

Dalhousie University
Department of Political Science
Politics of the Middle East (POLISCI 3365)
Winter 2017

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:05pm-2:25, Henry Hicks Building 217

Instructor: Dr. Steven Seligman

Email: steven.seligman@dal.ca

Phone: 902-494-6626

Office: TBD

Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:00pm-2:30 (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, we then explore social change; the political economy of development; institutions and governance; religion and society; actors, public opinion and participation; human rights; terrorism; nuclear capabilities; and the broader international relations of the Middle East. 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 Brightspace. The required book is:

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

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

- 1) Small Paper (Due in class on January 26): 15%
- 2) Mid-Term Exam (Held in class on February 16): 25%
- 3) Major Research Paper (Due in class on March 14): 35%
- 4) Final Exam (Take-home exam due in class April 6): 25%

ASSIGNMENTS

1) **Small Paper:** Students will write a paper of approximately 1,000-1,250 words (4-5 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font) in response to a question provided by the

instructor. The question will address material covered during the first three weeks of the course. The purpose of the assignment is to assess the student's understanding of the course material. As such, students should refer to, and cite, **only material covered in the readings and lectures**. The paper is due in class on January 26. It is worth 15% 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.

2) **Mid-Term Exam:** The mid-term exam will be held in class on February 16. 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.

3) **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 topic provided that it relates to the politics of the Middle East. The instructor will provide some suggested topic questions for consideration. The paper is due in class on March 14. It is worth 40% 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.

4) **Final Exam:** The final exam will be a take-home exam that is due in class on April 6. It is worth 25% of the course grade. Students will write one essay in response to a question provided by the instructor.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1) **Academic Integrity.** Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with Dalhousie University's policies on academic integrity, particularly the section concerning plagiarism and cheating, but also the section concerning student resources:

http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Additional information about academic integrity and University policies can be found here:

<http://www.dal.ca/faculty/healthprofessions/faculty-and-staff/academic-integrity/information-for-faculty.html>

All assignments submitted may be subjected to evaluation by Urkund, a University approved 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. More information about Urkund can be found here:

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/faculty-resources/urkund--plagiarism-detection.html

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) **Key Dates.** January 20 is the last day to add winter term courses, the last day for late registration, and the last day to drop winter term courses with no financial implications. February 10 is the last day to drop winter term courses without a "W" and the last day to change winter term courses from audit to credit (and vice versa). March 17 is the last day to drop winter term classes with a "W."

4) **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.

5) **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 is distracting to class (i.e. listening to music, streaming videos, etc).

6) **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. Grades will not be discussed over Email.

7) **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 Scale and Definitions

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

				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

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

January 10 – 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.

January 12 – 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 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 19 – 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 26 – Religion, Society, and Politics in the Middle East

*** Short Paper due in class ***

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.

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* Summer 1993: 22-49

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

January 31 – Actors, Public Opinion, 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 2 – 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.

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

February 9 – Nuclear Capabilities

Avner Cohen, "Israel and the Invention of Nuclear Opacity," in *The Nuclear Question in the Middle East*, edited by Mehran Kamrava, 189-224. London: Hurst and Company, 2012.

Kayhan Barzegar, "Iran's Nuclear Program," in *The Nuclear Question in the Middle East*, edited by Mehran Kamrava, 225-264. London: Hurst and Company, 2012.

February 14 – Mid-Term Exam Review Class (And Research Paper Information Session)

No readings

February 16 – Mid-Term Exam

No readings

February 21 and 23 – Reading Week (No Classes)

No readings

February 28 – International Relations

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.

SECTION 2 – CASE STUDIES

March 2 - Israel, Palestine and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Part 1)

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 7 - Israel, Palestine and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Part 2)

Rex Brynen, “Palestinian Refugees,” in *The Routledge Handbook of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, edited by Joel Peters and David Newman, 109-120. New York: Routledge, 2013.

Michael Dumper, “Jerusalem,” in *The Routledge Handbook of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, edited by Joel Peters and David Newman, 121-134. New York: Routledge, 2013.

David Newman, "Territory and Borders," in *The Routledge Handbook of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, edited by Joel Peters and David Newman, 135-144. New York: Routledge, 2013.

Magnus Norell, "Terrorism," in *The Routledge Handbook of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, edited by Joel Peters and David Newman, 154-161. New York: Routledge, 2013.

March 9 – Jordan

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

March 14 - Egypt

*** Research Paper due in class ***

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

Mohammad Ayatollahi Tabaar, "Assessing (In)security after the Arab Spring: The Case of Egypt," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 46 (4) 2013: 727-734.

March 16 – 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 21 – 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.

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

March 23 - Iran

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

Clifton W. Sherrill, "Why Hassan Rouhani Won Iran's 2013 Presidential Election," *Middle East Policy* 21 (2) 2014: 64-75.

March 28 - 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.

OPTIONAL: Steven Heydemann, "Syria and the Future of Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy* 24 (4) 2013: 59-73.

March 30 - Turkey

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

J. Paul Barker, "Re-Thinking Secularism: Religion and Public Life in Turkey," *Turkish Journal of Politics* 3 (1) 2012: 5-19.

Mesut Yeğen, "Turkish Nationalism and the Kurdish Question," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 30 (1) 2007: 119-151.

April 4 – Libya

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

Brian McQuinn, "Assessing (In)security after the Arab Spring: The Case of Libya," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 46 (4) 2013: 716-720.

April 6 – Take Home Exam due in Class

No Readings