International Politics of the Middle East - V53.0760
New York University
Fall 2005
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 – 12:15 PM
Silver Building Room 411

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Course Description:

This course is intended as an introduction to politics in the Middle East and therefore provides a general overview of some of the chief issues of contemporary Middle Eastern politics. Consequently, it will examine the interplay of numerous factors that help us to better understand and to critically analyze the Middle East. These include the impact of colonialism, nationalism and nation-state formation, regional crises, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the politics of oil, Islamism, democratization, political economy, globalization, and human rights, etc. Special attention will be given to the historical and contemporary interaction between the Middle East and the United States, the “West,” and the “East.”

The purpose of this course is to discuss the international relations of the Middle East within the larger context of theories on international relations. One central question concerns whether or not IR theoretical literature can account for the behavior of Middle Eastern states and/or whether the study of these cases demands a reevaluation of the literature in the field. The theoretical objective of this course is to demonstrate the political interrelationship between regional political change and international political conflict. Its empirical aim is to give the student the opportunity to develop a deeper comprehension of the exogenous and endogenous factors in the evolution of Middle Eastern politics whose interaction produced the nature of the system of political relations which exist there today.
Requirements:

Students are required to attend each class and to read the syllabus selections assigned for each class session. Students are required to read the appropriate selections on time since the lectures will serve merely as outlines for the readings. Students are responsible for all readings on the syllabus, regardless of whether or not we cover all of the assigned readings. There may be changes to the syllabus during the semester and students are responsible for these changes. If you miss class, you are responsible for finding out what you missed, including handouts, announcements, etc.

Since the topics are generally controversial and multi-faceted, students are encouraged to raise important issues in class and to make comments on the readings. While the class is large, I encourage students to engage in class discussions. There are no right or wrong positions on these issues and the classroom will be an arena of toleration for conflicting viewpoints. I will randomly call on students in class to answer questions about the readings. Class participation will be worth 10% of your overall grade.

Students will also be given a mid-term and a final exam. These exams will be in-class, composed of identifications and essays. The mid-term is worth 40% and the final exam is worth 50%. The exams will require students to be able to assess and critique the various theoretical arguments presented by the authors. As such, students are encouraged to take notes on the readings since they are dense and sometimes long.

Students are also responsible for reading news on the Middle East daily. At times, we will focus on issues in the news, depending on their relevance to our course readings.

REQUIRED READINGS

TEXTBOOKS:
Please purchase the latest editions of the following texts and bring them to class when they are assigned. They are available at the NYU Bookstore.


COURSEPACK:
Students must also purchase a course pack for the course, composed of a selection of chapters from various texts. It will be available at New University Copy and Graphic-11 Waverly Place. (212) 473-7369

ONLINE ARTICLES:
Please note that there will be selected articles online. Please follow the links to read the articles online. If the link is unavailable, look up the article by the full citation listed on the syllabus. For easier access to the links, view an online version of this syllabus at: http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/politics/undergrad/undergrad_list.shtml#international_politics

Remote Access to NYU Libraries and Online Sources
Students can gain access to NYU research engines through NYU Home. Log in to your account and follow the “research” links. If NYU Home is down, you can still access the library information sources from a computer system attached to NYU’s network, NYU-NET. If you would like to access NYU libraries and some of the online journals from a remote area (like home), you will need to configure your internet browser to permit full access from an external connection using NYU’s proxy server. See attachment below for detailed instructions on how to do this. It is easy. If you need assistance, contact ITS by phone at (212) 998-3333 or by email at its.clientservices@nyu.edu
Go to:
http://www.nyu.edu/its/faq/connecting/proxy.html

Middle East News Sources:


Al-Bab.com http://www.al-bab.com/ provides background information on the Arab world and links to other sources.


BBC Online Middle East coverage:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/middle_east/default.stm
Jerusalem Post, http://www.jpost.com/

The Independent Middle East coverage
http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/

Middle East International http://meionline.com/front.html online edition

Middle East Report http://www.merip.org/mer/middle_east_report.html


COURSE SECEDEULE

Introduction and Overview
Tuesday 9/6
• Lisa Anderson, “Scholarship, Policy, Debate and Conflict: Why We Study the Middle East and Why It Matters,” Middle East Studies Association Bulletin Vol. 38, No. 1 (Summer 2004)
  http://fp.arizona.edu/mesassoc/Bulletin/Pres%20Addresses/Anderson.htm

Understanding the Middle East in the Context of International Politics
Thursday 9/8
• Hinnebusch, pp. 1-13

• Stephen N. Walt. “International Relations: One World, Many Theories,” Foreign Policy no. 110 (Spring 1998), pp. 29-47, recommended only
  http://www.jstor.org/view/00157228/ap040110/04a00030/15?frame=iframe&userId=807a8104@nyu.edu/01ccee44035005017366a5&dpi=3&config=jstor

Society and Culture; Islam: Culture, State and Society
Tuesday 9/13
• Cleveland, pp 1-35
The Rise and Fall of the Ottoman Empire; Colonialism and Nationalism  
**Thursday 9/15**  
**Tuesday 9/20**  
- Cleveland, pp. 37-56, 119-132, 149-170  
- Hinnebusch, pp. 14-53

