International Politics of the Middle East

POLI 4059, Section 1  
Fall 2013

Course Location: Stubbs Hall, Room 116  
Course Time: TR, 12:00 pm – 1:20pm

Instructor’s Name: Sam Rohrer  
Contact: srohre1@tigers.lsu.edu

Office Hours  
Location: Stubbs Hall, Room 309  
Time: TR, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Course Description & Objectives

The class begins with a discussion of the varying perspectives and challenges associated with studying the Middle East through the lens of international relations. This will be followed by a discussion of the Ottoman Empire its collapse and the creation of the contemporary Middle East. Thereafter, the presentations and discussions will focus on the key issues and actors which shape contemporary international, regional and national politics in the Middle East. Specific areas of emphasis will include oil politics, the “Arab Spring,” identity and Islam, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the role of the US and EU in the Middle East.

Required Books


Suggested Books


Additional Material Provided via Moodle

Select journal articles and book chapters related to course lectures will be made available as .pdfs on Moodle.

Instructor’s Bio

- **Academic Interests:** Terrorism, modern maritime piracy, and non-democratic governments
- **General Interests:** Electronic gadgets, travel, cooking, baseball (St. Louis Cardinals) & football (St. Louis Rams, although the Saints are a pretty constant back up team.)

Weekly Lesson Plans

Lesson plans will be delivered as a series of PowerPoint presentations. These presentations will be customized to include information from multiple sources in addition to the assigned material. The presentations will not be posted prior to class. They will be made available to the class within one week after each section has been completed.

Course Requirements

Final grades will be based on several components:

- **Participation** – Students are expected to participate in class lectures, discussions, and activities in an active and constructive manner. It is difficult to earn participation points in a class you are not regularly attending. Participation will make up 10% of your overall score.
- **Quizzes** – Unannounced quizzes will be given after a topic has been covered in class. These quizzes are intended to reinforce material as we progress through the semester. There is no set number of quizzes that will be given. Your quiz scores will make up 10% of your overall score.
- **Response Papers** – Each student will be required to complete a series of response papers over Mehran Kamrava’s, *The New Voices of Islam*. This text includes material from influential contemporary Muslim thinkers ranging from moderate religious thinkers to political reformers and feminists. Each student will complete summaries over seven chapters from the text. These should include personal perspectives as well as comparisons to material you have been exposed to in previous international relations and comparative politics courses. This assignment will be collected mid-semester. Please include a table of contents and works cited for additional material used. This largely self-paced portion of the course will be worth 20% of the overall score.
• **Book Review or Literature Review** – Each student will complete a book review of a notable political science text addressing a salient issue in the Middle East, or a literature review over a topic relating both to international relations and the Middle East. These projects will be approximately 10-15 pages in length. This project will be discussed in greater length in the first few weeks of the course and will be worth 20% of your overall grade.

• **Midterm Exam** – The midterm will require students to identify the states and capitals included in a broad definition of the “Middle East.” Students will also be expected to be familiar with material covered up to the exam. This component of the course will be worth 15% of your overall score.

• **Final Exam** – The final exam in this course will be worth 25% of your overall score.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review or Literature Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>**Total:</td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Important Semester Dates**

- September 2 (Monday) – Labor Day Holiday
- September 4 (Wednesday) – Final date for dropping courses without receiving a grade of “W”
- September 5 (Thursday) – Final date for adding courses for credit and making section changes
- October 24 (Thursday) – Fall Break begins
- October 28 (Monday) – Classes resume 7:30 am
- November 8 (Friday) – Final date for dropping courses, 4:30 pm
- November 8 (Friday) – Final date to request rescheduling a final examination when three examinations are scheduled within 24 hours.
- November 27 (Wednesday) – Thanksgiving Break begins
- December 2 (Monday) – Classes resume, 7:30 am
- December 4 – 8 (Wednesday – Sunday) – Concentrated Study Period
- December 9 – 14 (Monday – Saturday) – Final Exam Week
## Course Schedule

