

Dalhousie University
Department of Political Science
Politics of the Middle East (POLI 3365)
Winter 2018

Monday and Wednesday, 1:05-2:25pm, Kenneth C. Rowe Management 1020

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Office Hours: Thursday, 12:00-1:30pm (or by appointment)

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides an advanced introduction to the politics of the Middle East. The first section of the course addresses key themes and issues. After examining key debates about the politics of studying the Middle East and the nature of world politics, we explore social change; the political economy of development; institutions and governance; religion and society; actors, public opinion and participation; human rights; and terrorism. The second section of the course explores these themes and issues using a variety of case studies. We address Israel, Palestine, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Turkey and Libya.

REQUIRED BOOK AND READINGS

There is one required book for purchase, which is available at the Dalhousie University Bookstore. Other required readings are available online via Blackboard. The required book is:

Ellen Lust, ed., *The Middle East*, 14th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: CG Press, 2017.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

- 1) Mid-Term Exam (Held in class February 14): 25%
- 2) Research Paper (Due in class March 12): 35%
- 3) Final Exam (To be held during the April 12-26 Exam period): 40%

ASSIGNMENTS

1) **Mid-Term Exam:** The mid-term exam will be held in class on February 14. It is worth 25% of the course grade. The first portion of the mid-term exam will ask students to define and explain the significance of key terms. The second portion will ask students to write an essay in

response to a question. Both portions will give students some choice about which terms and essay questions they wish to answer.

2) **Research Paper:** Students will write a research paper of approximately 2,500 words (8-10 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font). Students are free to choose their own topic provided that it relates to the subject matter of the course. The paper is due in class on March 12. It is worth 35% of the course grade. Late papers will be assessed a penalty of 5 percentage points per day. Papers submitted more than 7 days late will not be accepted. Students must submit a hard copy of the paper to the instructor. Papers cannot be submitted via email. The late penalty is administered based on the date that a hard copy was submitted.

3) **Final Exam:** The final exam will be held during the April 12-26 Exam period. The format of the final exam will be similar to the mid-term exam. It is worth 40% of the course grade.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

1) **Academic Regulations.** This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the [University Calendar](#) and the Senate.

2) **University Statements.**

a) Academic Integrity. At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. Click [here](#) to read more.

b) Accessibility. The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD). Click [here](#) to read more.

c) Student Code of Conduct. Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. Click [here](#) to read more.

d) Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect. Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive

community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). Click [here](#) to read more.

e) Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory. Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the McCain Building (room 3037) or contact the programs at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803 (leave a message).

f) University Policies and Programs.

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program
<https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

g) Learning and Support Resources.

- General Academic Support - Academic Advising:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
- Copyright and Fair Dealing: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>
- Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Student Health Services: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html
- Counselling and Psychological Services:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html
- Black Student Advising: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html
- Aboriginal Student Centre:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/native.html
- ELearning Website: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>
- Student Advocacy Services: <https://www.dsu.ca/services/community-student-services/student-advocacy-service>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html
- Writing Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html
- Studying for Success program and tutoring:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1) **Academic Integrity.** All assignments submitted may be subjected to evaluation by a University approved a computer service that checks assignments for plagiarism. Students are required to retain an electronic copy of all papers in addition to the hard copy submitted to the professor.

2) **Academic Accommodation.** Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers experienced related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian human rights legislation.

Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation form.

A note taker may be required as part of a student's accommodation. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information or send an email to notetaking@dal.ca

3) **Grade Appeals.** Students who wish to appeal their grade must produce a brief written statement (approximately 250 words) explaining why they feel that the assignment/exam was not graded correctly. Appeals must be made within one week from the date on which the assignment/exam was returned. The appeal process will produce a revised grade that may be raised, unchanged, or lowered. The revised grade is final and cannot be appealed.

4) **Use of Electronic Devices.** Students are not permitted to use any electronic devices during the mid-term exam. Students are asked to turn off their cell phones during lectures. Laptops, tablets and other electronic devices may be used during lectures for note taking, but not for any purpose that, in the judgement of the instructor, is distracting to class (i.e. listening to music, streaming videos, etc).

5) **Email Communication with the Instructor.** Emails to the instructor must be sent from the student's official Dalhousie University Email Account. The instructor will not respond to emails sent from any other account except to inform students of this policy. Grades will not be discussed over Email.

6) **Grade Scale and Definitions.** All course assignments will be graded according to the following grade scale, which was approved by the Dalhousie University Senate in 2014:

Grade	Grade Point Value		Definition	
A+	4.30	90-100	Excellent	Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize;
A	4.00	85-89		
A-	3.70	80-84		

				outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
B+	3.30	77-79	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
B	3.00	73-76		
B-	2.70	70-72		
C+	2.30	65-69	Satisfactory	Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from his/her university experience.
C	2.00	60-64		
C-	1.70	55-59		
D	1.00	50-54	Marginal Pass	Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills (except in programs where a minimum grade of "C" or "C+" is required).
FM	0.00		Marginal Failure	Available only for Engineering, Health Professions and Commerce.
F	0.00	0-49	Inadequate	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.
INC	0.00		Incomplete	
W	Neutral and no credit obtained		Withdrew after deadline	
ILL	Neutral and no credit obtained		Compassionate reasons, illness	
P	Neutral		Pass	
TR	Neutral		Transfer credit on admission	
Pending	Neutral		Grade not reported	

WEEKLY READINGS AND TOPICS

January 8 – Introduction to the Class

OPTIONAL: Michael Gasper, “The Making of the Modern Middle East,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 1-73. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

SECTION 1 – THEMES AND ISSUES IN THE POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

January 10 – The Politics of Studying the Middle East

Edward Said, *Orientalism*. New York: Random House, 1978, 1-28.

