

**Government and Politics of the Middle East
Political Science 45, Spring 2014**

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Time: T/Th 9:40-10:55 am **Location:** HC 214
Office Hours by appointment in Batmale 211

This course is UC and CSU transferable, meets CCSF graduation requirement in Area D (social sciences), and may be taken for a regular letter grade, pass/no pass, and honors credit.

Course Description:

This course introduces the contemporary politics of the Middle East and gives an overview of the political events and currents that have most affected the region since the fall of the Ottoman Empire. The course explores the political, historical, religious, social and economic factors that have influenced the Middle East in order to better understand the region and its people today. The legacy of colonialism, the rise and fall of Arab nationalism, the effects of the Cold War, and the geopolitical importance of the region to the US and West will be emphasized. Special emphasis will be placed on analyzing the US foreign policy and how it affects both the U.S. and the region. The course will also survey critical themes such as political Islam, democracy, roles of women, ethnic and minority rights, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the effects of globalization on the region, and 21st century revolutions. There will be in-depth case studies on particular countries to demonstrate some of these themes. Students will be encouraged to keep up with current events and developments in the region by reading newspaper articles, journals and various internet news outlets.

Required Texts:

- Avi Shlaim, *War and Peace in the Middle East: A Concise History* (Penguin Books, 1995).
- Haddad, Bassam, Rosie Bsheer and Ziad Abu-Rish Eds., *The Dawn of the Arab Uprisings: The End of an Old Order?* (Pluto Books, 2012).
- One book of your choice out of 4 that will be assigned for presentations
- Any assigned online readings and articles that are handed out in class become a part of the required readings. If you are missing a handout due to an absence or any other reason, it is your obligation to obtain a copy of the handout from the instructor or a classmate.

Participation Policy:

Students are required to come prepared, having read before each class the assigned sections of the books or articles indicated in the syllabus. Students are also expected to keep up with news and current events in the Middle East. Occasionally, there will be supplementary handouts to be read for the following class. Students are responsible for finding out about any missed assignments or readings. At times the class will take up controversial issues and students will be

encouraged to ask questions and engage in respectful discussion. The class will maintain an atmosphere of respect and tolerance at all times. Please switch your cell phones off during class. Whenever you have a point to make or a question, please raise your hand and wait for your turn. If completed in a timely manner, make-up work will be accepted only under special verifiable circumstances. Students are also required to provide and regularly check a functioning e-mail address.

Grades:

You may take this course for a letter grade or for a pass/no pass option. If you take the course for pass/no pass (P/NP) you will need to get a form from the Office of Admissions and Records and file it before the deadline. The final grade of incomplete is only given under special circumstances. Your grade for the class will be determined by the total number of points accumulated out of 300 for the following categories:

First Half of Class...	
Quizzes:	50
Mid-term Exam:	100
Second half of class...	
Presentation:	30
5 Homeworks:	25
3 Quizzes	15
Final Exam:	80
TOTAL POINTS-----	300

Quizzes and homework will be given frequently to check for completion of assigned readings and viewings as well as familiarity with lectures, discussions, and overall participation. They may not always be announced ahead of time to give you an added incentive to complete all assigned readings before you come to class. Problems of boredom both on the students' side and that of the instructor occurs when students don't come prepared on the assigned homework.

Bonus Points and Extra Credit:

In borderline situations, when a student's grade falls between two grades, the higher of the two grades will be awarded to students with high level of participation and regular engagement by making positive contributions to class discussion. Students may attend relevant events and lectures that will be announced in order to complete an extra credit assignment.

Written Work:

Students will be required to write short essay responses as part of the midterm and final exams. These are intended to encourage further research of topics and issues covered in class and are meant to be academic work, not opinions. Plagiarism will result in severe consequences, at minimum a failing grade for the semester. All written work should be submitted in the form of hard copies by the due date. We will accept reasonably late work under extenuating circumstance, but points will be deducted for late submission. In rare cases, we may accept electronic submission, but your work may end up in our spam and may not reach us, for which we take no responsibility. To avoid that situation, it is suggested that you submit a hard copy of whatever you e-mail the instructors to avoid late penalty.

Honors Option:

This course is offered with honors option. Contact Sami Kudsi at 239-3376 or in Cloud 214 for more information about filing the forms during the first month of class. Honors requirement is that you write a research paper (minimum 1200 words but usually about 10 pages with about 10 research references) on a pertinent topic of your choice. Honors work has no bearing on in the regular course work.

