

Political Science 350: Introduction to the Middle East

Spring Semester 2005

T, R 9.30-10:50 am; Room: Beyer 104

Professor Eric McGlinchey

Office: 551 Ross Hall

Email: mcglin@iastate.edu

Phone: (515) 294-3266

Office Hours: T, R 11-1pm

Class Discussion Leaders: Basil Mahayni and Daniel Kaczmarczyk

Emails: bmahayni@iastate.edu ; danielo@iastat.edu

Teaching Assistant: Anastasia Ryabukha

Email: nas@iastate.edu

Course Description:

The Middle East, the “cradle of civilization,” is today home to 330 million people, the world’s fastest growing religion, and great resource wealth. The Middle East is also home to some of the world’s most pressing challenges. At the regional level, the Middle East has the highest female unemployment rate, with only 33 percent of women active in the labor force according to a recent World Bank study. At the state level, Iraq, which until the U.S. occupation was held together by authoritarian rule, appears increasingly unstable and divided along ethnic and religious lines. 250 miles to the west, the Israel-Palestine conflict has left over 4,500 people dead in just the past four years. And Iran, a growing power and a country which the United States sees as the next threat in the region, has done little to hide its intention of developing nuclear weapons. Accompanying these challenges, though, are many encouraging developments. Iraqis and Palestinians will vote for new leaders in January, leaders they and the world hope will bring greater peace, stability and growth to the region. Iran has agreed, at least temporarily, to halt its pursuit of weapons grade uranium. And a growing number of Middle Eastern countries are working to address the gender gap in education and employment opportunities.

This course will address these and several other topics of Middle Eastern politics. By the close of this course, students will be able to identify and critically evaluate central political challenges facing the Middle East. Additionally, students will be able to assess the strategies Middle Eastern and international actors devise to address these challenges.

Course Readings:

1. Textbook: Deborah J. Gerner, Jillian Schwedler, eds., *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East* (Lynne Rienner 2003). The textbook can be purchased at the University Book Store.
2. Kenneth M. Pollack, *The Persian Puzzle: The Conflict Between Iran and America* (Random House, 2004). Pollack’s book can be purchased at the University Book Store.
3. Course Reader—on WebCT.

4. The *New York Times*—Understanding current events is central to our study of Middle Eastern politics. Class discussion will draw from our readings in the *Times*. Course exams will also include a current events component. Sign-up sheets for the *Times* are at the University Book Store. The *Times* will be available for pick-up the second week of classes.

Course Requirements:

1. Students are required to attend all classes.
2. Students are expected to have read the assigned chapters prior to class.
3. There will be a short geography quiz the third week of class.
4. There will be regular surprise quizzes and class discussions. Quizzes will cover current events, class readings and class lectures.
5. Students will work in pairs and give one ten minute presentation and submit an accompanying five page paper. Presentations and papers should complement the week's readings and provide topics for class discussion. We will discuss this assignment in class.
6. There will be *two mid-term exams and one comprehensive final exam*. Exams will include both multiple choice and short answer questions.

**Make-up exams and quizzes will be given only if students have proper documentation. If you anticipate you will have a conflict due to travel, please let me know within the first three weeks of class.

**This syllabus may change as the semester progresses.

Academic Dishonesty:

The 2003-2005 Iowa State University Bulletin states academic dishonesty “occurs when a student uses or attempts to use unauthorized information in the taking of an exam; or submits as his or her own work themes, reports, drawings, laboratory notes, or other products prepared by another person; or knowingly assists another student in such acts of plagiarism” (p. 38). Students are encouraged to read the academic dishonesty section of the Bulletin (<http://www.iastate.edu/~catalog/2003-05/1-54.pdf>) and to remain vigilant against such lapses in their own work. Any cases of academic dishonesty in this course will be pursued according to the guidelines detailed in the Iowa State University Bulletin.

Special Needs:

Please address any special needs or special accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from the Disability Resources (DR) office (515-294-6624). DR is located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076.

