

POLITICS 3329F – 001
POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Course Outline 2017

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Office Hours: Wed 2:00-3:00
Fri 11:00-3:00

This half-year seminar course on the Middle East provides for a survey of the region and examines a few of the defining or core issues that have shaped its history and makes for its politics. The purpose and focus of the course is to provide students with an initial understanding of the complexity of the Middle East within a historical perspective of an area of the world that is currently the most perplexing hot spot in international politics. The course is also designed to help students acquire discipline in researching and writing in politics contextually and thinking critically, while recognizing the ethical dimension in an interdependent world order.

Required texts

James L. Gelvin, The Arab Uprisings.
Miltion Viorst, Storm From the East.
Dan Smith, The States of the Middle East: An Atlas of Conflict and Resolution.

Recommended texts

Amos Elon, The Israelis: Founders and Sons.
James L. Gelvin, The Modern Middle East: A History.
Bernard Lewis, The Arabs in History, and The Crisis of Islam.
Peter Mansfield. A History of the Middle East.
Jonathan Schneer, The Balfour Declaration: The Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

Course assignments/evaluation

Book review essay (1200-1500 words) due Oct. 18	- 20%
Research Essay (3500 words) due Nov. 15	- 50%
Take home assignment (last class) due by noon Dec. 7	- 30%

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE PREREQUISITES/ANTIREQUISITES

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have **not** taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be **ineligible** for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. **This decision cannot be appealed.** If you find that you do not have the course requisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help your academic record,

but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science

Notes for essays:

I. Essay (*book review*):

Book for review is either the book by Milton Viorst, Storm From the East, or the book by James A. Gelvin, The Arab Uprisings. If you have a compelling reason for reviewing another book, you need to discuss this with me soon.

Before preparing to write your book review essay (approximately 1200-1500 words or 6-8 pages double-spaced), read a few of the same regularly published in some of the major magazines and journals (e.g. *Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's*, *The Economist*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *National Interest*).

A *book review* essay in the minimum does two things – discusses the main theme of the book and how well the author has communicated his/her ideas or the subject matter s/he has explored.

A *book review* essay is **not** a research paper. It is an essay where you reflect upon the book read, and what impression it has made on you; what thoughts or connections it might have generated in your mind; what it is you found in the book to be new, important, and of interest that you might want to further explore; in other words, what is of importance or significance that you learned in reading the book and from the author.

This *book review* essay does not require any bibliography or endnotes, except at the **top of the page of your essay** you clearly **indicate the full name of the author and title of the book with publication details**. If you are quoting the author then at the end of the quote between brackets indicate the page number from where the quotation has come.

II. Research Essay

For Research Essay choose a subject (e.g. a theme, an event, a personality) and examine it analytically and historically, assessing the importance of the subject in the literature you research and why it is important in terms of influence or consequences in the politics of the Middle East.

The required length of this paper is approximately 3500 words or 12-15 pages, and in addition endnotes and bibliography (see examples below).

Examples of endnote and bibliographic citation:

C.R. Mohan, "India and the Balance of Power," in *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2006), p. 17.

K. Waltz, *Man, the State and War* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1959), p. 9.

Penalty for late paper: a flat deduction of 1.0 from the final grade of the relevant assignment.

Main themes addressed in the course

The following themes will be touched upon and discussed in class. These five themes are by no means conclusive or exhaustive, rather they are set forth to help organize the seminars and provide a context for the further study of the Middle East. Students taking the course are encouraged to choose one of the themes for their Research Essay.

