

**POSC 379**  
**THE MIDDLE EAST: POLITICS, ECONOMICS, AND AMERICAN POLICY**  
**FALL 2008**

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This course is designed as an introduction to the domestic politics of the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, specifically the region from Morocco to Iran. Because the class focuses on a number of countries, we end up sacrificing depth of study for breadth. Although we will not be able to delve very deeply into the politics of every country, we will examine the broad themes that are shared throughout the region. Specifically the class will begin with the end of colonialism, the struggle for independence, and the formation of nation-states. Other themes include: the role of individual leaders; the persistence of social forces; the role of institutions; the endurance of authoritarian regimes; the reasons for economic underdevelopment; the importance of oil; the role of religion in politics; ethnicity and national identity, with emphasis on the Palestinians and the Kurds; the prospects for democracy, the role of the United States in the region, and the pressures for political change.

#### **REQUIREMENTS**

Your main responsibility will be to have completed all of the required reading prior to class. Additionally, you are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions, especially in the current events segment (more information on this below). Informed, quality participation is necessary during discussions, group work, etc. It is essential that you come to class having done the readings, and ready to talk about them -simply being present does not guarantee you a high participation grade.

Your grade will be based on class participation and attendance, a short analytical essay, a midterm, a paper based on Charles Tripp's book *A History of Iraq*, and a final exam.

Class Participation	10%
Short Analytical Essay	10%
Midterm	30%
Paper on Tripp	20%
Final Exam	30%

Students are required to uphold and comply with Academic Integrity Policy of the University, which can be viewed here:

<http://www.case.edu/provost/ugstudies/acintegrity.htm>

You will need to purchase the books listed below. Other readings marked with a \* will be available on the library's course reserves.

(<http://library.case.edu/ksl/reserves/index.html>).

Mehran Kamrava, *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since the First World War*

Monte Palmer, *The Politics of the Middle East*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

Steve Cook, *Ruling But Not Governing: The Military and Political Development in Egypt, Algeria, & Turkey*

Charles Tripp, *A History of Iraq* **3<sup>rd</sup> edition** (Make sure that you purchase the 2007 edition)

Politics in the Middle East is extremely fast passed and everyday there are important events that we need to follow. To do this, I am requiring that everyone read at least one news source focused on international topics daily. Ideally you will take the time to pursue a few different media outlets and compare their coverage of the same topic. I will send out an email to the class listing recommended news sources, which includes *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Haaretz*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *Ynet*, *The Daily Star*, *Dar al-Hayat*, *Al-Ahram*, *al-Jazeera*, and more. I would encourage you to supplement your news intake by reading blogs focused on the politics in the Middle East, but you SHOULD NOT rely solely upon blogs for your news. They should only complement what you read from direct news outlets. Each class will begin with a segment devoted to discussing pertinent news from the Middle East. I will ask for students to volunteer news stories, and will then open it up to discussion. As current developments are relevant and perhaps even vital to our understanding of Middle Eastern politics, material from the news may be included on your exams.

### August 26: Introduction

1. Kamrava, Chapter 1
2. Palmer, pp. 1-12

### August 28: Concepts of Political Development and State Power

1. \*\*Max Weber, *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization*, pp. 328-373.
2. \*\*Joel Migdal, *Strong Societies and Weak States*, Chapter 1.

### September 2: End of Empire & the Emergence of Modern States

1. Kamrava, pp.35-51, 62-67

2. \*\*Joel Migdal, *Through the Lens of Israel*, Chapter 3.
3. \*\*Beverley Milton-Edwards and Peter Hinchcliffe, "Ethnic Conflict; The Forgotten Kurds," in *Conflicts in the Middle East Since 1945*.

#### September 4: Nationalism

1. Kamrava Chapter 3
2. \*\*Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, Chapter 3.
3. \*\*Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity*, Chapter 8

#### September 9: Modernizing Regimes: Turkey and Iran

1. \*\*Richard H. Pfaff, "Disengagement from Traditionalism in Turkey and Iran," *The Western Political Quarterly*, 16:1 (March, 1963), pp. 79-98.
2. \*\*Samuel Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies*, p. 1-11, 140-171
3. Kamrava, pp. 51-61

#### September 11: The Impact of War on the State

1. \*\*Steve Heydamann, "War, Institutions, and Social Change in the Middle East," only pp. 9-30.
2. Cook, Chapters 1-2

Recommended: For background on the wars which have occurred in the Middle East see Kamrava, Chapters 4 & 6.