Grading:

Geography Quiz	10
Mid-term 1	100
Mid-term 2	100
Presentation and Paper	100
Surprise Quizzes	50
Class Discussion/Participation	20
Final Exam	120
Total	500 points

Grading Scale:

	A: 460-500	A-: 450-459
B+: 440-449	B: 410-439	B-: 400-409
C+: 390-399	C: 360-389	C-: 350-359
D+: 340-349	D: 310-339	D-: 300-309
F: 299 and below		

Schedule:

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1 January 11, 13	<p>Introduction to Course</p> <p>(1) You're the undersecretary for Near Eastern Affairs....</p> <p>(2) Course outline</p> <p>(3) Geography</p> <p>(4) Presentations/Papers</p>	<p>Conceptualizing the Middle East</p> <p>(1) Bernard Lewis, "The Roots of Muslim Rage," <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> (September 1990). WebCT, 13 pages.</p> <p>(2) Edward W. Said, "The Clash of Ignorance," <i>The Nation</i> (October 22, 2001). WebCT, 7 pages.</p>
Week 2 January 18, 20	<p>The Middle East Landscape</p> <p>(1) Ian Manners and Barbara McKean Parmenter, "The Middle East: A Geographic Preface," <i>UCME</i>, pp. 5-32.</p> <p>(2) Constance Fenimore Woolson, "Cairo in 1890," <i>Harper's New Monthly Magazine</i>, v.83 (1891): Part First. WebCT, pp. 1-16.</p>	<p>History of the Middle East</p> <p>(1) Arthur Goldschmidt Jr., "The Historical Context," <i>UCME</i>, pp. 33-56.</p> <p>(2) Constance Fenimore Woolson, "Cairo in 1890," <i>Harper's New Monthly Magazine</i>, v.83 (1891): 828-855 (Part Second). WebCT, pp. 16-33.</p>

<p>Week 3 January 25, 27</p>	<p>History of the Middle East (1) Arthur Goldschmidt Jr., "The Historical Context," <i>UCME</i>, pp. 56-78. (2) GEOGRAPHY QUIZ</p>	<p>The Intersection of Religion and Politics (1) John L. Esposito, "Religion and Politics in the Middle East," <i>UCME</i>, pp. 363-383 (2) "Islamic Unity and Political Change. Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Hussayn Fadlallah," <i>Journal of Palestine Studies</i> 25:1, pp. 61-75. WebCT.</p>
<p>Week 4 February 1, 3</p>	<p>The Geopolitics of Middle Eastern Oil (1) Mary Ann Tetreault, "The Political Economy of Middle Eastern Oil," <i>UCME</i>, pp. 249-270.</p>	<p>The Geopolitics of Middle Eastern Oil (1) John Cassidy, "Pump Dreams," <i>The New Yorker</i>, October 11, 2004. WebCT, 7 pages.</p>
<p>Week 5 February 8, 10</p>	<p>The Arab-Israeli Conflict (1) Simona Sharoni and Mohammed Abu-Nimer, "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," <i>UCME</i>, pp. 169-206 (2) BBC News In Depth, "Israel and the Palestinians"—(Follow links to: Amal's story; A people's burial for Arafat; Can Arafat's death lead to peace?; Right of return: Palestinian dream; My son the suicide bomber)</p>	<p>Egyptian – Israeli Peace Agreement (Case Study) (1) Shibley Telhami, "The Camp David Accords," <i>Georgetown School of Foreign Service, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy</i>, Case 445, 38 pages. <u>Be prepared for class discussion!</u> (2) Discussion / Quiz on pp. 1-100, Kenneth Pollack, <i>The Persian Puzzle: The Conflict Between Iran and America</i></p>
<p>Week 6 February 15, 17</p>	<p>The United States and the Peace Process (1) Gerner & Wilbur, "Semantics or Substance?" <i>Georgetown School of Foreign Service, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy</i>, Case 229, 21 pages (2) "A Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," U.S. Department of State (April 30, 2003). WebCT, 5 pages. (3) Mouin Rabbani, "The Road from Aqaba," <i>Middle East Report</i>, June 13, 2003. WebCT, 7 pages. (4) Mortimer Zuckerman, "A Look at Life after Arafat," <i>U.S. News and World Report</i> (November 29, 2004).</p>	<p>Where Now? Views from the Wall (1) Jeffrey Goldberg, "Among the Settlers," <i>The New Yorker</i>, May 31, 2004. WebCT, 20 pages. (2) Chris Hedges, "A Gaza Diary," <i>Harpers</i>, October 2001. WebCT, 20 pages.</p>