I. *Geography and Politics*

II. *Arab-Islamic history and European colonial legacy*

III. *Nationalism, Religion and the modern Middle East*

IV. *Great Powers and Oil in global politics*

V. *Arab Uprisings and the “Clash of civilizations”*

A Select Brief Reading List:

- Aburish, Said K. *Saddam Hussein: The Politics of Revenge*.
Ajami, Fouad. *The Arab Predicament*.
Caplan, Neil. *The Israel-Palestine Conflict*.
Carl Brown, L. *International Politics and the Middle East*
Catherwood, Christopher. *A Brief History of the Middle East*.
Choueiri, Youssef M. *Arab Nationalism: A History*.
Corm, Georges. *Fragmentation of the Middle East*.
Denny, Frederick M. *Islam*.
Elon, Amos. *The Israelis. Founders and Sons*.
Gelvin, James L. *The Arab Uprisings*.
Goldberg, David J. *To The Promised Land: A History of Zionist Thought*.
Hopwood, Derek. *Egypt, Politics and Society 1945-1990*.
Hourani, Albert. *A History of the Arab Peoples*.
Karsh, Efraim. *Islamic Imperialism: A History*.
Kerr, Malcolm. *The Arab Cold War*.
Lewis, Bernard. *The Arabs in History*.
Lewis, Bernard. *The Crisis of Islam*.
Lewis, Bernard. *The Shaping of the Modern Middle East*.
Lochery, Neill. *Why Blame Israel?*
Maalouf, Amin. *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes*.
Marsot, Afaf Lutfi Al-Sayyid. *A Short History of Modern Egypt*.
Morris, Benny. *One State, Two States*.
Oren, Michael B. *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*.
Said, Edward W. *The Question of Palestine*.
Schneer, Jonathan. *The Balfour Declaration: The origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*.
Stephens, Robert. *Nasser*.
Stevens, Dennis G. *Challenges to Peace in the Middle East*.
Yergin, Daniel. *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power*.

Session 1 (September 13)

Introduction

Milton Viorst, Storm From the East, chapter I.

Recommended:

John M. Owen IV, "From Calvin to the Caliphate: What Europe's Wars of Religion Tell Us About the Modern Middle East," in Foreign Affairs, May/June 2015;
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/western-europe/2015-04-20/calvin-caliphate>

Salim Mansur, "Islam in the Rear-View Mirror," Gatestone Institute, New York, September 2014, online; <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/4728/islam-mirror>

Session 2 (September 20)

Geography and Politics

James L. Gelvin, The Arab Uprisings, pp. 1-10.
Dan Smith, The State of the Middle East, pp. 15-19.

C. Catherwood, A Brief History of the Middle East, chapters 1-4.
James L. Gelvin, The Modern Middle East: A History, chapter 1.
B. Lewis, The Arabs in History.
Peter Mansfield, A History of the Middle East, chap. 1 & 2.
D.G. Stevens, Challenges to Peace in the Middle East, pp. 1-9.

Sessions 3 & 4 (September 27 and October 4)

Arab-Islamic history and European colonial legacy

Dan Smith, The State of the Middle East, pp. 15-29.
Milton Viorst, Storm From the East, chapters I and II.

James L. Gelvin, The Modern Middle East: A History, chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4.
C. Catherwood, A Brief History of the Middle East, chapters 5-7.
B. Lewis, The Arabs in History.
Peter Mansfield, A History of the Middle East, chapters 5-9.
Salim Mansur, "Islam and Islamism," in Gatestone Institute, New York, July 2013 online;
<http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/3865/islam-islamism>
Dennis G. Stevens, Challenges to Peace in the Middle East, chapter 4.

Sessions 5, 6 & 7 (October 18, 25, and November 1)

Nationalism, Religion and the Modern Middle East

James L. Gelvin, The Arab Uprisings, pp. 1-33; chapter 2.
Dan Smith, The State of the Middle East, pp. 33-41; 52-69; 72-75; 80-93.
Milton Viorst, Storm From the East, chapters IV and V.

