**INTA 3260 - MIDDLE EAST POLITICS**

Fall 2017

MWF 10:10-11:00am

Mason Building #5134

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Office Hours: MW 11:30am-12:30 or by appointment

**Course Description**

This course is an in-depth introduction to the study of the Middle East history and politics. The course is divided into three interrelated parts. First, an overview of the region’s history with a specific focus on the emergence and expansion of the Islamic Civilization. Second, the debates and discussions in International Relations and how they help us understand the region and its place in the global political system. Third, the relationship between religion and politics in five major Middle East countries: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey and Israel. Based on the historical and theoretical background provided in the first two parts, the last section will provide students with an informed perspective on the interplay between religion and politics across different cultural, religious and political settings throughout the Middle East.

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

* demonstrate the ability to analyze social and political issues in the Middle East (Research on the Middle East)
* grasp the nature of the interplay between religion and politics from historical and theoretical perspectives (Middle East History and Politics), and
* understand the implications of the pressing issues in the Middle East for the global political system (International Relations of the Middle East).

**Requirements and Grading**

**Books:**

* A History of the Modern Middle East 6th Edition by William L. **Cleveland** (978-0813349800)
* International Relations of the Middle East 4th Edition by Louise **Fawcett** (978-0198708742).
* Religion and Politics in the Middle East: Identity, Ideology, Institutions, and Attitudes by Robert D. **Lee** (978-0813348735).

Additional materials will be assigned during the semester.

**Attendance and Participation (10%):** It is essential that you read the assigned materials before the class and participate in the discussions in order to receive a full attendance and participation grade. **Religious Holy Days:** Students who anticipate being absent from classes or miss the assignment deadlines due to religious observance should inform me by the end of the second week. Please note that assignment dates are fixed and no make-ups will be offered without an official/medical letter explaining your situation. For all other missed deadlines, I reserve the right to penalize your grades by 10% a day.

**Mid-term (25%):** In class on October 13th. The mid-term will be based on class lectures, in-class discussions, and readings.

**Research Project and Presentation: (25%+10%)**: Research project aims to train students for a successful career in academia, journalism, and policy circles. The project involves students working in groups on a topic involving one of the five case countries. (If you are not able to join a group due to other commitments etc. please consult with me ASAP for an alternative solution). Each student is required to do 1) an extensive literature study/analysis (25%) mainly based on suggested readings (two books and five articles, three and eight, respectively for the grad students) and 2) present it (10%) during a country case week (Weeks 10-15). You must get a confirmation from me for your country case, research question, literature research and presentation date no later than the second week of the course. I encourage students with a prior research experience in a specific country or issue to opt out for another subject so that they can have a dispassionate and objective learning experience. I will give more details on the research project in the class.

**Final Exam:** (30%) TBD

**Grading Scale**: 100-90 A⏐89-80 B⏐79-70 C⏐69-60 D⏐59-0 F

**Notes on Course Policies:**

Class Discussions: Class discussions are for the benefit of each student in the class. Please be courteous and respectful to each other. This is especially important when we disagree. In-class discussions, the research project and the assigned readings are for lively debates, often times, through clash of ideas.

Email Communication: I respond to emails within 24-48 hours. In your emails, please assist me by providing detailed information about the issue and whether you have a suggestion about it, if applicable.

Technology: No use of electronic devices like laptops, tablets, cellphones are permitted except for students with presentation assignments on the scheduled dates for the sole purposes of the assignments. In the first day of the class, I will briefly cover the benefits of undistracted focus in learning.