Zachary Lockman, *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism*, 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010, 183-215.

January 15 – International Relations and the Middle East

Marc Lynch, “International Relations,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 369-402. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Morten Valbjorn and Andre Bank, “The New Arab Cold War: Rediscovering the Arab Dimension of Middle East Regional Politics,” *Review of International Studies* 38 (1) 2012: 3-24.

January 17 – Social Change in the Middle East

Valentine M. Moghadam and Tabitha Decker, “Social Change in the Middle East,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 74-105. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

January 22 – The Political Economy of Development in the Middle East

Melani Cammett and Ishac Diwan, “The Political Economy of Development in the Middle East,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 106-159. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Michael L. Ross, “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” *World Politics* 53 (3) 2001: 325-361.

January 24 – Institutions and Governance

Ellen Lust, “Institutions and Governance,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 160-204. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Lisa Anderson, "The State in the Middle East and North Africa," *Comparative Politics* 20 (1) 1987: 1-18.

January 29 – Religion, Society, and Politics in the Middle East

Robert Lee and Lihi Ben Shitrit, "Religion, Society, and Politics in the Middle East," in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 205-241. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, *Sacred and Secular: Religion and Politics Worldwide*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, 133-156.

January 31 – Actors, Public Opinion, and Participation

Janine A. Clark and Lina Khatib, "Actors, Public Opinion, and Participation," in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 242-287. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Shibley Telhami, *The World Through Arab Eyes: Arab Public Opinion and the Reshaping of the Middle East*. New York: Basic Books, 2013, 145-169, 197-211.

February 5 – Human Rights

Mahmood Monshipouri, "The Politics and Practice of Human Rights in the Muslim World," *Global Dialogue* 6 (1/2) 2004: 67-78.

Neilan S. Chaturvedi and Orlando Montoya, "Democracy, Oil, or Religion? Expanding Women's Rights in the Muslim World," *Politics and Religion* 6 (3) 2013: 596-617.

OPTIONAL: Susan Waltz, "Universal Human Rights: The Contribution of Muslim States," *Human Rights Quarterly* 26 (2004): 799-844.

February 7 – Terrorism

Robert A. Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," *American Political Science Review* 97 (3) 2003: 343-361.

Andrew Phillips, "The Islamic State's Challenge to International Order," *Australian Journal of International Affairs* 68 (5) 2014: 495-498.

OPTIONAL: Mia M. Bloom, "Palestinian Suicide Bombing: Public Support, Market Share, and Outbidding," *Political Science Quarterly* 119 (1) 2004: 61-88.

February 12 – Mid-Term Exam Review Class (And Research Paper Information Session)

No readings

February 14 – Mid-Term Exam

No readings

February 19 and 21 – Reading Week (No Classes)

No readings

SECTION 2 – CASE STUDIES

February 26 and 28 - Israel, Palestine and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Mark Tessler, “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 288-368. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Lihi Ben Shitri, “Israel,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 516-543. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Alaa Tartir and Benoît Challand, “Palestine,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 707-736. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

March 5 – Jordan

Laurie A. Brand, “Jordan,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 544-569. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Lamis El Muhtaseb, “Jordan’s East Banker-Palestinian Schism,” *Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre*, April 2013.

March 7 - Egypt

Tarek Masoud, “Egypt,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 424-454. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Khalil al-Anani, “Upended Path: The Rise and Fall of Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood,” *Middle East Journal* 69 (4) 2015: 527-543.

March 12 – Saudi Arabia

Pascal Menoret, “Saudi Arabia,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 737-754. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Mehran Kamrava, “The Arab Spring and the Saudi-Led Counterrevolution,” *Orbis*, 56 (1) 2012: 96-104.

March 14 – Iraq

Julia Choucair-Vizoso, “Iraq,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 487-515. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Toby Dodge, “State and Society in Iraq Ten Years After Regime Change: The Rise of a New Authoritarianism,” *International Affairs* 89 (2) 2013: 241-257.

March 19 - Iran

Mehrzad Boroujerdi, “Iran,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 455-486. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Seyedamir Hossein Mahdavi and Naghmeh Sohrabi, “What does the 2017 Presidential Election tell us about the State of the Islamic Republic of Iran?” *Brandeis University Crown Center for Middle East Studies*, No. 109, May 2017.

March 21 - Syria

Raymond Hinnebusch, “Syria,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 781-807. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Ayse Tekdal Fildis, “Roots of Alawite-Sunni Rivalry in Syria,” *Middle East Policy*, 19 (2) 2012: 148-156.

March 26 - Turkey

Mine Eder, “Turkey,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 854-894. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Berk Esen and Sebnem Gumuscu, “Turkey: How the Coup Failed,” *Journal of Democracy* 28 (1) 2017: 59-73.

March 28 – Libya

Jacob Mundy, “Libya,” in *The Middle East*, 14th ed., edited by Ellen Lust, 615-643. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2017.

Mikael Eriksson, “A Fratricidal Libya: Making Sense of a Conflict Complex,” *Small Wars and Insurgencies* 27 (5) 2016: 817-836.

April 2 and 4 – No Classes (Professor Seligman is away)

No readings