Dropping the class is your responsibility. Please look up the following deadlines:

- Last day to drop without a “W” notation on your transcript.
- Last day to drop (“W” will appear on the transcript).
- Last day to request pass/no pass (P/NP) grading option.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of the nations and peoples that comprise the Middle East.
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical and political significance of the Middle East.
- C. Identify major political, historical, religious, social, and economic issues and forms of government in the Middle East and North African countries.
- D. Identify the major leaders in the Middle East.
- E. Demonstrate knowledge of the major trends in the Middle East.
- F. Demonstrate an understanding of current issues and events in the Middle East.

Schedule and Reading Assignments

Throughout this course, we will be analyzing the readings and viewings to address these three interconnected topics:

1. Where we and major Middle Eastern countries are now.
2. How we and they got there.
3. What can be done to improve the situation.

PART ONE:

T 1/14	Introduction to the course content, syllabus, requirements and guidelines
Th 1/16	Avi Shlaim, <i>War and Peace in the Middle East</i> : Introduction (pages 1-9) and part of Chapter 1, “The post-Ottoman Syndrome,” pages 1-20 (middle of page)
T 1/21	Shlaim, Finish the remaining pages of Ch. 1 (20-26) and read Chapter 2: “Succeeding John Bull” 27-36
Th 1/23	Chapter 3: “America Between Arabs and Israelis,” pp. 37-59 Video: <i>Life in Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness Stories and Photos</i>

by Anna Baltzer

- T 1/28 Shlaim, Chapter 4: “Realpolitik,” 60-72
Quiz on Chs. 1 through 3 of Shlaim and on the documentary on *Life in Occupied Palestine*
- Th 1/30 Chapter 5: “Tilting Toward Iraq,” 73-88
Video: *Iraq: The Oil Factor*
- T 2/4 Shlaim, Chapter 6: “Desert Shield and Desert Storm,” 89-103
Video: *Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think*
- Th 2/6 **Flex Day. No Classes**
- T 2/11 Shlaim, First half of Chapter 7: “Madrid and After,” 104-119 (top of page)
Video: “Occupation 101” first half.
- Th 2/13 Shlaim, Finish the remaining part of Ch. 7 (pp. 119-131)
Video: “Occupation 101” second half.
Last day to request pass/no pass (P/NP) grading option
- T 2/18 Chapter 8: “Pax Americana,” 132-146
Handout: “Reflections on Exile” by Edward Said
Quiz on Chapters Four through Eight of Shlaim and on the documentaries shown
- Th 2/20 Handout: Edward Said on Orientalism
Video: “Orientalism” by Edward Said
- T 2/25 Handouts on Afghanistan
Video: *Why are we in Afghanistan?*
- Th 2/27 Handouts on Afghanistan
- T 3/4 Handouts on Pakistan
- Th 3/6 Handouts on Pakistan
Video: *Bhutto*
- T 3/11 **MIDTERM EXAM**

PART TWO:

- Th 3/13: Introduction to the 2011 Uprisings and political movements
- T 3/18: *RDG DUE: Dawn*, pages 7-27

- Th 3/20 *RDG DUE: Dawn*, pages 28-48
- T 3/25: Introduction to Tunisia
RDG DUE: Dawn, pages 49-74
Presentations assigned
- Th 3/27: **HW 1 DUE**
QUIZ 1
- T 4/1: NO CLASS
- Th 4/3: NO CLASS
- T 4/8 Introduction to Egypt
RDG DUE: Dawn, pages 75-112
- Th 4/10: *RDG DUE: Dawn*, pages 113-136
HW 2 DUE
- T 4/15: Introduction to Libya
RDG DUE: Dawn, pages 137-157
Presentations DUE
- Th 4/17: **QUIZ 2**
- T 4/22: Introduction to Bahrain
RDG DUE: Dawn, pages 159-173
Presentations DUE
- Th 4/24: *RDG DUE: catch up any missing / review readings / news updates*
HW 3 DUE
- T 4/29: Introduction to Yemen
RDG DUE: Dawn, pages 175-203
Presentations DUE
- Th 5/1: *RDG DUE: catch up any missing / review readings / news updates*
HW 4 DUE
- T 5/6: Introduction to Syria
RDG DUE: Dawn, pages 205-234
Presentations DUE
- Th 5/8: **HW 5 DUE**
QUIZ 3

T 5/13: Regional Reverberations of the Arab Uprisings
RDG DUE: Dawn, pages 235-280
Review for final exam

T 5/20: **Final exam 8-10am**

Thank you and have a great summer!