#### September 16: Egypt.

1. Palmer, Chapter 2
2. Cook, Chapter 4

#### September 18: Lebanon

1. \*\*Itamar Rabinovich, *The War for Lebanon: 1970-1985*, Chapters 1-2
2. \*\*"Lebanon" in *The Middle East*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition
3. Stacey Philbrick Yadav, "Lebanon's Post-Doha Political Theater," *Middle East Report Online* (July 23, 2008), <http://www.merip.org/mero/mero072308.html>

#### September 23: Rentier States

#### **ESSAY DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**

1. \*\*Giacomo Luciani, "The Oil Rent and the Fiscal Crisis,"
2. \*\*Michael Herb, *All In the Family*, Chapter 10

### September 25: Conservative Monarchies

1. Palmer, Chapter 5
2. \*\* Rex Brynen, "The Politics of Monarchical Liberalism: Jordan," in Bahgat Korany, Rex Brynen, and Paul Noble, eds., *Political Liberalization and Democratization in the Arab World* Vol. 2
3. Jillian Schwedler, "Don't Blink: Jordan's Democratic Opening and Closing," *Middle East Report Online* (July 3, 2002),  
<http://www.merip.org/mero/mero070302.html>

### September 30: Turkey

1. Palmer, Chapter 8
2. Cook, Chapter 5

### October 2: Syria

1. Palmer, Chapter 4
2. \*\*Raymond Hinnebusch, *Syria Revolution From Above*, Chapter 1
3. \*\*Lisa Weeden, *Ambiguities of Domination*, Chapter 2

### **October 7: MIDTERM**

#### October 9: Iran Part I

1. Kamrava, Chapter 5
2. \*\*Ervan Abrahamian, *Khomeinism*, Chapter 1
3. \*\*Nikki Keddie, "Can Revolutions Be Predicted Their Causes Be Understood?"

#### October 14: Iran Part II

1. Palmer, Chapter 7

#### October 16: Israel I

1. Palmer, Chapter 3

#### October 21 Israel II

1. Kamrava, Chapter 7
2. \*\*Yoram Peri, *Generals in the Cabinet Room*, Chapter 16

### October 23: Palestinians & the Palestinian Authority

1. \*\*Glenn Robinson, *Building a Palestinian State*, Chapter 7
2. \*\*Yezid Sayigh, "Inducing a Failed State in Palestine," *Survival* Vol. 49, No. 3 (September 2007)

### October 28: The Prospects for Democracy

1. \*\*Eva Bellin, "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East," *Comparative Politics*, (Jan. 2004)
2. \*\*John Walterbury, "Democracy Without Democrats?: The Potential for Political Liberalization in the Middle East,"
3. \*\*Raymond Hinnebusch, "Authoritarian Persistence, Democratization Theory and the Middle East: An Overview and a Critique," *Democratization*, Vol. 13, No. 3 (June 2006)
4. Cook, Chapter 6
5. Kamrava, Chapter 10

### October 30: The United States in the Middle East

1. \*\*Michael C. Hudson, "The United States in the Middle East," in Louise Fawcett, ed., *International Relations of the Middle East*
2. \*\*Tamara Coffman Wittes, *Freedom's Unsteady March*, Chapter 5
3. \*\*Olivier Roy, *The Politics of Chaos in the Middle East*, pp. 33-52.

### November 4: North Africa

1. \*\*William Quandt, *Between Ballots and Bullets*, Chapter 1
2. \*\*Russell Hardin, "Group Identification"

### November 6

Movie: The Battle of Algiers Part I

### November 11:

Movie: The Battle of Algiers Part II

### November 13: Iraq

**Tripp Paper Due at the Beginning of Class**

November 18: Iraq Part II

TBA

November 20: Political Islam

1. \*\*International Crisis Group, "Understanding Islamism," *Middle East/North Africa Report* No. 37 (March 2, 2005).
2. \*\*Gilles Kepel, *The Trial of Political Islam*, Introduction

November 25: Political Islam Part II

1. \*\*Mohammed M. Hafez, *Why Muslims Rebel*, Chapter 1
2. \*\*Mona El-Ghobashy, "The Metamorphosis of the Egyptian Muslim Brothers," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 37 (2005)
3. \*\*Ihsan Dagi, "Turkey's AKP in Power," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (July 2008)
4. \*\*Jillian Schwedler, "Democratization, Inclusion, and the Moderation of Islamist Parties," *Development*, Vol. 50, No. 1 (2007).

December 2: Economic Development & Challenges Facing the Region

1. Kamrava, Chapters 8 & 9
2. \*\*David Waldner, *State Building and Late Development*, Chapter 1

December 4: Conclusions

December 10: Final Exam 12:30-2