COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a review of the international politics of the Middle East. A wide array of topics will be covered including colonialism and state formation, Middle East during the cold war, US policy in the Middle East, conflict and peace, identity politics, international political economy of the region, Islam, and democratization. The course will start with the history of the Middle East starting from the state-formation in early twentieth century and it will continue with the Cold war period and beyond. Then we will turn to some themes including, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Gulf wars, democratization, international terror, and foreign policymaking. The purpose of this course is to give you a better understanding of the international relations of the region. You are expected to become more knowledgeable about the Middle East and the US involvement in the region.

Course Website

The course website is accessed through http://public.online.ksu.edu. You will have to check the course website regularly for changes to the reading assignments, the class schedule, course related documents and videos.

Reading Requirements

There is one required textbook for this course:

*Louise Fawcett, International Relations of the Middle East, 2009, Oxford University Press.*

The textbook is available at KSU Bookstore and Varney’s. You may also purchase your book online. In addition to the main textbook, there will be additional readings (book chapters or articles) during some weeks. These readings will be available online.

You are expected to check daily political news in the Middle East via online resources of your choice. The New York Times, Arabic News (http://www.arabicnews.com), Al-Jazeera English, Sharq al Awsat, Turkish Zaman, Haaretz, and Z-net (http://www.zmag.org/znet) are some online sources that I can recommend.

Structure and Student Responsibilities

Readings and Video Lectures: It is imperative that you complete the assigned readings and watch the video lectures posted to the course website. Your success depends on your preparation and interest. Family related and medical emergencies may be accepted as legitimate excuses provided that you contact me by email in a reasonable time frame.

Short Exams- Online (30%): There will be four online exams (each with 10% weight) in this course. The short exams will include true-false, short definition, and short essay questions. None of these exams will be cumulative. The exam with the lowest score will be dropped. All exams will be online. The exams will be up for three days and once you log in to take the exam, you will have to complete it.

Foreign Policy Project (35%): Each student will be assigned a country and research the foreign policy in this country. This project will teach you how foreign policy is formed in a given country, the influence of domestic politics on international relations, and the relationship of Middle Eastern countries with the major world powers. You will write an analytical paper to fulfill the requirements of
this assignment. The analytical paper should be 4-6 pages long, double-spaced with 12 font size. More 
information about this assignment will be posted separately.

Final Exam (35%): The final exam will be cumulative. The structure of this exam will be similar 
to the short exams.

Academic Honesty/ Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Kansas State University has an Honor System based on personal integrity, which is presumed to 
be sufficient assurance in academic matters and that one's work is performed honestly and without 
unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the 
jurisdiction of the Honor System. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and 
part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via 
distance learning. The honor system website can be reached via the following URL: www.ksu.edu/honor.

"Any student with a disability that needs a classroom accommodation, access to technology or 
other assistance in this course should contact Disability Support Services and/or their instructor."

Grading
Letter grades for the course will be assigned along the following scale:

A: 90% or greater  D: 60-69%
B: 80-89%             F: Below 60%
C: 70-79%

Week 1: Introduction
January 18-21:
• Get the readings, submit your questions, pick your topic for the paper.

*****Email your choice of country for foreign policy paper assignment by January 21, Friday, 5 pm

Week 2: History of Middle East
January 24-28:
• Fawcett, Chapter 1 (Rogan, The Emergence of the Middle East into the Modern State System)
• Fawcett, Chapter 2 (Sluglett, The Cold War in the Middle East)

Week 3: Middle East in Current International Relations
January 31 – February 4
• Fawcett, Chapter 3 (Korany, The Middle East Since the Cold War)
• Michael C. Hudson. 1996. “To Play the Hegemon: Fifty Years of US Policy toward the 
Middle East”, Middle East Journal, 50(3): 329-343

**Short Exam 1: to be posted Thursday (Weeks 2 and 3)

Week 4 & 5: The Arab-Israeli Conflict
February 7-18
• Fawcett, Chapter 11 (Smith, The Arab-Israeli Conflict)
• Fawcett, Chapter 12 (Avi Shlaim, The Rise and Fall of Oslo Peace Process)
• Ilan Peleg, Paul Scham, Historical Breakthroughs in Arab-Israeli Negotiations: Lessons for the 
Future, The Middle East Journal - Volume 64, Number 2, Spring 2010, pp. 215-233

Week 6: Post-cold War and the Middle East
February 21-25
• Fawcett, Chapter 13 (Gause, The International Politics of Gulf)
• Fawcett, Chapter 14 (Robins, The War for Regime Change in Iraq)
Week 7: The Political Economy of the Middle East
February 28-March 4:
- Fawcett, Chapter 4 (Luciani, Oil and Political Economy)

**Short Exam 2: to be posted Thursday (Weeks 4, 5, 6)**

Week 8: Democracy Deficit in the Middle East
March 7-11
- Fawcett, Chapter 6 (Norton, The Puzzle of Political Reform)
- Stepan, Alfred C., Robertson, Graeme B., Arab, Not Muslim, Exceptionalism, Journal of Democracy - Volume 15, Number 4, October 2004, pp. 140-146

Week 9: Politics of identity
March 14-18
- Fawcett, Chapter 7 (Hinnebusch, The Politics of Identity...)

Week 10: SPRING BREAK *****NO CLASS******

Week 11 and 12: Islam, International Relations, Terrorism
March 28-April 8
- Fawcett, Chapter 8 (Mandaville, Islam and International Relations...)
- Read, “Battle for Muslims’ Hearts and Minds: The Road Not (Yet) Taken”, 2007 by John Esposito, and Dalia Mogahed, Middle East Policy, 14(1): 27-41

**Short Exam 3: to be posted Thursday (Weeks 7, 8, 9)**

Week 13: Turkey in the Middle East
April 10-14

Week 14: Iran and nuclear weapons
April 17-21

**Short Exam 4: to be posted Thursday (Weeks 11, 12, 13)**

**Week 15: US and the Middle East**
April 24-29
• Fawcett, chapter 15 (Hudson, The United States in the Middle East)

**Week 16: No Reading**
No reading assignment, work on your papers
***Foreign Policy Project due, Friday May 6 at 5 pm
***Final exam, to be posted on May 9th Monday (The exam will be up until May 12th Thursday)

Addendum For Graduate Students
Graduate students have the same responsibilities. In addition, they are expected to write two reaction papers. Each reaction paper should be 3-4 pages long (double-spaced, TNR 12 fonts, usual margins) and briefly summarize and discuss the readings. The papers should also incorporate your own comments about the assigned pieces.

Readings for the first reaction paper (Due anytime before Spring Break)

Readings for the first reaction paper (due anytime between Spring Break and Finals Exam Week):

GRADE WEIGHTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
Online Exams (30%):
Foreign Policy Project (25%):
Final Exam (25%):
Reaction Papers (20%)