PSCI 3203 A
Government and Politics in the Middle East
8:35a.m – 11:25 a.m. Friday
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Hassan Husseini
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Office Hours: Fridays: 12:00 -- 1:00 PM or by appointment.
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Course Description:
This course aims to develop students’ critical thinking with respect to the geo-political situation in the Middle East and the Arab World. Thinking and analyzing “outside the box” and beyond the headlines of the daily news is a prerequisite for a course that examines the political, social and economic developments within this region. Such developments are investigated through historical, theoretical and thematic approaches. Special attention will be paid to current “hot topics” – the Lebanese crisis, the conflict in Iraq, and the Palestinian issue. Other contemporary issues significant to the relationship between politics and the state will also be examined. These include: the political economy of the region, the role of Islam, gender relations and the impact of Western colonialism.

Students are highly encouraged to express a variety of views, provided that these views are evidence-based – in other words students should always take the time to ground themselves in the basic facts needed to underpin an argument.

Texts and Course Readings:


Textbooks are available for purchase from Octopus Books located at 116 Third Avenue @ Bank (Glebe), Tel. 613-233-2589.

Please note: all required readings that are not accessible online will be at the reserve desk at the MacOdrum Library.
**Course Requirements and Grading:**
- Attendance & class participation: 10%
- Research Paper: 40% (due: October 16th)
- Quiz: 10% (in class: November 20th)
- Final Exam: 40% (scheduled during formal exam period, December 9 - 22)

Although every effort will be made to provide early feedback to students enrolled in PSCI 3203A, please note that course requirements makes it less conducive to the Early Feedback Guidelines. Please plan accordingly.

**Attendance (10%)**
Attendance is required for all students enrolled in PSCI 3203. One (1) point will be awarded for attending class and partaking in class discussions.

**Research paper (40 %)**
All students will complete a research paper on a select topic (see list below), or a topic of your choosing with prior discussion and approval with course instructor. If you wish to write on another topic that is not listed below, you must seek approval prior to October 2nd. The paper is due on October 16th. The paper will be 10-12 pages in length, typed and double-spaced (12 point font size). Paper must include a proper citation system and have a complete and properly organized bibliography. The research paper must integrate course readings as well as sources derived from your own research.

Late submission of papers will result in a penalty of two-thirds of a letter grade per day (e.g., B to C+). Please remember that it is not acceptable to hand in the same paper for two or more courses.

**Quiz (10%)**
One (1) in-class multiple choice quiz will be given on November 20th. It will cover material up to the class of November 20th. Attending classes and reading the required course materials will be sufficient to do well on the quiz. Students who are unable to take the quiz on the specified date, will have to make alternate arrangement with the course instructor.

**Final exam (40%)**
The exam will be held during official exam period (December 9-22) with the exact date and time to be determined later in the term. The exam will involve a number of questions and may include a number of different formats (e.g., short answers as well as mini-essays).

**Suggested paper topics:**
1. Discuss the political economy of state transition and reform in the Middle East. What is the relationship between politics and economics in the region. (compare 2-3 countries in the region)?
2. Discuss gender dynamics and the state in the Middle East and the Arab world. What role does/could feminism play in state formation and reform (Egypt, Iran, Palestine or Lebanon are good example countries to choose from)?
3. Discuss Islamism as a protest movement in the Middle East (draw on Iran, Palestine, Lebanon and Egypt for examples)?
4. Discuss the role of conflict and politics in the Middle East. How has conflict contributed to authoritarianism? How has conflict shaped other kinds of politics and/or the state in the region?
5. How has colonialism shaped contemporary politics and the state in the region?
6. Discuss Islamism and gender. What prospects does Islamism hold for women and for the state?
7. Many experts point to the Israel-Palestine conflict as the core issue to be resolved in the Middle East. Do you agree? Disagree? What other conflicts are also significant? Discuss the causes of conflict in the region, and what you think conflict means for the future of the Middle East and the Arab World, and how it will be/should be resolved?
8. Discuss any of the following aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (refugees, settlements, the wall/fence, one-state vs. two-state solutions, peace process, partition, apartheid, self-determination, etc.)
9. Discuss the roots, causes and implications of the ongoing political/security crises in Lebanon. Is reforming the internal Lebanese political and social system attainable within the context of current regional and international realities?
10. Discuss the implications of the US occupation of Iraq.

Class Schedule

Background: Weeks 1 & 2

September 11: Historical Context: Ottoman Empire and Colonialism

Required Readings:


September 18: Theoretical Context: Introduction to the Middle East

Required Readings:

http://fp.arizona.edu/mesassoc/Bulletin/Pres%20Addresses/Anderson.htm

http://www.thenation.com/doc/20011022/said

Optional Readings:


**State and Society in the Middle East & Arab World: Weeks 3 — 6**

**September 25: The State in the Middle East & Arab World**

**Required Readings:**


**Optional Readings:**


October 2: Islamism

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


October 9: University Day (No Class)

October 16: Political Economy of the Middle East

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


**October 23: Gender, Patriarchy and Politics**

**Required Readings:**


**Optional Readings:**


**Peace and Conflict in the Middle East: Week 7**

**October 30: Middle East Conflict from the early 20th century to today**

**Required Readings:**


Optional Readings:


Country Case Studies: Weeks 8 -- 11

November 6: Creation of Israel and the Palestinian Nakba: Roots of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


November 13: The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process: the Road to Nowhere?

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


**November 20: Lebanon: Colonialism, Confessionalism, Crises and Civil War**

**Required Readings:**


**Optional Readings:**


November 27: Iraq: The US Invasion and its Regional Implications

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


December 4: A "New Beginning" for the Middle East?
Required Readings:


Academic Accommodations

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 16, 2009 for December examinations** and **March 12, 2010 for April examinations**.

**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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor 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. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

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.

Course Requirements: Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be
permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, 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.