

Carleton University
May/June 2017
Department of Political Science

PSCI 3203 A
Government and Politics in the Middle East
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8h35–11h25 AM
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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Course Description

Political philosophy is distinct from political theory in that its object is the ‘Good’, and its realization in society, not merely theoretical knowledge of what is possible. Beginning with this distinction, this course will examine how and why various actors in the broad region known today as the Middle East have engaged, and are currently engaged, in this perennial quest to determine the ‘Good’ and actualize it in society, especially since the fall of the Ottoman Empire. This is a somewhat novel theoretical framework for structuring an exploration of the political development of the contemporary Middle East, one that invites students to think about the study of the Middle East in new ways, and to think deeply about issues of profound political and philosophical significance not only for the Middle East, but for humanity and the world. By taking this approach, students will hopefully come to appreciate that they can not only learn much *about* the Middle East, but *from* the Middle East, that will enrich their lives and help them make meaningful contributions to society.

This course does not pre-suppose any prior knowledge of the Middle East or Islam, or political philosophy or political theory apart from what would be covered in an introductory Political Science course. By the end of the course, students should have a substantially deeper understanding of the political history of the Middle East, Islam and Muslim political philosophy, some of the key political disputes that have affected and continue to affect the region, and a greater appreciation for the relevance of political philosophy and political theory to the study of the Middle East and politics in general.

Additional Resources

The following resources may be useful in helping you follow developments in the Middle East and to gain further insight into some of the topics covered in this course:

- Al-Jazeera English (<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/>)
- The Middle East Channel, Foreign Policy (<http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/>)
- BBC (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/middle_east/)

- The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/middleeast/index.html>)
- The Guardian (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/middleeast/roundup>)
- The Arabist blog (www.arabist.net)
- The Daily Star – Lebanon (<http://www.dailystar.com.lb>)
- The Jordan Times (www.jordantimes.com)
- Ha'aretz – Israel (www.haaretz.com)
- The National – UAE (www.thenational.ae)

Readings

James L. Gelvin (2016). *The Modern Middle East: A History*. Fourth edition. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press. Available at the Carleton University Book Store.

Hamid Enayat (2005). *Modern Islamic Political Thought*. Forward by Roy P. Mottahedeh. New York: I. B. Tauris. Available at the Carleton University Book Store.

A small number of photocopied book chapters and articles on reserve at the Carleton University Library.

Other readings as assigned, available electronically or otherwise provided.

Course Evaluation (requirements listed in the order they are due)

*Answers to some frequently asked questions: Yes, you may write in the first person. I prefer that you cite sources using the Chicago style format and generally follow the guidelines in the Chicago Manual of Style (current edition available electronically through the Carleton University Library). **Friendly advice:** Impress with your ideas more than your words; if your writing sounds too academic, it probably isn't very good.*

1. **Research Essay 1** (due in class on **Thursday, May 11, 2017**) – 20%
900 words minimum, 1100 words maximum. Essay response to one of two questions to be assigned in class. *More instructions given in class.*
2. **Class Presentation** (presented in groups of 3, **May 9, 16, 23, and June 6**) – 20%
Students will form groups of 3 at the beginning of the term, they will be assigned one of the readings for one of the dates listed here. On the specified date, they will give a 20-minute presentation as a group about the reading, and lead the class in a 20-30-minute discussion of the reading. *More instructions given in class.*
3. **Review Article** (due in class on **Thursday, June 1, 2017**) – 20%
1200 words minimum, 1400 words maximum. You will be assigned two articles in class. Summarize both articles and critically evaluate the contribution they make, both singly and together. *More instructions given in class.*
4. **Final Essay** (due in class on **Tuesday, June 13, 2017**) – 30%
1800 words minimum, 2000 words maximum. An essay on a topic of your choosing related to the themes and issues covered in this course, or broadly,

government and politics in the Middle East since the 19th century. *More instructions given in class.*

5. **Attendance** – 10%

Attend class. Get points. Miss a class without a valid excuse, lose 1%. Simple!

All assignments must be completed and submitted to receive a passing grade in this course. **If an assignment is not submitted in class on the due date, without a valid medical excuse, it is considered late.** Late assignments will be accepted only up to one week after the due date and will be assessed a penalty of 5% (approximately half a letter grade) per day they are late.

Weekly Program and Associated Required Readings

Class 1: Political Philosophy and the Study of the Middle East (May 2)

Although this is only the first class, students are strongly encouraged to read these articles prior to class, all of which are available at the links provided on Carleton University's network (since they require Carleton's institutional subscription service to access). In this session, we will lay the theoretical foundation for the work to follow in this course. We will discuss the distinction between political philosophy and political theory, the concept of human rights and its relationship with Islam and its relevance to the political development of the Middle East, and the conception of the human being in Islam and other traditions (central to any political philosophy).