| Semester: Fall 2013  16 Weeks  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August 26th – December 3rd</th>
<th>Lecture Topics and Readings</th>
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</table>
| **Week 1:**  
| August 26-30  | T - Syllabus Review & Course Introduction  
|               | R – No Class – APSA |
| **Week 2:**  
| September 2-6  | T – Research Problems and Issues of Boundaries  |
|               | **Reading:**  
|               | • Davison, Roderic. 1960. Where is the Middle East? ([Moodle](#))  
|               | • Gerges, Fawaz. 1991. The Study of Middle East International Relations: A Critique. ([Moodle](#))  
|               | • Ozlap. Osman. 2012. Where is the Middle East? The Definition and Classification Problem of the Middle East as a Regional Subsystem in International Relations. ([Moodle](#))  
|               | **Suggested Reading:**  
|               | • Anderson, Lisa. 2004. Scholarship, Policy, Debate and Conflict: Why We Study the Middle East and Why It Matters ([Moodle](#))  
|               | • Keddie, Nikki. 1973. Is There a Middle East? ([Moodle](#))  
|               | **R – Population, Economy and Political Geography**  |
|               | **Reading:**  
|               | • Richards and Waterbury. 2007. A Political Economy of the Middle East. Ch. 3 & 4  
| **Week 3:**  
| September 9-13  | TR – The Ottoman Empire  
|               | • Introduction to the Ottoman Empire  
|               | • The Ottomans and World War I  
|               | **Useful Reading After the Course:**  
|               | • Fromkin, David. 2009. A Peace to End All Peace  
|               | • Finkel, Caroline. 2007. Osman’s Dream: The History of the Ottoman Empire  
|               | • Brownworth, Lars. 2009. Lost to the West: The Forgotten Byzantine Empire  |
| Week 4:  
| September 16-20 | TR — End of Empire / Redrawing the Map  
| | • States by decree  
| | • States by the sword  
| | • Interwar through World War II  
| | **Reading:**  
| | • Gelvin, James. 2011. The Modern Middle East: A History. Ch. 11-13 (Moodle)  
| | • Kamrava, Mehran. 2011. The Modern Middle East. Ch. 2 (Moodle)  
| | **Useful Reading After the Course:**  
| | • Fromkin, David. 2009. A Peace to End All Peace  
| | **Directions for book reviews and literature reviews.** |

| Week 5:  
| September 23-27 | TR — Modern Middle East (I)  
| | • World War 2 through the 1970s  
| | • Authoritarianism, Democracy, and the Military  
| | **Reading:**  
| | • Cleveland and Bunton. A History of the Modern Middle East. Ch. 14, 15 |

| Week 6:  
| September 30-October 4 | TR — Modern Middle East (II)  
| | • 1970s – 1990s  
| | • Islam, Revolution & Oil  
| | **Reading:**  
| | • Cleveland and Bunton. A History of the Modern Middle East. Ch. 18, 20, & 21  
| | **Suggested Reading:**  
| | • Richards and Waterbury. 2007. A Political Economy of the Middle East. Ch. 11 |
| Week 7: October 7-11 | **TR – Israeli Conflicts**  
- Arab-Israeli Wars  
- Egypt and Israel  
- Palestinian-Israeli Conflict  

**Reading:**  
- Cleveland and Bunton. A History of the Modern Middle East. Ch. 13, 17, 19, & 22  

**R –** Response papers for Kamrava, Mehran (2006) are due. |
| --- | --- |
| Week 8: October 14-18 | **T – Flex Day**  
**R –** Midterm |
| Week 9: October 21-25 | **T – Flex Day**  
**R –** No Class – Fall Break |
| Week 10: October 28-November 1 | **T – Regional Sources of Instability and Conflict**  
**Reading:**  
- Kamrava, Mehran. The Modern Middle East. Ch. 10-11 *(Moodle)*  
- Richards and Waterbury. 2007. A Political Economy of the Middle East. Ch. 6  
- Waltz. Ken. 2012. Why Iran Should Get the Bomb – (When reading, also think about offensive realist and various liberal positions.) *(Moodle)*  

**R – Oil Politics**  
**Reading:**  
- Fawcett, Louise. 2013. International Relations of the Middle East. Ch. 5 *(Moodle)*  
- Ross, Michael. 2007. Oil, Islam, and Women *(Moodle)*  
## Week 11:
November 4-8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T – Non-Democratic Governance and Political Legitimacy</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Competitive Authoritarianism</td>
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*Useful Reading After the Course:*

- Brownlee, Jason. 2007. Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization
- Gandhi, Jennifer. 2010. Political Institutions Under Dictatorship
- Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2010. Competitive Authoritarianism

