POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE MIDDLE EAST
POEC 5319/SOC 5390/PSCI 7381
FALL 2009

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Please note that I do not use WEBCT for e-mail.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is intended to be an analysis of the interplay of cultures and conflicts in the Middle East. The course will examine ancient cultures, Islam, the Arab-Israeli conflict, water politics, and the rise of the Oil Kingdoms, the Kurds, the Gulf Wars and terrorism in the name of Islam. The course will also focus on U.S. relations with a number of Middle Eastern countries including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Israel and Lebanon.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the ancient civilizations of the Middle East.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the various ethnic and religious groups in the Middle East as well as their beliefs and rituals.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the political economy of the Middle East today including oil, water, and population issues.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf Wars.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of U.S.-Middle East Relations.

REQUIRED READINGS
Plus—one more TBD. Numerous articles available in electronic format through the library’s electronic databases.
CLASS FORMAT AND INSTRUCTOR’S EXPECTATIONS
The format will be lecture/discussion with the addition of films and cultural events. The instructor of this course makes several assumptions about the students enrolled in this course. As a student in this course, you will be expected to:
1. Attend class on a regular basis.
2. Be prepared for class. The students should have carefully read the material at least once before class. Some of the lecture material will not be in the readings.
3. Participate in class. Students are expected to actively participate and will be assigned a grade for participation. If something is covered in lecture or in the readings which you do not understand, ASK A QUESTION. You will be held responsible for the assigned materials on the examinations, so it is in your best interest to ask questions.

CLASSROOM CITIZENSHIP
I expect students to be attentive during class and to actively participate in group activities and discussions. You are expected to listen respectfully to me and to other students when speaking. Racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, ageism and other forms of bigotry are inappropriate to express in this class. We will be discussing issues that require sensitivity and maturity. Disruptive students will be asked to leave and may be subject to disciplinary action.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:
Grades will be determined on the basis of the following point scale:
Two Exams each worth 200 points          400 points
Book Critique and Presentation            300 points
Journal Article Presentations             200 points
Class Participation                       200 points
TOTAL POSSIBLE                            1000 points

1. **EXAMS:** There will be TWO Examinations for the class. The Exams will be Take-Home Essays. The First will be due On October 1st and the Second will be due on December 3rd. Each exam will be worth 20% for a total of 40% of your final grade.

2. **BOOK CRITIQUE AND PRESENTATION:** Each student will select a contemporary book on the Middle East to read critique and present. The presentations will be on November 19th. The critique will also be due on November 19th. The presentation will be worth 10% and the critique will be worth 20% for a total of 30% of your final grade.

3. **JOURNAL ARTICLE PRESENTATIONS:** Each student will select two Journal articles to present during the semester. The presentations will each be worth 5% for a total of 10% of
your final grade.

4. **PARTICIPATION:** Class participation will be worth 20% of your grade. You should plan to attend class regularly, come prepared, and participate in class discussions.

The dates of exams and other assignments are indicated on the class schedule. Only extreme and unusual physical or emotional circumstances will be considered as an excuse for not completing assignments by the due date, or receiving an incomplete grade in the course. You MUST either telephone or e-mail me on the day the essays are due if you will be absent in order to discuss your situation. If you fail to take an exam or turn in a paper or assignment without reasonable excuse, you will receive a “0” for that item. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per day. No make-up exams will be given except in rare cases, with written documentation needed. Students who request incomplete grades must do so in writing by the last regularly scheduled meeting of the class.

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**
Cheating is defined as the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, using someone else’s work for assignments as if it were your own, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of the course.
Plagiarism is defined as the use of an author’s work or ideas as if they were one’s own without giving credit to the source, including but not limited to failure to properly acknowledge a direct quote or paraphrase. Punishment for cheating and/or plagiarism is outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty section of the current Graduate catalogue. Students are expected to read and understand their rights and responsibilities under the Code.
Any student in this class accused of cheating or plagiarism will be given an automatic grade of “0” (zero) on the test or assignment and will be turned over to the appropriate college authorities for possible further disciplinary action (which could include suspension or expulsion from the college). Cheating and plagiarism are very serious offenses and will not be tolerated.

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction and Overview of the Course</th>
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<td>8/20</td>
<td>Selection of Journal Articles</td>
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<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Ancient Cultures</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>Film: Islam: Empire of Faith</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Religion in the Middle East</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>Sorenson (S): chapter 2</td>
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<td>Cleveland and Bunton (C&amp;B): 1-3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Book Selection Due</td>
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| Week 4  | Water and Economic Growth and Development |
9/10  S: chapter 3, 73-83 and 87-92
      Chapter 4
      Film: Recycle
Arab Economies at a Tipping Point, Middle East Policy (MEP), SP2008, Vol15, #1, 1-18.