• Leo Strauss, "What Is Political Philosophy?" *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 9, No. 3 (Aug., 1957), pp. 343–368. Stable URL:

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2126765>

• Heiner Bielefeldt, "'Western' versus 'Islamic' Human Rights Conceptions? A Critique of Cultural Essentialism in the Discussion on Human Rights," *Political Theory*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (Feb., 2000), pp. 90–121. Stable URL:

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/192285>

• Seyyed Hossein Nasr, "Who is Man? The Perennial Answer of Islam," *Studies in Comparative Religion*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (no date). Stable URL:

<http://www.studiesincomparativereligion.com/uploads/ArticlePDFs/39.pdf>

Class 2: From Muhammad to the Ottoman and Safavid Empires—Islam and Political Authority (May 4)

• Gelvin, pp. 7–31 ("The Advent of the Modern Age," "From Late Antiquity to the Dawn of a New Age," "Gunpowder Empires")

• Enayat, pp. 1–51 ("Introduction: The Relevance of the Past," "Shi'ism and Sunnism: Conflict and Concord")

Class 3: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Crisis Over the Caliphate (May 9)

• Gelvin, pp. 32–57 ("The Middle East and the Modern World System," "War, Diplomacy, and the New Global Balance of Power")

- Gelvin, pp. 189–219 (“World War I and the Middle East State System,” “State-Building by Decree,” “State-Building by Revolution and Conquest”)
- Enayat, pp. 52–68 (“The Crisis Over the Caliphate”)

Class 4: The Concept of the Islamic State (May 11)

RESEARCH ESSAY 1 DUE IN CLASS

- Enayat, pp. 69–110 (“The Concept of the Islamic State”)
- Abdolkarim Soroush (2000). *Reason, Freedom, and Democracy in Islam: Essential Writings of Abdolkarim Soroush*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 54–68 (“The Sense and Essence of Secularism”). *On reserve*.
- Khomeini (in Gelvin), pp. 364–365 (“Islamic Government”)
- Qutb (in Gelvin), pp. 366–368 (“Milestones”)

Class 5: The Idea of a Jewish State and the Question of Palestine (May 16)

- Theodor Herzl (1896). “The Jewish State: Introduction.” Translated by Sylvie D’Avigdor. Available at <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/quot-the-jewish-state-quot-theodor-herzl>.
- Gelvin, pp. 220–257 (“The Invention and Spread of Nationalisms,” “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict”)
- Herman Wouk (1960). “Israel” in *This Is My God: The Jewish Way of Life*. New York: Doubleday. Pp. 215–226. *On reserve*.
- Julie Peteet, “Problematizing a Palestinian Diaspora,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 39, No. 4 (2007), pp. 627–646. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30069491>

Class 6: American Involvement in the Middle East (May 18)

- Zachary Lockman (2004). *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 182–214 (“Said’s *Orientalism*: A Book and Its Aftermath”), pp. 99–147 (“The American Century”). *On reserve*.
- Gelvin, pp. 300–316 (“The United State and the Middle East”), pp. 288–299 (“Oil”)
- Douglas Little, “Mission Impossible: The CIA and the Cult of Covert Action in the Middle East,” *Diplomatic History*, Vol. 28, No. 5 (2004), pp. 663–701.

Class 7: Russian Involvement in the Middle East (May 23)

- Walter Laqueur, “Russia Enters the Middle East,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 47, No. 2 (Jan., 1969), pp. 296–308. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20039374>
- Roy Allison, “Russia and Syria: Explaining Alignment with a Regime in Crisis,” *International Affairs*, 89 (2013), pp. 795–823. Stable URL: <https://doi-org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/10.1111/1468-2346.12046>
- Derek Averre and Lance Davies, “Russia, humanitarian intervention and the Responsibility to Protect: the case of Syria,” *International Affairs*, 91 (2015), pp. 813–834. Stable URL: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1468-2346.12343/pdf>

Class 8: Nationalism, Democracy, and Socialism (May 25)

- Enayat, pp. 111–159 (“Nationalism, Democracy and Socialism”)
- Gelvin, pp. 270-287 (“The Autocratic State”)

Class 9: Resistance and Change in the Middle East (May 30)

- Gelvin, pp. 317–358 (“Resistance,” “The Arab Uprisings,” “The End of an Era?”)
- Olivier Roy, “The Transformation of the Arab World,” *Journal of Democracy* 23(3) (2012), 5-18.

Class 10: Feminism in the Middle East (June 1)

REVIEW ARTICLE DUE IN CLASS

- Margot Badran, “Between Secular and Islamic Feminism/s: Reflections on the Middle East and Beyond,” *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies* 1(1) (2005), 6-28.
- Ziba Mir-Hosseini, “Muslim Women’s Quest for Equality: Between Islamic Law and Feminism,” *Critical Inquiry* 32 (2006), 629-645.

Class 11: Terrorism and the State (June 6)

- Barak Mendelsohn, “Bolstering the State: A Different Perspective on the War on the Jihadi Movement,” *International Studies Review* 11(4) (2009), 663-686.
- Katerina Dalacoura, “Islamist terrorism and the Middle East democratic deficit: Political exclusion, repression and the causes of extremism,” *Democratization* 3 (2006), 508-525.
- Alexis G. Grynkeiwich, “Welfare as Warfare: How Violent Non-State Groups Use Social Services to Attack the State,” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 4 (2008), 350-370.
- Krista E. Wiegand, “Reformation of a Terrorist Group: Hezbollah as a Lebanese Political Party,” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 8 (2009), 669-680.

Class 12: How, and What, to Learn From The Middle East (June 8)

Readings to be assigned in class.

Class 13: FINAL ESSAYS DUE IN CLASS (June 13)

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of**

Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and 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 me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

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. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, 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 numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/> or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.