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<th>R – Arab Spring</th>
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*Reading:*


## Week 12:
November 11-15

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<tr>
<th>T – The United States in the Middle East</th>
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*Reading:*

- Fawcett, Louise. 2013. International Relations of the Middle East. Ch.16 *(Moodle)*

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<tr>
<th>R – The European Union in the Middle East</th>
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*Reading:*

- Fawcett, Louise. 2013. International Relations of the Middle East. Ch.17 *(Moodle)*

*Literature reviews or book reviews are due.*

## Week 13:
November 18-22

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<tr>
<td>• Group Presentations</td>
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## Week 14:
November 25-29

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<tr>
<td>• No Class - Thanksgiving Break</td>
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## Week 15:
December 2-7

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<tr>
<td>• Group Presentations</td>
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<th>R</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• No Class – Concentrated Study Period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16:</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9-13</td>
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| Final Exam:                      | Friday, December 13th 10:00am – 12:00pm |
Course Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A grade of A involves a level of performance that is completely excellent in the factors indicated in the definition of B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A grade of B indicates a higher level of performance than the satisfactory standard defined for a grade of &quot;C.&quot; It involves excellence in some aspect of work, such as completeness, accuracy, detail of knowledge, or effective independent work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>A grade of C represents a satisfactory level of performance which can be expected of any student who gives a reasonable amount of time, effort and attention to the work of the course. Such satisfactory performance should include familiarity with the concept of the course as shown by an acceptable mastery of the information, concepts of skills involved and regular participation in the work of the class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A grade of D indicates below standard performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>A grade of F indicates an unacceptable level of performance.</td>
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Assignment Policy

The instructor reserves the right to change the listed assignments. Students will receive a revised syllabus if the listing of course assignments changes.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. The student is expected to attend all classes. A student who finds it necessary to miss class assumes responsibility for making up examinations, obtaining lecture notes, and otherwise compensating for what may have been missed. The course instructor will determine the validity of a student’s reason(s) for absences and will assist those students who have valid reasons and documentation.

Valid documentable reasons for absences include:
1. Illness
2. Serious family emergency
3. Special curricular requirements such as judging trips or field trips
4. Court-imposed legal obligations such as subpoenas or jury duty
5. Military obligations
6. Serious weather conditions
7. Religious observances
Disability Code

The Office of Disability Services assists students in identifying and developing accommodations and services to help overcome barriers to the achievement of personal and academic goals. Services are provided for students with temporary or permanent disabilities. Accommodations and services are based on the individual student's disability-based need. Students must provide current documentation of their disabilities. Students should contact the office early so that necessary accommodations can be arranged. ~ LSU General Catalog

Late Work

Late work should be avoided. Having said this, I realize that, “life happens” and you may not always be able to submit your work on time. I will accept one unexcused late assignment at a deduction of 10% for each day it is late. Any additional unexcused late assignments will receive a deduction of 20% for each day they are late. If an assignment is not available, or incomplete, on the date it is due it will be considered late.

Academic Integrity

The following is the Louisiana State University’s official statement on academic integrity:

Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give an unfair academic advantage to the student... (Sec. 5.1, C. of the LSU Code of Student Conduct).

For more specific information see the following website: http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/AI.htm

Plagiarism and Citation Method

As a student at LSU, it is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. In this class, it is recommended that you use Chicago style. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. One tool available to assist you in correct citations is the references function in Microsoft Word. This program automatically formats the information you input according to the citation method you select for the document. This program also has the ability to generate a reference or works cited page for the information you input. The version of Microsoft Word with these added features is available in most University computer labs.

Expectations of Written Work

All papers are to be college level papers. They are expected to be typed, spell-checked and grammar checked, well written with a logical flow of thought, and correctly cited.
Group work and unauthorized assistance

All work must be completed without assistance from a classmate or group, unless explicitly stated by the professor. This is critical so that the professor can assess individual performance on each assignment. If a group or partner based project is assigned, the student may still have individual work to complete. Read the syllabus and assignment directions carefully. When in doubt, e-mail the instructor or ask during class. Seeking clarification is the sole responsibility of the student. Assuming group or partner based work is okay without permission constitutes a violation of the LSU Code of Student Conduct.