

INST 4850 International Relations and Politics of the Middle East

Spring 2019

University Of North Texas

Instructor: Dr. Emile Sahliyah

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Course Description

This course introduces the students to the international relations and politics of the Middle East including critical security issues. The course consists of 3 parts:

Part 1 gives a brief survey of the rise of the state system in the Middle East and examines the crisis of authority and identity.

Part 2 explores Middle East Regional Relations and the involvement of the Middle East in the international system.

Part 3 focuses on ethnic, sectarian, religious threats, and interstate conflicts in the Middle East and the response of the great powers to these conflicts. These threats and conflicts include the rise of ISIS, instability in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the Persian Gulf wars.

Due to the political nature of these topics, there is more than one side to each of these issues. The professor will make a determined effort to avoid the discussion of these issues from a single ideological perspective and will provide opportunities for informative and critical evaluation and discussion. The quality of class discussion will depend upon the students' preparedness, interest, and their reading of the weekly assignments.

Course Requirements

Your final grade for the course consists of the following categories:

1) Class Attendance

Class Attendance Is Mandatory. Unexcused absences after the fourth absence will result in the student losing three points from the final grade for the course. Unexcused absences after the seventh absence will result in the student losing additional seven points from the final grade for the course.

Students who leave the classroom during the lecture will be treated as being absent from the class. Students should turn off their cell phones during the class.

2) Class Participation and Weekly Readings.

10% of the final grade

Class participation is mandatory and will affect your final grade. The quality of class discussion will depend upon the students' preparedness and interest.

You should read the weekly assignments and be prepared to answer questions and comment on the readings. Every week students must submit a 2-3 page summary of the main points of the weekly readings. Email your summaries to shreetishrestha@my.unt.edu

During class discussions students should also relate their weekly readings to current affairs. The weekly readings summaries will count for 10% of your final grade.

3) A Ten Page Group Policy Recommendation:

Due April 20, 2019

10% of the final grade

The professor will divide the class into 4 study groups and assign each group a policy issue. Each students' group will examine the historical background of the issue and the problems associated with the issue and offer policy recommendations of how to deal with the problems. Each policy group will have a team leader who will organize the group meetings and divide research assignment tasks among his or her team. The group leader should

submit to me bi-weekly report on the student's performance and progress in their group policy paper. He or she should also submit to me electronically the final group policy recommendations to my e-mail emile.sahliyah@unt.edu by April 20. The 4 students groups will give a class presentation of their recommendation during the 13th week of the semester.

4) Six articles Literature Review:

20% of your final grade

Each student should select two of the topics which we will study during the semester and review articles pertaining to the topics. The student has to get my prior approval for the 6 articles he or she intends to review.

During the coming 2 weeks, each student should submit electronically to me, emile.sahliyah@unt.edu, and 10 article titles including the title of the article, author, journal, date of publication, and the length of the articles. The students should select articles that are published after 2014. I will select 6 appropriate articles for the student to review. Each article should be drawn from academic scholarly journals and should be at least 10 to 15 pages in length.

Each article summary should be between 1000 to 1200 words.

You should submit the articles summaries electronically to me, emile.sahliyah@unt.edu

The first 2 article reviews are due on February 15;

The second 2 articles reviews are due on March 1;

The last 2 article reviews are due on March 20.

5) Mid Term Exam:

March 8; 30% of your final grade

6) Final Exam:

May 9, at 1:30 in the same class room; 30% of the final grade.

Both the midterm and the final exam will be based upon readings and class lectures.

Required Text books and Reading Materials

Kylie Baxter and Shahram Akbarzadeh: US Foreign Policy in the Middle East: The Roots of Anti-Americanism. Routledge

Fawcett, Louise. Editor, International Relations of the Middle East. Oxford University Press, 2016;

The readings on Canvas have the sign of *.

To access the course website:

Go to ecampus.unt.edu;

Click on login to canvas;

Sign in and then select INST 4850-001 International Relations of the Middle East Spring 2019. Click on course content and readings.

Course Outline

Part 1: Historical Background for The rise of the state system and the Crisis of Political identity and authority

Week 1: The Rise of the State System in the Middle East

Required Readings

Kylie Baxter and Shahram Akbarzadeh:

Chapter 1: “The Middle East in the Colonial Period”

Fawcett, Louise:

Chapter 2: “The Emergence of the Middle East into the Modern State System”,

Eugene L. Rogan

Recommended Readings:

Roy Anderson, "The Rise of the State System, 1914-1950"

Weeks 2 and 3: The Crisis of Identity and Authority in the Middle East

Required Readings

Fawcett, Louise:

Chapter 6: “The Puzzle of Political Reform in the Middle East”, Augustus Richard

Norton

Chapter 15: The Arab Spring. The ‘People’ in International Relations

Chapter 7: “The Politics of Identity in Middle Eastern International Relations”,

Raymond Hinnebusch

Chapter 8: “Islam and International Relations in the Middle East: From Umma to Nation State”, Peter Mandaville

Kylie Baxter and Shahram Akbarzadeh:

Chapter 4: “Islamism and the Iranian Revolution”

Recommended Readings

*Alan Richards, “Socioeconomic Roots of Middle East Radicalism.” Naval War College Review Volume: 55 Issue: 4 Washington Autumn 2002 Pages 22-38
(posted on Canvas)

*Khashan, Hilal and Kreidie, Lina “The Social and Economic Correlates of Islamic Religiosity.” World Affairs; Fall 2001, Vol. 164 Issue 2, p83, 14p (posted on Canvas)

Paul Salem. "Rise and fall of Secularism in the Arab World." Middle East Policy 4:3.

