

PCSI 3203 A
Government and Politics in the Middle East

Lecture: Friday 2:35 – 5:25
Online Synchronous Course

Instructor: Dr. Said Yaqub Ibrahim
Office Hour: Virtual, by appointment
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I. Course Description

This course introduces students to governance, politics and political development in the Middle East. The course first provides a brief history of politics in the region and next it concentrates on government and politics since the First World War. How sovereign states emerged in the Middle East? How traditionalism, colonialism, Islamism, and nationalism affected governance and politics in the region? Why the Middle East is unstable? What are the sources of conflicts, rebellions, and state failure in this region? Is there any solutions for the ongoing instabilities and conflicts? In this course, we address such questions and study a range of political issues and topics that influence politics and governance both in the Middle East and in specific countries. The issues covered in this course includes religion, European colonialism, state-building, Islamism, modernism, nationalism, Zionism, political development during the Cold War and post-Cold War era, revolutions and coup d'états, oil, conflict, democratization, and terrorism. Although it is impossible to examine all single country in the region within the parameters of a term-length course, the course will provide students with historical, theoretical, and analytical tools and examples that enable them to study any case of their interest.

II. Course Structure/Class Format

This course is taught synchronously and online through Zoom learning platform. Every class includes a lecture on the framework of the week's topic, a thematic discussion about the issue and/or country that is focussed in the lecture, and an open class debate or presentation with reference to both the required readings and on going observations. The instructor will create the weekly zoom classes which will be open for students to join every Friday from 2:35 to 5:25.

III. Readings

- James L. Gelvin (2016). *The Modern Middle East: A History*. Fourth edition. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press. *Available at Carleton bookstore for purchase.*
- Mehran Kamrava (2013). *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since the First World War*. Third edition. Berkley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. *Available free of cost for students electronically in Ares.*

All other supplementary readings are available in Carleton library website

IV. Course Evaluation

Course evaluation includes an essay proposal, a term paper, a final exam and will be calculated on the following basis:

Attendance and Participation (15%)

Students are expected to attend every class and participate in class discussions and group works. However, for those who cannot attend particular classes, alternatives will be provided.

B) Essay Proposal (15%)

Due February 5, electronically in cuLearn drop-box

A proposal is an introduction to the course's term paper and should present a topic that a student wants to research in their term paper. Proposals should clearly address three main questions as follows: what is the topic of your research? How do you research it? Why is the proposed topic worth researching? In this manner, a good proposal should clearly state the topic, introduce the literature and the literature gap, and make a clear argument and develop it based on reliable/scholarly sources. Every proposal should contain:

- An introduction to the topic and case study
- A research question
- A central argument, or a clear thesis statement
- An explanation about the significance of the question and argument
- A potential bibliography of 12-15 scholarly sources (including books/book chapters, journal articles, or think tank research papers). These sources will be used for writing the final essay.

Proposals should not exceed **600 to 800 words** excluding the list of bibliography, cover page, and endnotes.

C) Essay (40%)

Due April 9, electronically in cuLearn drop-box,

Essays should be expanded on the proposals that students have already submitted and be based on the sources that are listed in the proposals. Students can also supplement their papers with media or other content if needed, but this should be discussed with the instructor in advance. In the essay, students must express what they clearly think of the issue or the country and how their finding contributes to our knowledge on the Middle East and/or the country they have studied. An essay should not exceed **3000 to 3500 words** excluding the cover page, bibliography, and endnotes. Essay should critically engage with the literature, develop a logic argument, and make a clear conclusion about an issue relevant to the course material/topics. Essays that are a simple summarization of the literature, lack a central argument, and incapable of connecting the argument to the finding and evidence will receive a lower grade. You can use MLA, APA, or Chicago Manual of Style citation in your papers, but every essay should use one single style constantly.

D) Final Exam (30%)

The final exam will be scheduled during the formal exam period and include two essay questions. Students are required to submit their answers electronically in cuLearn. A drop-box for the final exam will be created in due course.

V. Submission Policy

Research proposals and papers are due as electronic copies and must be submitted in cuLearn drop-box. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Late submissions will be penalized on a daily basis (i.e. 3% of the overall grade for the assignment per day). I regularly give extension but expect requests to be submitted before an assignment's due date.