Academic Honor Code: Please check GT honor code on academic integrity as we all “commit to uphold the ideals of honor and integrity.” http://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code

Disability Services: Students with disabilities must register with the Office of Disability Services (http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/ ) for a reasonable accommodation of their needs. Please contact with me if you need to discuss necessary accommodations.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Week 1**

**August 21: Course Introduction, syllabus review, and research assignment.**

**August 23: What / Where is the Middle East?**

* Fawcett, Chapter 1, “Introduction: The Middle East and International Relations” by Fawcett, Louise.
* Davison, Roderic H. 1960. “Where is the Middle East?” Foreign Affairs, Vol. 38, pp. 665
* Nickie Keddie, “Is there a Middle East?” *IJMES* Volume 4, Issue 3 (1973).
* Halliday, Fred. 1993. “'Orientalism' and Its Critics,” BJMES, Vol. 20, No. 2., pp. 145

**August 25: Emergence of Islam**

* Cleveland, Chapter 1
* Documentary “Muhammad; The Legacy of the Last Prophet”

**Week 2**

**August 28: Emergence of Islam II:**

* Cleveland, Chapter 1
* Documentary “Islam: Empire of Faith”

**August 30:**

**The Development of Islamic Civilization**

* Cleveland, Chapter 2

**September 1: The Rise of the Ottoman Empire and Sunni Islam**

* Cleveland, Chapter 3

**Week 3**

**September 4: Labor Day NO CLASS**

**September 6: The Rise of the Safavid Empire and Shi’ism**

* Cleveland, Chapter 3

**September 8: Spirituality, Justice and Islamic World/view (Guest Lecturer)**

**Week 4:**

**September 11**: **State Centralization: Ottoman Case**

* Barkey, Karen. 1994. *Bandits and Bureaucrats: The Ottoman Route to State Centralization*. [Chapter 6 and Conclusion].
* Serif Mardin “Center-Periphery Relations: A Key to Turkish Politics?” *Daedalus*, Vol. 102, No. 1
* Blaydes, Lisa and Eric Chaney. 2013. “The Feudal Revolution and Europe’s Rise: Political Divergence of the Christian West and the Muslim World before 1500 CE,” *American Political Science Review* 107.

**September 13**: **State Apparatus vs Religious Autonomy: Religion and Politics in the Case of the Naqshbandi Order**

* Additional materials may be assigned before the class.

**September 15**: **Decline and Reforms**

* Cleveland, Chapter 4 and 5

**Week 5**

**September 18: Reforms, Colonization and its impact**

* Cleveland, Chapter 6 and 7

**September 20: Constitutionalist Movements in Turkey**

* Cleveland, Chapter 8

**September 22: Constitutionalist Movements in Iran**

* Cleveland, Chapter 8

**Week 6**

**September 25: International Relations Theory and the Middle East**

* + “International Relations Theory and the Middle East,” by Fred Lawson in Fawcett, Chapter 2

**September 27: Challenges of Modern State System**

* Cleveland, Chapter 9
* “The Emergence of the Middle East into the Modern State System” by Eugen Rogan in Fawcett Chapter 2

**September 29: The Cold War**

* + “The Cold War in the Middle East” by Peter Sluglett in Fawcett Chapter 3

**Week 7**

**October 2: Post-Cold War Challenges**

* + “The Middle East since the Cold War: the Multi-Layered (In)security Dilemma” by Baghat Korany in Fawcett Chapter 4

**October 4: Oil and Political Economy**

* + “Oil and Political Economy in International Relations of the Middle East” by Giacomo Luciani in Fawcett Chapter 5
  + Cleveland, Chapter 20

**October 6: Identity, Securitization and Foreign Policymaking**

* “Alliances and Regionalism in the Middle East” by Fawcett in Fawcett Chapter 9
* “Middle East Security: Conflict and Securitization of Identities” by M. Calculli and M. Legrenzi in Fawcett Chapter 10
* “Foreign Policymaking in the Middle East: Complex Realism” by R. Hinnebusch and A. Ehteshami in Fawcett Chapter 11

**Week 8**

**October 9: Fall Break NO CLASS**

Send your literature analysis for optional feedback.

