

Winter 2006  
Political Science 2004: Politics and Violence in the Middle East  
University of Missouri at Columbia

Instructor

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Office Hours: W 1:00-3:00 p.m. (or by appointment)

**Course Outline**

This class will introduce you to the politics and international relations of the Middle East. Specifically, we will cover interstate crises, ethnic conflicts, terrorism, political reform and governance in the region. Area studies require an extensive knowledge of the history of the region studied. Part one of this course covers a brief history of the modern Middle East mainly focusing on the twentieth century. In part two, we will concentrate on some key issues, such as the Arab-Israeli wars, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, terrorism, democratization, security and political economy of the region. This is followed by part three, where the very recent conflicts, including the Iranian nuclear program, and their influence on the future of the Middle East will be discussed.

You will also learn about the political systems and domestic political issues of ten important Middle Eastern states. Our focus will be the most challenging issues to these governments, such as democratization, control of violence and economic development. You will be required to work within small groups to give a presentation about one country from the region, beginning from the third week. This exercise will help you studying state-of-the-art literature on the country you will choose.

By examining these issues and countries you will gain a comprehension of how politics, important actors and international relations function in the modern Middle East.

**Readings and Required Textbooks**

The assigned readings for each week are listed in the course schedule below. There is a reasonable amount of readings for each week. Therefore, please do keep up with the readings each week. This class will be far more rewarding for you if you do so. Reading the material every week will enable you to be more engaged while listening to lectures and contributing to discussions. Both your exam and participation grades will be positively affected by reading the material on a regular basis and prior to class.

Please buy the following textbooks:

*The Middle East*. 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2005. (**Hereafter TME**)

Fawcett, Louis. *International Relations of the Middle East*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005. (**Hereafter IRME**)

There will be a package of readings available at the Ellis Library Reserve. Please copy those readings at the beginning of the semester and return them to the librarian on time. Do not lose or destroy pages of the articles.

### **Course Requirements**

Two Quizzes (Each 4%)	8%
Midterm Examination	25%
Final Examination	30%
Country Presentation and Paper (Each 12.5%)	25%
Classroom Participation	12%
Extra Credit Assignments (Each 1.5%)	4.5%

### **Exams and Quizzes**

There will be two examinations: a midterm and a final. These exams will be in-class exams and include both essay and short answer type questions. The final will be cumulative. I will provide study guides for both exams a week before the test dates. There will be two quizzes testing your knowledge on geography and the history of the region. I recommend that you work diligently for these quizzes, because your understanding of the geography and history of the region will increase your success in this class.

### **Country Presentation and Paper**

Groups of two or three students are expected to give a 30-minute presentation on a Middle Eastern country at some point in the semester. Each presentation should include a brief introduction to history, demographics and economy of the country. Following this introduction, the presentation should address the country's current political system, the problems associated with it and the reform attempts to solve these problems. There will be an addendum to this syllabus that explains the precise requirements for the presentations.

These presentations will be accompanied by a 10-12 page (double-spaced) country report. A lottery will be drawn to determine what country you will present in our January 20 session.

**Please make sure to back up all of your computer files. Do not turn in your only copy of any assignment.**

### **Attendance and Participation**

Your progress in this class is highly dependent on your perfect attendance and extensive participation in the class discussions. Therefore, participation constitutes a substantial part of your grade (12%). Only health and family emergencies will be accepted as excuses for absences. Random attendance will be taken throughout the semester, especially when your classmates give a presentation.

Perfect attendance with no participation will also result in a low grade.

### **Extra Credits**

You can earn up to 4.5% extra credit in this class by writing a one-page (typescript and double-spaced) analysis for each video presentation. The material in the video presentations will be included in the exams; therefore, it is essential to attend class during the presentations and take notes, even if you do not plan to submit an extra-credit assignment.

### **Grading Scale**

The grading scale is as follows: A (93-100); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D+ (67-69); D (63-66) D- (60-62); F (< 60).

### **Make-up Policy**

No make-up examinations will be granted without a university-approved excuse to miss a scheduled exam or quiz. In cases of severe illness or deaths in the family, I require proof (e.g. a signed doctor's note and an explanation on the doctor's letterhead describing why you cannot take the exam; obituaries; e-mails from your academic advisor explaining the specific situation). Make-up exams will be possible only if you contact me *in advance* by e-mail and provide me with the appropriate document. There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences. Also, I usually require a research paper as a replacement of a make-up exam.

The same rules apply to your presentations.

### **Accommodation for Disabilities**

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, please notify me immediately. Efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs. Also, keep in touch with the Office of Disability Services, A038 Brady Commons, 882-4696.

## **Classroom Etiquette**

I expect you to observe all rules of proper classroom conduct to provide an appropriate environment conducive to learning by all:

1. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers. No calls, incoming or outgoing, or text messaging are allowed.
2. Please refrain from talking, eating or other disruptive activity during class;
3. Please come to class on time and do not leave early; if you must do so, let me know beforehand and please sit near the door so your exit will be less disruptive. Unpunctuality will result in a lower participation grade.
4. Please do not read newspapers or any other publications in the classroom. Also, please do not play games or surf on the web when you use a laptop computer.

## **Policy on Academic Honesty**

The academic work of all students must comply with all policies that appear in the [Undergraduate Catalogue](#). (Also read: [http://registrar.missouri.edu/Policies\\_Rules\\_and\\_Regulations/dishonesty.htm](http://registrar.missouri.edu/Policies_Rules_and_Regulations/dishonesty.htm)).

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following: cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possession of examinations, unauthorized changing of grades. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult the course instructor.