James L. Gelvin, The Modern Middle East: A History, chapters 12, 13, 14 and 18.
C. Catherwood, A Brief History of the Middle East, chapters 8-10.
F. Ajami, The Arab Predicament.
Michael J. Cohen, The Origins and Evolution of the Arab-Zionist Conflict.
David J. Goldberg, To the Promised Land: A History of Zionist Thought.
Dilip Hiro, The Longest War: The Iran-Iraq Military Conflict, chapter 1.
M. Kerr, The Arab Cold War.
B. Lewis, The Shaping of the Modern Middle East, chapters 3 and 4.
Peter Mansfield, A History of the Middle East, chapters 8 - 11.
Salim Mansur, " Hamas's Absurd War against Israel," in Gatestone Institute, New York, July
2014 online; <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/4468/hamas-war-israel>
*Jonathan Schneer, The Balfour Declaration: The Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict.
Avi Shlaim, The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World.
Dennis G. Stevens, Challenges to Peace in the Middle East, chapters 3, 4, 5 and 8.

Documents:

Balfour Declaration

UN General Assembly Resolution 181 of November 1947

(<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/038/88/IMG/NR003888.pdf?OpenElement>)

UN Security Council Resolution 242 of November 1967

(http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_resolutions.html)

Arthur J. Goldberg, "Resolution After Twenty Years."

(http://www.mefacts.com/cached.asp?x_id=10159)

The Oslo Accord of September 1993

(<http://www.mideastweb.org/meoslodop.htm>)

Middle East: The Road Map to Peace

(<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east-road-map-peace/p7738>)

Sessions 8 & 9 (November 8 and 15)

Great Powers and Oil in global politics

James L. Gelvin, The Arab Uprisings, chapter 5.

Dan Smith, The State of the Middle East, pp. 42-49; 94-97; 102-105.

Milton Viorst, Storm From the East, chapter VI.

James L. Gelvin, The Modern Middle East: A History, chapters 16 and 17.

C. Catherwood, A Brief History of the Middle East, chapter 10.

G. Corm, Fragmentation of the Middle East, chapters 3 and 5.

A.A. Kubursi and S. Mansur, "The Political Economy of the Middle Eastern Oil," in R. Stubbs and G.R.D. Hill (eds), Political Economy and the Changing Global Order, pp. 313-27.

J.L. Gelvin, The Modern Middle East, part IV.

Peter Mansfield, A History of the Middle East, chapters 11 and 12.

Dennis G. Stevens, Challenges to Peace in the Middle East, chapters 1 and 2.

Daniel Yergin, The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power.

***Research Essay due November 15**

Sessions 10 & 11 (November 22 and 29)

Clash of Civilizations and the "Arab Spring"

James L. Gelvin, The Arab Uprisings, chapters 1 and 5.

Dan Smith, The State of the Middle East, pp. 98-101; 108-111.

Milton Viorst, Storm From the East, pp. 165-176.

Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" in Foreign Affairs, vol. 72, no. 3, Summer 1993, pp. 22-49;

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/1993-06-01/clash-civilizations>

Henry Kissinger, "The world in flames," The Sunday Times, 31 August 2014
<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/newsreview/features/article1452726.ece?shareToken=3b0fa02d0cb112028150d7188d6463ad>

Salim Mansur, "ISIS, Saudi Arabia, Iran and the West," in Gatestone Institute, New York, June 2015, online; <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/5956/isis-saudi-arabia-iran>

James L. Gelvin, The Modern Middle East: A History, *Introduction*, chapter 20 and *Conclusion*.

C. Catherwood, A Brief History of the Middle East, chapter 11.

Peter L. Bergen, Holy War, Inc: Inside the Secret World of Osama Bin Laden.

E. Karsh, Islamic Imperialism: A History, chapters 12 and 13.

James L. Gelvin, The Arab Uprisings.

Marc Lynch, The Arab Uprising.

Peter Mansfield, A History of the Middle East, chapters 13, 14 and 15.

Malise Ruthven, A Fury for God: the Islamist Attack on America.

U.S. Government, The 9/11 Commission Report (Authorized Version).

Denis G. Stevens, Challenges to Peace in the Middle East, chapter 9.

Lawrence Wright, The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11.

Session 12 (December 6)

Open session and final discussion.

Take Home Assignment to be returned **Thursday, December 7, by noon 12.00pm.**

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.

Students registered in Social Science should refer to

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

Accessibility at Western: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:
<http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.