	WebCT, 2 pages.	
Week 7 February 22, 24	MIDTERM 1	State & Society in the Middle East: Regimes (1) Deborah Gerner, "Middle Eastern Politics," <i>UCME</i> , pp. 79- 126.
Week 8 March 1, 3	State & society in the Middle East: Identity (1) Laurie King-Irani, "Kinship, Class, and Ethnicity: Strategies for Survival" <i>UCME</i> , pp. 299-330.	Identity in Conflict: Iraq Case Study (1) George Packer, "The Next Iraqi War," <i>The New Yorker</i> (October 4, 2004). WebCT, 13 pages. (2) Daniel Byman, "Constructing a Democratic Iraq," <i>International Security</i> 28:1 (Summer 2003). WebCT, 32 pages.
Week 9 March 8, 10	The Middle East in International Context (1) Mary Ann Tetreault, "International Relations," <i>UCME</i> , pp. 131-163.	International Relations & Conflict: Iraq and the 1st Gulf War (1) Martin Staniland, "Getting to No: The Diplomacy of the Gulf Conflict, 1990-1991," <i>Georgetown School of Foreign Service, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy</i> , Case 449a, 35 pages. (2) Discussion / Quiz on pp. 101-200, Kenneth Pollack, <i>The Persian Puzzle: The Conflict Between Iran and America</i>
SPRING BREAK March 14-18	NO CLASS Continue Reading <i>The Persian Puzzle</i>	NO CLASS Reading <i>The Persian Puzzle</i>
Week 10 March 22, 24	Iran and the United States Discussion of <i>The Persian Puzzle</i>	Iran and the United States Discussion of <i>The Persian Puzzle</i>

<p>Week 11</p> <p>March 29, 31</p>	<p>International Relations & Conflict: Iraq and the 2nd Gulf War—Casus belli</p> <p>(1) George Bush, “State of the Union—2003.” WebCT—discussion of Iraq is in second half of speech—3 pages</p> <p>(2) Colin Powell, “Remarks to the United Nations Security Council,” February 5, 2003. WebCT, 20 pages.</p>	<p>International Relations & Conflict: Iraq and the 2nd Gulf War—A Critique</p> <p>(1) James Fallows, “Blind Into Baghdad,” <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> (January/February 2004). WebCT, 26 pages.</p>
<p>Week 12</p> <p>April 5, 7</p>	<p>MIDTERM 2</p>	<p>Midwest Conference – Film</p>
<p>Week 13</p> <p>April 12, 14</p>	<p>Economics and Change in the Middle East</p> <p>(1) Elias Tuma, “The Economies of the Middle East,” <i>UCME</i>, pp. 225-245 only.</p> <p>(2) Robert Vitalis, “The Closing of the Arabian Oil Frontier and the Future of Saudi-American Relations,” <i>Middle East Report</i>, No. 204 (July-Sept. 1997). WebCT, 9 pages.</p>	<p>Economics and Change in the Middle East</p> <p>(1) Valentine Moghadam, “Population Growth, Urbanization, and the Challenge of Unemployment,” <i>UCME</i>, pp. 273-295.</p>
<p>Week 14</p> <p>April 19, 21</p>	<p>Women and Politics</p> <p>(1) Wijdan Ali, “Muslim Women: Between Cliché and Reality,” <i>Diogenes</i> 50 (Fall 2003). WebCT, 12 pages.</p> <p>(2) Stephanie Latte Abdallah, “Palestinian Women in the Camps of Jordan: Interviews,” <i>Journal of Palestine Studies</i> 24:4 (Summer 1995). WebCT, 10 pages.</p>	<p>(1) Lisa Taraki, “The Role of Women,” <i>UCME</i>, pp. 335-359.</p> <p>(2) Simona Sharoni, “The Myth of Gender Equality and the Limits of Women’s Political Dissent in Israel,” <i>Middle East Report</i>, no. 207 (Summer, 1998). WebCT, 5 pages.</p>
<p>Week 15</p> <p>April 26, 28</p>	<p>Select Topics, Review</p>	<p>Select Topics, Review</p>