Week 5  Oil and the Persian Gulf
9/17  S: chapter 3, 83-87, chapters 5 and 6
      C&B: 21

Week 6  The Middle East in the Age of Nasser
9/24  C&B: 15 and 16

Week 7  The Arab-Israeli Conflict
10/1  S: Chapter 1
      C&B: Chapters 13, 17, 23
      EXAM I ESSAYS DUE
      Film: The Six Day War

Week 8  The Arab-Israeli Conflict (continued)
10/8  S: Chapters 14, 16
Can the Two State Solution be Salvaged, MEP, SP2009, Vol16, #1, 1-27.
Negotiating An Israeli-Palestinian Breakthrough, MEP, SP2009, Vol16, #1, 53-62.

Week 9  The Kurds, The Iranian Revolution, The Iran-Iraq War
10/15  C&B: Chapter 19, 415-420,
        Chapter 20, Chapter 24, 529-532
The Kurds and Iraq: The Struggle between Baghdad and Erbil, MEP, SP2009, Vol16, #1, 134-145.

Week 10  The Gulf Wars and Iraq
10/22  C&B: chapters 22, 23
      S: chapter 9

Week 11  The Middle East post the First Gulf War
10/29  Egypt and Lebanon
      C&B: chapter 24, 541-556
      S: chapters 10, 13
Film: 20 Years Old in the Middle East


Week 12
11/5
S: chapter 8
Film: Iran


Week 13
11/12
C&B: chapter 25

U.S. Policy in the Middle East

Week 14
11/19
BOOK PRESENTATIONS
BOOK CRITIQUE DUE

Week 15
11/26
NO CLASS

Week 16
12/3
U.S. Policy (continued)

This schedule is tentative and will be modified as necessitated by class discussions and outside speakers. This syllabus is the property of Meryl G. Nason and is not to be reproduced without the consent of the author.
Presentation Guidelines
Students will present their journal articles and book in class and help lead discussions. The journal articles presentation should be approximately 15 minutes and the book presentation should be approximately 20 minutes. The matrix for grading presentation is as follows:
1. Presentation/Style: (e.g. professional, well-organized, maintain eye contact with audience, speak loudly/clearly/slowly, be able to respond to questions easily, time management).
2. Content: (e.g. organized, logical flow, overview of issue provided, clear arguments, supporting information provided, use of outside research, integrate course material into the presentation).
3. Discussion Questions: (provision of stimulating and relevant question relating your articles and book to the other required readings)

Paper Guidelines
The paper is a critique of the book you select. You should be able to demonstrate a general understanding of the issues raised in the book. The object of this critique is to identify the central issues of the book. You should be able to evaluate different theories and approaches, identify the relevant assumptions, definitions, strengths and weaknesses of the book’s argument. Furthermore, you should be able to create a critical, engaged argument using the book as evidence. The paper should take into account the following questions:
1. What is the purpose of the book, what is the theoretical concern, and what concepts are developed?
2. What is being studied, i.e. what is the unit of analysis and the scope of the study?
3. How is it being studied, in terms of what variables?
4. Are the conclusions suggestive or proven? Does the data support the inference?
5. What is the book’s significance? How does it fit into the literature?
6. How does the book challenge or add to our understanding of the Middle East?
7. What are the strengths and shortcomings of the book?

Bibliography and Footnotes—Citations for both the footnotes and bibliography are to be done in accepted standard form. Please see Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers, or any other recognized writers' manual for examples of accepted standard form. Remember you need to be consistent throughout the paper. Failure to cite sources can be construed as plagiarism. It is your responsibility to comply with the University of Texas at Dallas’ standards of academic honesty. Please refer to the Scholastic Dishonesty section of the current Graduate Catalog for further information.

Paper Length-The paper should be a minimum of 10 pages in length (excluding title page and bibliography, assuming 12pt 10cpi type). I will accept longer papers. Shorter ones, however, will be downgraded. Use 1" top, bottom, left and right margins. The paper must be typed and double-spaced. Do not add extra spaces between paragraphs. Number the pages. Include a title page with your name, course title and date. Include a bibliography. You are allowed three visits per semester to the Microcomputer Lab in McDermott without paying a computer lab fee (student ID required).

Assistance—I will be available during office hours and by appointment to discuss your topic and any questions concerning your individual paper. If you have trouble writing, a writing lab is provided for your use by Student Services in SU 2.2 (883-2746). This service is by appointment and there is no fee.
Book Titles