## **Office Hours**

My office hours are noted at the first page of this syllabus. If those hours are inconvenient for you, i.e. you have a class then, please make an appointment with me. The fastest way to make an appointment with me is via email.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Part 1: History of the Region**

#### **Week 1: Introduction and Early History**

January 18: Introduction

January 20: Geography of the Middle East  
Origins of Islam and the Islamic Empires

Readings: TME Chapter 6

#### **Week 2: The Middle East until 1945**

January 23: Ottoman Empire's Legacy

January 25: World War I and Dissolution of the Ottoman Empire (1914-1923)  
The Colonial Administrations in the Interwar Period (1923-1939)

January 27: World War II and Independence

**Note: You will take a geography quiz this day.**

Readings: IRME Chapter 1  
IRME Chapter 13, p.p. 283-290.

#### **Week 3: The Cold War**

January 30: Non-alignment Movement: Egypt, Syria, Iraq and the Soviet Union

February 1: Turkey and Iran during the Cold War

February 3: Country Analysis and Presentation: Iran

Readings: IRME Chapter 2  
IRME p.p. 290-305  
TME Country Profile, Iran, p.p. 241-264.

#### **Week 4: Post-Cold War**

February 6: Gulf War I

February 8: Terrorism and Gulf War II

**Note: You will take a history quiz this day.**

February 10: Country Analysis and Presentation: Iraq

Readings: IRME Chapter 3  
TME Country Profile, Iraq, p.p. 265-280.

## **Part 2: Issues and Important Actors**

### **Week 5: Arab-Israeli Wars**

February 13: Partition of Palestine: Hashemite Jordan and Israel

February 15: Arab-Israeli Wars

February 17: Country Analysis and Presentation: Israel

Readings: TME Chapter 2  
TME Country Profile, Israel, p.p. 281-304.

### **Week 6: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

February 20: The Rise and Fall of the Oslo Peace Process

February 22: Extra-Credit Movie Presentation: Palestine. British Movietone Television.  
2002.

February 24: Country Analysis and Presentation: Palestinian Administration (or the State  
of Palestine)

Readings: IRME Chapter 11;  
Husain, Mir Zohair. 2006. "Palestine" in *Islam and Muslim World*.  
McGraw-Hill Publications.

### **Week 7: Terrorism and Political Violence in the Middle East 1**

February 27: Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Terrorism 1

March 1: Theoretical Approaches to the Study Terrorism 2

March 3: Country Analysis and Presentation: Syria

Readings: TME Country Profile, Syria, p.p. 403-420.  
Hoffman, Bruce. 1998. "Defining Terrorism." *Inside Terrorism*.  
Columbia University Press.

## **Week 8: Terrorism and Political Violence in the Middle East 2**

March 6: Religion and Terrorism

Extra-Credit Movie Presentation: In the Name of God: Holy Word, Holy War.  
DISC and 3BM, UK. 2002.

March 8: Case Study: Hezbollah

March 10: Country Analysis and Presentation: Lebanon

Readings: TME Country Profile, Lebanon, p.p. 333-354.  
Sedgwick, Mark. 2004. "Al-Qaeda and the Nature of Religious  
Terrorism." *Terrorism and Political Violence*. (Winter 2004).

## **Week 9: Terrorism and Political Violence 3**

March 13: Case Study: Ethnic Conflicts and Terrorism: Kurds and the PKK

March 15: Democracy and Terrorism

March 17: Review Session for Midterm

Readings: Lewis, Bernard. 2005. "Freedom and Justice in the Modern Middle  
East." *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2005, Vol. 84, Issue 3, pp. 36-51.

Gause III, F. Gregory. 2005. "Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?" *Foreign Affairs*,  
September/October 2005, Vol.84, Issue 5, pp. 62-76.

## **Week 10: Midterm**

March 20: **Midterm**

March 22 and March 24: Class Cancelled.

I cannot lecture on these two days because I will be presenting a paper at the  
International Studies Association's Annual Meeting. This is a good chance for  
you to start reading the material for the following weeks.

## **Week 11 (Spring Break)**

Class Cancelled

## **Week 12: Alliances and Security**

April 3: War and Security in the Middle East

April 5: Case Study: Israeli-Turkish Alliance

April 7: Country Analysis and Presentation: Turkey

Readings: IRME Chapter 9

Husain, Mir Zohair. 2006. "Turkey" in *Islam and Muslim World*.  
McGraw-Hill Publications.

### **Week 13: Political Economy: Oil**

April 10: Oil and Domestic Politics: The Rentier State Paradigm

April 12: 1974 and 1979 Crises and the Oil Weapon

April 14: Country Analysis and Presentation: Saudi Arabia

Readings: TME Chapter 5

TME Country Profile, Saudi Arabia, p.p. 387-402.

### **Week 14: Political Economy: Oil**

April 17: Concept of Energy Security

April 19: Movie: Yes Minister. Episode 18: The Moral Dimension. TV. BBC2.  
12/2/1982.

April 21: Country Analysis and Presentation: Egypt

Readings: IRME Chapter 4;

TME Country Profile, Egypt, p.p. 221-240.

## **Part 3: Recent Issues and the Future of the Middle East**

### **Week 15: Current Conflicts and the Future of the Region 1**

April 24: Iranian Nuclear Program

April 26: Iran and the Caspian Sea Legal Regime

April 28: Country Analysis and Presentation: Jordan

Readings: TME Country Profile, Jordan, p.p. 305-320.  
(More readings TBA)

### **Week 16: Current Conflicts and the Future of the Region 2**

May 1: Future of Iraq

May 3: Kurds in the Middle East

May 5: Review for the Final Exam

Readings: TBA

**Final Exam: Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**

**\*\*\*\* This syllabus and all assignments are subject to change at any time, although none is expected at this time.\*\*\*\***