



ENGAGE. EXPERIENCE. EMBRACE. EDUCATE.

Study Center in Amman, Jordan

Course name:	International Relations and Diplomacy in the Middle East
Course number:	INRE 3001 JORD
Programs offering course:	Amman Language and Culture
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Fall 2017

Course Description

This course explores the international politics of the Middle East. It will survey the major historical developments which contributed shaping the modern Middle East state system; it will then examine some of the main themes characterizing the region, such as the colonial legacy, its political economy, the relation between religion and politics, gender dynamics, the impact of globalization, the role of the US in the region, the Israeli-Arab conflict, and the unraveling of and causes behind the Arab Spring. While not primarily a theoretical course, international relations theories and approaches will be introduced to help us make sense of the subjects we will be dealing with.

The course is reading intense, and it requires a commensurate level of commitment. This syllabus represents the *anticipated* scheduling of lectures/readings/assignments. Changes may be made to suit the actual composition, competencies and interests of the class.

Learning Objectives

This course aims at providing a first exposure to the international dynamics and features of the Middle East. I firmly believe there is no right or wrong answer given *a priori*: it is upon us, in our class, to come up with our own. Such answers will not be provided by the instructor: they should result from the common, democratic and participatory effort of everyone

Ultimately *what you are going to get out of the class is dependent upon what you put in it.*

At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

- Be cognizant of the historical processes that brought about the modern Middle East
- Be conversant in discussing the current predicaments and challenges of the region
- Inform such discussions within a theoretical framework
- Establish links and connections with wider, extra-regional dynamics and processes
- Start appraising, questioning and critiquing works and materials about the region



Course Prerequisites

No prerequisites.

Methods of Instruction

The course will be primarily run as a seminar. The instructor will introduce and layout the topics for each class, but lecturing will be limited. Short videos and a movie will be featuring as well. Students will be required to actively participate in the running of the class. Discussion of current events, assessment and critique of the readings will constitute the core of each session.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Attendance:	10%
2. Participation:	15%
3. Presentation:	5%
4. Midterm exam:	35%
5. Final exam:	35%

Course Requirements

Presentation

You will be expected to monitor developments in the Middle East (and the larger international arena when relevant) as they occur. At the start of each class, we will devote some 15 minutes to talk about current events. Each one of you will be in charge to present a news or event during a specific day. You shall sign up for which day you wish to present during the first day of class. Your presentation should not last more than 5 minutes and it should lead to an open discussion by posing questions to the audience. You should conclude your presentation with one or two questions (empirical or theoretical in nature) for the audience. The presentation is worth 5% of your final grade.

In order to keep abreast of developments, everyone (not just the presenter of the day) is thus required to read a daily newspaper such as *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, or *The Washington Post*. If you can read Arabic, Hebrew, Persian or Turkish, then feel free to follow a newspaper of your choice in that language as well (for a list of Middle Eastern newspapers, visit www.onlinenewspapers.com). You are encouraged to read from sources you may be less familiar with: prominent news sites such as www.aljazeera.com, <http://english.alarabiya.net>, www.jadaliyya.com are published in English. Subscribing to www.mideastwire.com or www.almonitor.com is also encouraged.



Midterm and Final exam

In class exams: you will have to answer two essay questions out of a pool of four. You will have to provide six identification answers choosing from a list of twelve terms. Each in class exam (Midterm and Final) represent 35% of your final grade (total 70%).

The essay questions will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Are you answering the question?
- Is there a clear thesis and argument?
- Is there evidence that you have done the readings?
- Is there evidence of critical, personal engagement with the topic at hand? Or are you just reiterating and summarizing the readings?
- How well are you mastering the topics we dealt with in class?
- Is the language used appropriate?

You must be in class the day of the exam. *There can be no make-up exams.*

Attendance and Class Participation

Attendance will count towards your final grade (10%).

During class lectures and discussions, we are not simply going to re-examine what the readings are about, but we are going to expand upon them. Hence, both active class participation and completion of the readings are essential. Your *mere presence* in class will not count towards evaluating participation: your *active participation* in class will. You must engage the instructor and fellow students with questions, thoughts and considerations. The more consistent, thoughtful and enriching your contribution, the more your class participation will be positively evaluated (15%).

Rules of conduct

Students are requested to maintain at all times a respectful and proper attitude towards their peers and the instructor. This includes also being in class on time (it would be preferable a few minutes before class start) and avoid premature preparation when about to leave class. Being late frequently is not accepted, as it is disruptive behavior. In both cases, I may ask you to leave the class.

Attendance to class is mandatory. Students will sign in every session. I may excuse one (1) absence over the semester; beyond that, I need documentation proving you could not be in class that day. There is no need to inform me about your absence in advance. Of course, unexcused absences will negatively impact your attendance and participation grades.

Students failing to show up for their scheduled presentation will receive an automatic F.

During the in-class examinations (midterm and final exam), no books, notes, articles, or any kind of electronic device (see below) are allowed. Copying and cheating will result in an automatic F.



No electronic devices of any kind (laptops, tablets and the likes) are allowed in class. Cell phones, in particular, must be turned off. Students failing to comply with these rules may be required to leave the classroom.

You can reach me easily via emails; however, do not expect I will be reading and answering your emails after 7pm or before 8am; and I do not reply to questions whose answer can be found in the syllabus.

I am more than happy to meet with you outside class to discuss whatever issue or problem you might have with the class. Do not hesitate contacting me.