VI. Course Program

Date	Topic	Assignments
Jan. 15	Introduction to the Course	
Jan. 22	From Muhammad to the Ottoman Empire	
Jan. 29	The Modern World and the Decline of the Ottoman Empire	
Feb. 5	The Modern Middle East State System	Essay Proposal Due
Feb. 12	Nationalism	
Feb. 19	Winter Break, no class	
Feb. 26	Middle East, Israel and Palestine	
Mar. 5	Religion and Political Thought in the Middle East	
Mar. 12	The Iranian Revolution	
Mar. 19	States and Their Opponents	
Mar. 26	Oil, the United States, and the Middle East	
Ap. 2	Statutory Holiday, no class	
Ap. 9	The Arab Spring and "The Failure of Political Islam"; Course Overview & Final Exam Discussion	Essay Due

VII. Course Schedule

Lecture 1 (January 15): Introduction to Course

- Kamrava, Introduction
- Gelvin, Introduction & Part I

Lecture 2 (January 22): From Muhammad to the Ottoman Empire

- Kamrava, Chapter 1: From Islam to the Great War
- Gelvin, Chapter 1: From Late Antiquity to the Dawn of a New Age
- Gelvin, Chapter 2: Gunpowder Empires

Class 3 (January 29): The Decline of the Ottoman Empire

- Gelvin, Chapter 3: The Middle East and the Modern World System
- Gelvin, Chapter 4 War, Diplomacy, and the New Global Balance of Power
- Gelvin, Part II: The Question of Modernity
- Gelvin, Chapter 5 & 6: Defensive Developmentalism & Imperialism

Class 4 (February 5): The Modern Middle East State System

- Kamrava, Chapter 2: From Territories to Independent States
- Gelvin, Part III: World War I and the Middle East State System
- Gelvin, Chapter 11: State-Building by Decree
- Gelvin, Chapter 12: State-Building by Revolution and Conquest

Class 5 (February 12): Nationalism

- Kamrava, Chapter 3: The Age of Nationalism
- Gelvin, Chapter 13: The Invention and Spread of Nationalisms

(February 19): Winter Break, no class

Class 6 (February 26): Conflict: Israel and Palestine

- Kamrava, Chapter 4: The Arab-Israeli Wars
- Kamrava, Chapter 9: The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict
- Gelvin, Chapter 14: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- Yosef Kuperwasser & Shalom Lipner, “The Problem is Palestinian Rejectionism,” *Foreign Affairs*, (November/December 2011), pp. 2-9
- Ronald Krebs, “Israel’s Bunker Mentality,” *Foreign Affairs* (November/December 2011), pp. 10-18.

Class 7 (March 5) Political Thought

- Gelvin, Chapter 8: The Life of the Mind
- Gelvin, Chapter 9: Secularism and Modernity
- Gelvin, read documents by Ali Shariati; Ayatollah Khomeini; and Sayyid Qutb (pp. 362-368)
- Margaret Kohn, “Afghani on Empire, Islam, and Civilization,” *Political Theory* Vol. 37(3), 2009: 398-422

Class 8 (March 12): Islamic Revolutions: The Case of Iran

- Kamrava, Chapter 5: The Iranian Revolution
- Akbar Ganji, “Who Is Ali Khamenei? The Worldview of Iran’s Supreme Leader,” *Foreign Affairs* (September/October 2013), pp. 24–48
- Shahrough Akhavi, “Islam, Politics and Society in the Thought of Ayatullah Khomeini, Ayatullah Taliqani and Ali Shariati,” *Middle Eastern Studies* 24(4), 1988: pp. 4, 404–431.

Class 9 (March 19): States and Their Opponents

- Kamrava, Chapter 7: States and Their Opponents
- Gelvin, Part IV: The Contemporary Era
- Gelvin, Chapter 15: The Autocratic State
- Gelvin, Chapter 18: Resistance

Class 10 (March 26): Oil & the United States in the Middle East

- Gelvin, Chapter 16: Oil
- Gelvin, Chapter 17: The United States and the Middle East
- Douglas Little “Mission Impossible: The CIA and the Cult of Cover Action in the Middle East,” *Diplomatic History*, 28(5), 2004: 663–701

(April 2): Statutory Holiday

Class 12 (April 9): The Arab Spring and “The Failure of Political Islam”; Course Overview & Final Exam Discussion

- Kamrava, Chapter 8: Repression and Rebellion
 - Gelvin, Chapter 19: The Arab Uprisings
 - Ann Lesch, “Egypt’s Spring: Causes of the Revolution,” *Middle East Policy*, 18(3), 2011: 35-48
 - Seth Jones, “The Mirage of the Arab Spring,” *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 2013), pp. 55-63
 - Olivier Roy, “The Transformation of the Arab World,” *Journal of Democracy* 23(3), 2012: 5-18.
 - Essay Due.
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Academic Accommodations

Accommodations during COVID

Due to COVID, instructors will not request or require a doctor’s note when students seek accommodation for missed term work or exams due to illness. Instead, students will be asked to complete the self-declaration form available here: https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Self-declaration.pdf

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They

are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Approval of final grades

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society

"The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social

life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/> and our website <https://carletonpss.com/>, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.