** -We all need to be working together. **2) Do not get in your car and leave campus (unless directed to)** - Doing so will clog streets and prevent emergency vehicles from entering the scene. Instead, follow directions from those in charge. Please do not hesitate to call Public Safety if you feel safety questions or concerns at any time.

**11. Academic Calendar** - The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- Enrollment Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/deadlines/>. On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- College Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/holidays/0910.asp>. This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

## **Class Schedule**

(Check Canvas daily for updates and announcements – All readings and assignment due dates are posted on Canvas)

### **Week 1 – Introduction (Jan 2-5)**

*Topics to be covered:* introductions, Orientalism, myths/stereotypes of the region, Islam, methods of analysis and critical thinking

*Readings:* Andersen, Roy R., Robert F. Seibert, Jon G. Wagner. 2007. *Politics and Change in the Middle East, Eighth Edition*. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall. Chapters 2-4

### **Week 2 – The State System and Monarchies (Jan 8-12)**

*Topics to be covered:* imperialism and the mandate system, colonialism and confronting post-colonial development, independence movements, nationalism, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, western intervention and influence, Mukhabarat, elites, leadership styles

*Readings* - Rogan, Eugene. "The Emergence of the Middle East into the Modern State System" in Fawcett, Louise. 2013. *International Relations of the Middle East*, Third Edition. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.

Also - Gelvin, James L. 2011. *The Modern Middle East*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press – chapters 13 and 14.

### **Week 3 – Non-Monarchies – Republics, Theocracies, Ethnocracies, Democracies (Jan 15-19)**

*Topics to be covered:* democratic principles and practices, theocracy, ethnocracy, party systems, religion and the state, connections to the west, coalition politics, voting demographics, Iranian Revolution

*Readings* – Bruno, Greg. "Religion and Politics in Iran." June 19, 2008. Council on Foreign Relations.

<https://www.cfr.org/background/religion-and-politics-iran>

White, Ben. February 5, 2012. "Is Israel a Democracy of Ethnocracy?" *The New Statesman*.

<https://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-staggers/2012/02/jewish-state-citizens-israel>

Cupulo, Diego. "The Decline and Fall of Turkish Democracy," April 13, 2017. *The Atlantic*.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/04/turkey-referendum-erdogan-kurds/522894/>

Selections and data from the Arab Barometer - <http://www.arabbarometer.org/>

**No Class – Monday, January 15**

### **Week 4 – The Arab Spring (Jan 22-26)**

*Topics to be covered:* non-violent protest, civil resistance movements, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Libya, Bahrain, US and Russian intervention, transitional justice mechanisms, social media and technology

*Readings* – Defronzo, James. 2015. "Social Movements and Revolutions." *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Gelvin, James L. 2017. "The Arab Uprisings and the Fallout." *The New Middle East: What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Youngs, Richard, 'From Transformation to Mediation: The Arab Spring Reframed,' *Carnegie Europe Paper*, March 2014, <http://carnegieeurope.eu/2014/03/20/from-transformation-to-mediation-arab-spring-reframed/hb5b#>

Film viewing – "The Square" on Netflix

### **Week 5 – Human Rights, Minorities, and Women (Jan 29 – Feb 2)**

*Topics to be covered:* human rights norms and practices, minority status including - Christians, Kurds, Yazidi, Bahai, women's movements and agency, refugee status and rights

*Readings:* Worrall, Simon. "Minority Religions in the Middle East Under Threat, Need Protection," October 24, 2015. *National Geographic Online*.

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/10/141026-yazidis-middle-east-iraq-islamic-state-religion-world-ngbooktalk/>

Tripp, Charles. 2013. "Body Politics: Women's Rights and Women's Resistance," *The Power and the People*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Wright, Robin. "War, Terrorism, and the Christian Exodus from the Middle East." *The New Yorker*, April 14, 2017. <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/war-terrorism-and-the-christian-exodus-from-the-middle-east>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights - <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

Film viewing – "Wadjda"

### **Week 6 – Civil Conflict and Terrorism (Feb 5-9)**

*Topics to be covered:* civil conflict, terror tactics, bargaining, security dilemma, rational actor, commitment problems and signaling, third party intervention, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Israel-Palestine, First and Second Intifadas, Gaza, Fatah-Hamas, PLO, Hezbollah, ISIS, al Qaeda

*Readings:* Smith, Charles D. 2010. *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York, NY: Bedford/St. Martins Press. Chapters 9-10.

Byman, Daniel L. "The Islamic State's Long-term Threat to the Middle East." July 28, 2017. Brookings Online. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/markaz/2017/07/28/the-islamic-states-long-term-threat-to-the-middle-east/>

Bahgat, Gawdat. *The Journal of Social, Political, and Economic Studies; Washington* Vol. 32, Iss. 2, (Summer 2007): 163-179

**No Class – Thursday, February 8**

Guest Speaker – Dr. Ellis Goldberg, University of Washington

### **Week 7 – Interstate Conflict and Peacemaking (Feb 12-16)**

*Topics to be covered:* third-party intervention, peacebuilding, negotiation, mediation, Iran-Iraq, Iraq-Kuwait, Israel – Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, United Nations, Arab League, US involvement, Russian involvement

*Readings:* Huntington, Samuel P. "The Clash of Civilizations." *Foreign Affairs* Summer 1993 (72, 3), pgs. 22-49.

Kamrava, Mehran. 2005. *The Modern Middle East*. Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press. Chapters 4-7

Film Viewing – "The Gatekeepers"

### **Week 8 – Political Economy (Feb 19-23)**

*Topics to be covered:* Gulf Cooperation Council, oil economy, trade patterns, liberalization, capitalism, OPEC, US involvement and interests

*Readings:* Cammett, Melanie and Ishac Diwan and Alan Richards and John Waterbury, eds. 2015. *A Political Economy of the Middle East*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Ch. 1, pgs. 1-33.

Ulrichsen, Kristian Coates. "The Political Economy of Arab Gulf States." May 8, 2015, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy.

Owen, Roger. "One Hundred Years of Middle Eastern Oil." January 2008. Crown Center for Middle East Studies.

Guest Speaker – Dr. Kristian Ulrichsen, University of Washington

**No Class – Monday, February 19**

### **Week 9 –Globalization and Sustainability (Feb 26 – Mar 2)**

#### **Required Attendance – Thursday and Friday for simulation**

*Topics to be covered:* globalization, environment, water, health, sustainability and development projects in the Gulf

*Readings:* Asser, Martin. September 2, 2010. "Obstacles to Arab-Israeli Peace: Water." BBC News online.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-11101797>

Hiltermann, Joost. "Water Wars? Lessons from the Middle East and North Africa." August 28, 2016.

International Crisis Group. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/gulf-and-arabian-peninsula/iraq/water-wars-lessons-middle-east-north-africa>

Barber, Benjamin. 1996. *Jihad vs. McWorld*. New York, NY: Ballantine Books. Chapters 1, 10

Film viewing – "A Siege of Salt and Sand"

**SIMULATION REQUIRED ATTENDANCE - Thursday and Friday**

### **Week 10 –Where are We Now? (Mar 5-9)**

*Topics to be covered:* Jerusalem status, Gulf standoff, Syrian civil war, Yemen civil war, Libyan civil war, ISIS status and Iraqi recovery, water policy with Israel, refugee crisis, Turkey, Saudi-Iranian competition, US role in the region

*Readings:* TBD

Guest Speaker: Dr. Faten Ghosn, University of Arizona (skype presentation)

**No Class – Tuesday, March 6**

### **Week 11 – Presentations (Mar 12-16)**

Assignments: Final country poster, final policy memo, final research poster