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 arguments presented by the authors. As such, students are encouraged to take notes on the readings since they are dense and sometimes long.

### 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 coursepack 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](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 Schedule

Introduction and Overview
Tuesday January 18


Understanding the Middle East in the Context of International Politics
Thursday January 20

- Hinnebusch, pp. 1-13

Society and Culture; Islam: Culture, State and Society
Tuesday January 25

- Cleveland, pp 1-35

The Rise and Fall of the Ottoman Empire; Colonialism and Nationalism
Thursday January 27
Tuesday February 1

- 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 February 3
Tuesday February 8
Thursday February 10
The Arab-Israeli Conflict; The Arab-Palestinian Conflict; State and Society Transformations; Negotiations and the Peace Process
Tuesday February 15
Thursday February 17
Tuesday February 22
Thursday February 24

- Cleveland, pp. 171-173, 175-192, 193-237, 273-274, 301-344
- Hinnebusch, pp. 54-72


Understanding State-Building and Development in the Middle East: Distinction Between “Political Development” and “Economic Development;” Modernization and Westernization; Globalization: Technological Challenges
Tuesday March 1
Thursday March 3
Tuesday March 8

- Hinnebusch, pp. 73-90, 204-239
- Cleveland, pp. 369-395, 397-421
  
  
  
  
- Steven Fish, “Islam and Authoritarianism” *World Politics* 55 (October 2002), pp. 4-37
  

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**MID-TERM EXAMINATION**

Thursday March 10

**Islam and Democracy: Middle East Context; Persistent Authoritarianism; Legitimacy; Liberalization vs. Democratization; Reforms and Regional Experiments; The Islamist Dimension: Organization and Mobilization**

Tuesday March 22
Thursday March 24
Tuesday March 29

- Rex Brynen et. al, “Introduction: Theoretical Perspectives on Arab Liberalization and Democratization” pp. 3-57 (coursepack)
- Steven Fish, “Islam and Authoritarianism” *World Politics* 55 (October 2002), pp. 4-37
- Cleveland, pp. 275-300, 423-450
• Simon Murden, *Islam, the Middle East and the New Global Hegemony* (Lynne Reiner: 2002), pp.155-183 (coursepack)

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
Thursday March 31
Tuesday April 5

• Cleveland, pp. 451-472, 473-517
• 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](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 Foreign Policy: Perspectives and Dimensions; Domestic, Regional and International Considerations
Thursday April 7
Tuesday April 12
Thursday April 14

• Hinnebusch, pp. 91-153

Middle East and the “West;” The Role of the US and Great Power Competition- Contemporary Issues
Tuesday April 19
Thursday April 21
Tuesday April 26

• Rashid Khalidi, read whole text.

Conclusion and Review
Thursday April 28

• Cleveland, pp. 519-548

Final Exam:
Thursday May 5
10 AM to 11: 50 AM