Struggle for Independence; Emergence of Nation-State System; Political Ideologies; Turbulence, Instability and Regional Wars  
**Thursday 9/22**  
**Tuesday 9/27**  
**Thursday 9/29** - documentary viewing  
- Cleveland, pp. 171-173, 175-192, 193-237, 273-274, 301-344  
- Hinnebusch, pp. 54-72  
- Janice Gross Stein, “War and Security in the Middle East” Ch. 9, pp. 195-214, in Fawcett et al. 2005 (course pack)

The Arab-Israeli Conflict; The Arab-Palestinian Conflict; State and Society Transformations; Negotiations and the Peace Process  
**Tuesday 10/4**  
**Thursday 10/6**  
**Tuesday 10/11**  
**Thursday 10/13**  
- Cleveland, pp. 239-271, 345-367, 473-517.  
- Hinnebusch, pp. 154-203  
http://lysander.ingentaselect.com/vl=11969907/cl=13/nw=1/fm=docpdf/rpsv/cw/mitpress/0 163660x/v26n3/s12/p177
http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00029300/sp040003/04x0102x/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat= Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=807a8104@nyu.edu/01cc99333c005017b1752&0.pdf

http://ft.csa.com/htbin/ids65/process_pdfrequest.cgi?an=10%2e1177%2f0967010604047528&db=sagepol%2dset%2dc&us=1105469830&ssparm=e41d10b4648a2d1739df44f0a3ca9336&issn=0967-0106


• Dennis Ross, The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace (New York: 2004), pp. 3-45. (course pack)

• Brown, Nathan, “Democracy, History, and the Contest over the Palestinian Curriculum” Prepared for Adam Institute (November 2001)


Understanding State-Building and Development in the Middle East: Distinction Between “Political Development” and “Economic Development;” Modernization and Westernization; Globalization: Challenges
Tuesday 10/18
Thursday 10/20
Tuesday 10/25
• Hinnebusch, pp. 73-90, 204-239

• Cleveland, pp. 369-395, 397-421

• Clement M. Henry, “The Clash of Globalizations in the Middle East” Ch. 5, pp. 105-127 in Fawcett et al. (course pack)


• Naomi Sakr, “Satellite Television and Development in the Middle East, Middle East Report (Spring 1999) (New York and Washington DC: Middle East Research and Information Project), pp. 6-8. http://www.jstor.org/view/08992851/di011551/01p0007o/0?frame=noframe&userID=807a8104@nyu.edu/01cce44035005017366a5&dpi=3&config=jstor


MID-TERM EXAMINATION
Thursday 10/27

Middle Eastern Context: Persistent Authoritarianism, Legitimacy Crises; Liberalization vs. Democratization; Reforms and Regional Experiments; The Islamist Dimension: Organization and Mobilization, Islam and Democracy
Tuesday 11/1
Thursday 11/3
Tuesday 11/8
• Rex Brynen et. al, “Introduction: Theoretical Perspectives on Arab Liberalization and Democratization” pp. 3-57 (course pack)

• Augustus Richard Norton, “The Puzzle of Political Reform in the Middle East” Ch. 6, pp. 131-148 in Fawcett, et al. (course pack)
• Steven Fish, “Islam and Authoritarianism” World Politics 55 (October 2002), pp. 4-37 http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/world_politics/v055/55.1fish.pdf
• Simon Murden, Islam, the Middle East and the New Global Hegemony (Lynne Reiner: 2002), pp.155-183 (course pack)

Middle East Foreign Policy: Perspectives and Dimensions; Domestic, Regional and International Considerations
Thursday 11/10
Tuesday 11/15
Thursday 11/17
• Hinnebusch, pp. 91-153
• Shibley Telhami, and Michael Barnett, Identity and Foreign Policy in the Middle East (Ithaca: Cornell University Press) 2002, pp. 1-57 (course pack)


The Politics of Oil: National and International Perspectives; The Rentier State and Economy; Oil Wealth and Development in the Middle East; Regional Stratification; The New World Order

Tuesday 11/22
Thursday 11/29

• Cleveland, pp. 451-472, 473-517

• Giacomo Luciani, “Oil and Political Economy in the International Relations of the Middle East” Ch. 4, pp. 79-102 in Fawcett et al. (course pack)

• Larbi Sadiki, “Al-la Nidam: An Arab View of the New World (Dis)order,” Arab Studies Quarterly 17 (Summer 1995), pp. 1-22 http://proquest.umi.com/pqdlink?index=0&did=8659793&SrchMode=3&sid=1&Fmt=3&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1104902747&clientId=9269&aid=1

Middle East and the “West;” The Role of the US and Great Power Competition- Contemporary Issues

Thursday 12/1
Tuesday 12/6
Thursday 12/8

• Rashid Khalidi, read whole text for discussion on 12/1


• Rosemary Hollis, “Europe in the Middle East” Ch. 14, pp. 307-326 in Fawcett et al. (course pack)


Conclusion and Review
Tuesday 12/13
• Cleveland, pp. 519-548

Final Exam:
Tuesday December 20
10 AM to 11:50 AM