Course Description

This course is an advanced seminar about the international politics of Middle East. It provides a broad survey of scholarly work on international conflict, the foreign policies of the Middle Eastern states, Arab-Israeli conflict, US involvement in the region, transnational Islamist movements, and the politics of oil. Throughout the seminar, we will address topics discussed by international relations and comparative politics scholars to better understand the politics of Middle East in international context. We will start with the state and society in the region and continue with the sources, manifestations, and political consequences of conflict. We will examine how religion, oil, and water lead to international conflict and how the resulting conflict shapes the political regimes. Then we will focus on the US involvement in the region followed by the study of the foreign policies of Middle Eastern states. Finally, we will also focus on transnational Islamist movements and jihad.

Unlike many other subfields in political science, the study of Middle East (international and domestic) is far from being a coherent discipline. While this may be seen as an impediment to the scientific study of the region, it also creates diverse research literatures dealing with the political phenomena. One goal of this course, therefore, is to introduce you to this rich scholarship. You will get familiar with distinct theoretical and methodological approaches dealing with the international politics of the region. In addition, this course will equip you with theoretical and analytical tools to critically evaluate the international relations of the Middle East. Finally this course aims to develop your civil discourse and writing skills through assignments and class discussions.

Responsibilities

You are expected to read all of the assigned material listed on this syllabus, and do it before the class for which they are assigned. Your full participation in the seminar is fundamental to its success and to your learning. There will be no lecturing in this class. You are expected to critically evaluate the assigned readings and carry a lively discussion. You are also responsible for completing and returning the assignments in a timely manner. I expect high quality work and integrity from all participants. This is a graduate seminar and I expect all
of you attend the meetings. Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducing 4% from your final grade. Family emergencies and documented medical conditions may qualify as excused absences. As an instructor, I will do my best to facilitate your learning. This includes being available for your questions and provide feedback about your work.

**Course Requirements**

- Research Paper=60% OR four analytical papers=60%
- Discussion Leadership= 20%
- Participation=20%
- Attendance Required

You will have the options of either writing four analytical papers or a full research paper. This component accounts for 60% of your overall grade. If you choose to write a research paper, I expect you to write a 20-30 page work of original research. The topic should be related to the content of the course; however methodological approach of the paper is your choice. It would be to your best interest to make these decisions in consultation with me. See the schedule for the deadlines related to the term papers. If you choose to write four analytical papers, each paper will account for 15% of your final grade (a total of 60%). The analytical papers should be maximum 7-8 pages, double-spaced, 12 font size. Each paper should have three sections. First, you should summarize the main questions and main arguments of the assigned readings. Second, you should provide a critical assessment of these readings by discussing their weaknesses and strengths. Third, you should provide your own thoughts about the topic. The analytical papers are due one week from the class meeting in which the topic is discussed.

Discussion leadership is 20% and participation is another 20% of your overall grade. Depending on the number of students enrolled in the seminar, you will assume the role of the discussion leader and lead the discussion in 4-5 meetings. You are expected to submit an outline and at least five discussion questions in advance about the assigned readings. The outline and questions will be due 5.00 pm the day before the discussion via email. This will constitute 50% of your discussion leadership grade or 10% of your overall grade. Your performance as a discussion leader will account for another 10% of your final grade. I expect you to start with a brief overview of the readings and then continue with the questions. In addition, your participation performance will make up the 20% of your course grade. All students are expected to participate in the class discussion. This is imperative for a lively debate and the success of the seminar.

The grading scale will be as follows:
- A: 90% or greater
- B: 80-89.99%
- C: 70-79.99%
- D: 60-69.99%
- F: Below 60%
Required Books


Raymond Hinnebusch and Anoushiravan Ehteshami, The Foreign Policies of Middle East States. Lynne Rienner Publishers

Rashid Khalidi, 2004. Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East. I.B.Tauris OR Beacon press


Alan Dowty, 2007. Israel/Palestine. Polity

Course Schedule

January 26: Introduction to the Study of Middle East Politics: International and Comparative

- Michael Barnett, “Identity and alliances in the Middle East”, in Peter Katzenstein, in The Culture of National Security

Recommended


**February 2: Understanding the State and Society in the Middle East**


**Recommended**


**February 9: Understanding the State and Society in the Middle East (cont.)**

- Roger Owen, 2004. State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East, chapters 1-6, 12


**February 16: Conflict: Oil and Religion**


Recommended


February 23: Conflict over Water


Recommended


****Two-page description of the research paper is due

March 2: Arab-Israel Conflict: Origins and History


March 9: Israel-Palestine: International and domestic political consequences


Recommended for Israeli-Palestinian Conflict


• Khalil Shikaki, “Palestinians Divided,” Foreign Affairs, January/February 2002


SPRING BREAK STARTS MARCH 16: NO CLASS

March 23: Rentier economy and its political consequences


Recommended


March 30: US and Europe in the Middle East

• Rashid Khalidi, 2004. Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East. I.B.Tauris, Chapters TBA.

April 6: US Foreign Policy and public opinion toward Middle East


Recommended


****Literature Review and the Description of Methods for the Research Paper is Due
April 13: Foreign Policies in the Middle East

- Raymond Hinnebusch and Anoushiravan Ehteshami, The Foreign Policies of Middle East States, chapter 1-6, 13.

April 20: Between East and West: Turkish Foreign Policy

- William M. Hale, 2000. Turkish Foreign Policy, 1774-2000. Routledge, Chapters TBA

*Recommended for Week 11 and Week 12*


April 27: Transnational Islamist Movements and Terrorism

- Jacob N. Shapiro And David A. Siegel. 2007. “Underfunding in Terrorist Organizations”, International Studies Quarterly, 51(2) 405 - 429

*Recommended*


May 3: NO CLASS Work on your papers

May 7: Term papers Due

*If we had time, we would have also covered the following:*

**Democratization: An Introduction**


**Controversy**

• Lakoff, Sanford A. The Reality of Muslim Exceptionalism”, ” Journal of Democracy 15(4): 130-139.


**Recommended**


**Islam in a Global Era**