Readings

Readings will be provided by the instructor when not available directly with online addresses indicated in this syllabus.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Introduction to class

Grant, Adam. "The Virtue of Contradicting Ourselves," NYT, Nov 14, 2015

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/15/opinion/sunday/the-virtue-of-contradicting-ourselves.html?_r=0

Video: "Talks at Google. Slavoj Zizek: Violence"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0eyNkNpL0>

Week 2

Theory and Approach: the issue of the Middle East

Video, "Said on Orientalism"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVC8EYd_Z_g

Slaughter, Anne Marie. "International Relations, Principal Theories," in Wolfrum, R. (Ed.) *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

https://www.princeton.edu/~slaughtr/Articles/722_IntlRelPrincipalTheories_Slaughter_20110509zG.pdf

Walt, Stephen. "How to get a BA in International Relations in 5 minutes." *Foreign Policy*, May 19, 2014

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/05/19/how-to-get-a-b-a-in-international-relations-in-5-minutes/>

Week 3

The Middle Eastern State System

Korany, Baghat. "Alien and Besieged yet Here to Stay: The Contradictions of the Arab Territorial State," in Ghassan Salame (ed.), *The Foundations of the Arab State*. London: Croom Helm, 1987, pp. 47-74

Gause, Gregeory. "Systemic Approaches to Middle East International Relations," *International Studies Review* 1: 1 (Spring 1999), pp. 11-31

Anderson, Benedict. Interview on Nationalism

<https://www.uio.no/english/research/interfaculty-research-areas/culcom/news/2005/anderson.html>

Week 4

The Middle East and the end of the Cold War

Korany, Baghat. "The Middle East Since the Cold War," in Fawcett, cit. (chapter 3)

Sluggett, Peter. "The Cold War in the Middle East," in Louise Fawcett (ed.), *International Relations of the Middle East*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009, Chapter 2.

Week 5

Colonialism and Imperialism

Gasiorowski, Mark "The CIA Looks Back at the 1953 Coup," *Middle East Report* (Fall 2000).

Hall, Stuart. "The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power," available at

<https://analepsis.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/hall-west-the-rest.pdf>

Kinzer, Stephen. *Overthrown. America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*, New York, Henry Hoult and Company, 2006. "Thunder Run," Chapter 13.

Week 6

The International Political Economy of the Middle East

Giacomo Luciani, "Oil and Political Economy in the International Relations of the Middle East," in Fawcett, cit. (chapter 4)

Vitalis, Robert. "Black Gold, White Crude: An Essay on American Exceptionalism, Hierarchy, and Hegemony in the Gulf," *Diplomatic History* 26: 2 (Spring 2002), pp. 185-213

Week 7

Fall Break

Week 8

Midterm

Week 9

The Middle East Quagmire

Movie: *Syriana*

Week 10

Foreign Policies: Alliances and Enmities

Walker, Martin. "The Revenge of the Shia." *Wilson Quarterly*, (Autumn 2006), pp. 16-20

Shibley Telhami and Michael Barnett, "Identity and Foreign Policy in the Middle East," in Shibley Telhami and Michael Barnett (eds.), *Identity and Foreign Policy in the Middle East*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2002, pp. 1-25

Further reading TBA

Recommended: Michael Hudson, "Arab Integration: An Overview," in Hudson ed., *Middle East Dilemma: The Politics and Economics of Arab Integration*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1999, pp. 1-32.

Week 11

Hegemony and America in the Middle East

Lustick, Ian. "The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Powers: Political 'Backwardness' in Historical Perspective," *International Organization* 51: 4 (1997), pp. 653-683

Fawaz Gerges, Gerges. *American and Political Islam: Clash of Civilizations or Clash of Interests?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999, chapters 1 & 2, pp. 1-36

Bin Laden, Usama, 'Letter to America,' available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/nov/24/theobserver>

Further reading TBA

Recommended: Mohamedi, Fareed and Yahya Sadowski, "The Decline (But Not Fall) of US Hegemony in the Middle East," *Middle East Report* no. 220 (Fall 2001)

Recommended: Obama, Barak. 'Cairo Speech,' available at <http://www.haaretz.com/news/full-text-of-obama-s-speech-in-cairo-to-the-muslim-world-1.277311>

Week 12

Religion and Politics

Huntington, Samuel. "The Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993.

Hurd, Elizabeth. "The politics of secularism and international relations," Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, *The Politics of Secularism in International Relations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008, pp. 116-133; 147-154

Ayubi, Nazih N. M. *Political Islam Religion and Politics in the Arab World*, London, New York: Routledge, 1993 pp. 1-27.

Recommended: Mahmoud Mamdani, "Good Muslim, Bad Muslim. A political perspective on culture and terrorism." *American Anthropologist*, 104:3 (2000) pp. 766-775.

Week 13

The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Smith, Charles. "The Arab-Israeli Conflict," in Fawcett, cit.

Rashid Khalidi, "The United States and Palestine," in *Resurrecting Empire*, Boston: Beacon Press, 2004, pp. 118-150

Mearsheimer, John and Stephen Walt, "The Israeli Lobby," available at <http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP06-011>

Week 14

Gender, Youth and Change in the Middle East

Enloe, Cynthia. "Wielding Masculinity inside Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo," in idem, *Globalization and militarism: feminists make the link*. Lanham, Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

Sjoberg, Laura. "Mansplaining International Relations? What Walt Misses," *RelationsInternational*, May 21, 2014, available at <http://relationsinternational.com/mansplaining-international-relations-walt/>

Further reading TBA.

Week 15

Final exam