Part 2: The Regional Relations of the Middle East Countries and their involvement in World Politics

Week 4

Required Readings

Fawcett, Louise:

Chapter 3: “The Cold War in the Middle East”, Peter Sluglett

Chapter 4: “The Middle East since the Cold War: Still Insecure”, Bahgat Korany

Chapter 5: “Oil and Political Economy in the International Relations of the Middle East”, Giacomo Luciani

Week 5

Required Readings

Fawcett, Louise:

Chapter 11: “Foreign Policymaking in the Middle East: Complex Realism”, Anoushiravan Ehteshami and Raymond Hinnebusch

Chapter 9: “Alliances, Cooperation, and Regionalism in the Middle East”, Louise Fawcett

Chapter 10 Middle East Security. Continuity amid Change

Week 6 instability in the Middle East and the Great Powers: Reactions

Fawcett, Louise:

Chapter 16: “The United States in the Middle East”, Michael C. Hudson

Chapter 17: “Europe in the Middle East”, Rosemary Hollis

Recommended Readings

*Gawdat Bahgat “Prospects for a New US Strategic Orientation in the Middle East” Mediterranean Quarterly. Summer 2014. (Posted on Canvas). Part 3: Causes of Conflict.

Midterm Exam: March 8

Weeks 7 and 8: The Palestinian-Arab Israeli conflict

Required Readings

Kylie Baxter and Shahram Akbarzadeh:

Chapter 2: “Great Power Influences, Zionism and the Middle East”

Fawcett, Louise:

Chapter 12: “The Arab–Israeli Conflict”, Charles Smith

Kylie Baxter and Shahram Akbarzadeh:

Chapter 3: “Israel and the Arabs at War: Superpower Dimensions and the Israeli–US Alliance”

Fawcett, Louise:

Chapter 13: “The Rise and Fall of the Oslo Peace Process”, Avi Shlaim

Kylie Baxter and Shahram Akbarzadeh:

Chapter 7: “Israel and Palestine: the Failure to Find Peace and the Role of the United States”

Recommended readings:

*Herbert C. Kelman, “Some Determinants of the Oslo Breakthrough”

Agha, Hussein, and Robert Malley. “The Last Negotiation Foreign Affairs, 00157120”, May/Jun 2002, Vol. 81: Issue 3.(Posted on Canvas)

Weeks 9 and 10: the Persian Gulf Security,

Required Readings

Kylie Baxter and Shahram Akbarzadeh

Chapter 5: “Proxy War Superpowers in Afghanistan”

Fawcett, Louise

Chapter 14: “The International Politics of the Gulf”, F. Gregory Gause .

Kylie Baxter and Shahram Akbarzadeh:

Chapter 6: “Wars in the Persian Gulf”

Chapter 8: “The Iraq ‘Adventure’ and Arab Perceptions of the United States”

Recommended readings:

*Jeffrey Record. The Bush doctrine and war with Iraq. Parameters. Carlisle Barracks: Spring 2003. Vol. 33: Iss. 1. pg. 4; 18 pgs. (Posted on Canvas).

*Nye, Jr., Joseph S. “U S Power and Strategy after Iraq, Foreign Affairs.” Jul/Aug 2003, Vol. 82: Issue 4. (Posted on Canvas).

Weeks 11 and 12: Ethnic Conflict and the Rise of ISIS

Required Readings

*Chapter 5: “Sectarian conflict: Lebanon, state without a nation”. (Posted on Canvas).

*Chapter 6: “Ethnic conflict: The forgotten Kurds” (Posted on Canvas).

“ISIS and al-Qaeda – What Are They Thinking? Understanding the Adversary” by Bernard Haykel

* “Understanding the Strengths and Vulnerabilities of ISIS,” by W. Andrew Terril. Parameters, 2014. (Posted on Canvas).

* “Towards a Regional Strategy Contra ISIS,” By Ross Harrison. Parameters, 2014.

* “The Dynamics of Syria's Civil War” by Brian Michael Jenkins

Week 13: Group policy presentations and review for the final exam.

Week 14: Final Exam May 9 at 1:30-3:30 in the same classroom.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

International Studies adheres to and enforces UNT’s policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located at:

http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf.

Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

International Studies cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the 5 class day (beginning of the second week of classes).

POLICY ON MY LECTURES

In light of some students selling instructors' notes for commercial web usage, the following policy statements are legally binding upon you: You are not authorized to record my lectures, without express prior permission from me.