**October 11: Europe and US in the Middle East**

* + Cleveland Ch. 25
  + “The United States in the Middle East” by Michael Hudson in Fawcett Chapter 16
* “Europe in the Middle East” by Rosemary Hollis in Fawcett Chapter 17

**October 13: MIDTERM**

**Week 9**

**October 16: Arab Spring and International Relations Theory**

* + Cleveland Ch. 26,
  + “The Puzzle of Political Reform in the Middle East” by Augustus Norton in Fawcett Chapter 6
  + “The Politics of Identity in Middle East International Relations” by R. Hinnebusch in Fawcett Chapter 7
  + “The Arab Spring: The ‘People” in International Relations by Larbi Sadiki in Fawcett

**October 18: Islam and International Relations Theory**

* + “Islam and International Relations in the Middle East: From Umma to Nation State” by Peter Mandaville in Fawcett Chapter 8
  + Lawrence Rubin, “Why the Islamic State Won’t become a normal state?” http://www washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/07/09/why-the-islamic-state-wont-become-a-normal-state/ (also available in Pomeps)
* Video: Fawaz Gerges “ISIS- a History https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBvSLfWJcJA
  + Video: Robert Fisk “Life after ISIS” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7gzq\_uPzGfw
  + International Relations Theory and a New Middle East http://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/POMEPS\_Studies\_16\_IR\_Web1.pdf
  + Islam and International Order: http://pomeps.org/2015/07/22/islam-and-international-order/

**October 20: Religion and Politics in the Middle East**

Last day to send literature analysis for optional feedback.

* “The Political Determinants of Religion” in Lee, Chapter 1.

**Week 10**

**October 23: Egypt: Civilian Reform to Authoritarian Reform**

* + Cleveland Chapters 5, 6, 11 (Sections on Egypt)

**October 25: Egypt: Age of Nasser**

* + Cleveland Chapters 15, 16, 19

**October 27: Taming of Islam in Egypt**

* + Lee Chapter 2

**Week 11**

**October 30: Turkey: Constitutionalism to Authoritarian Reform**

* Cleveland, parts on Turkey from Chapter 8
* Cleveland, parts on Turkey from Chapter 10

**November 1: Turkey: Democracy and Authoritarianism**

* Cleveland Chapter 14
* Cleveland Chapter 24, Patterns of Continuity and Change in Turkey

**November 3: Politics and Religion in Turkey**

* Lee Chapter 4
  + Sections on Turkey from *Islam and International Order*: http://pomeps.org/2015/07/22/islam-and-international-order/

**Week 12**

**November 6: Israel: The Arab Struggle for Independence and the Birth of Israel**

* + Cleveland Chapters 11 and 13
  + “The Arab-Israeli Conflict” by Charles Smith in Fawcet Chapter 12

**November 8: Israel: Palestinian Israeli Conflict**

* + Wikipedia Overview “https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli–Palestinian\_conflict”
  + Cleveland Chapters 16, 17, 22, 23
  + “The Rise and Fall of the Oslo Process” by Avi Shlaim in Fawcett Chapter 13

**November 10: Transformation of Judaism in Israel**

* Lee Chapter 3

**Week 13**

**November 13: Iran: Constitutionalism to Authoritarian Reform**

* Cleveland, parts on Iran from Chapter 8
* Cleveland, parts on Iran from Chapter 10

**November 15: Iran: Islamic Republic and Authoritarianism**

* + Cleveland Chapter 18 “Iranian Revolution and the Revival of Islam”
  + Cleveland Chapter 21, Consolidation of Authoritarian Regimes and Iran-Iraq War
  + Cleveland Chapter 24, Patterns of Continuity and Change in Iran

**November 17: State Shiism in Iran**

* Lee Chapter 5

**Week 14**

**November 20: Saudi Arabia: Tribe to Nation-State**

* Cleveland Chapter 7, 12
* Saudi Arabia: From Tribal Society to Nation-State by John Duke Anthony in *Saudi Arabia* by Mallakh and Mallakh

**November 22:**

**Thanksgiving Break NO CLASS**

**November 24:**

**Thanksgiving Break NO CLASS**

**Week 15**

**November 27: Saudi Arabia: Politics of the Gulf and Uprisings**

* Cleveland, Chapter 20, 26
* “The International Politics of the Gulf” by Legrenzi and Gausee III in Fawcett Chapter 14

**November 29: Sunnism in Saudi Arabia**

* Lee Chapter 6

**December 1: Reconciling Politics and Religion in the Middle East**

* Lee Chapter 7

**Week 16**

**December 4: Course Overview & Final Exam Assignment**

This syllabus is subject to change. Please check the T-Square version for updates and changes.