

POLI 4061
COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST
Fall 2021

Instructor:
Dr. Fevzi Sarac
Email: fsarac1@lsu.edu

Class:
220 Stubbs Hall
T & Th 3:00 - 4:20

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course offers a systematic approach to the study of Middle Eastern Politics. It includes a wide range of topics, including the formation and consolidation of authoritarian rule in contemporary Middle Eastern states, election and party systems, the political economy of the region, the political impact of oil, the prospect of democracy, role of religion, and recent developments. The class offers an overview of current Middle Eastern politics and seeks to provide a case-based approach to lay out the empirical evidence regarding the politics of the region's individual countries.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to;

- Understand the modern Middle Eastern politics by determining the historical, social, political, cultural factors
- Understand the region and the politics of individual countries in the region based on theoretical and empirical evidence
- Understand the interaction between regional politics and global politics.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

1. Ellen Lust. (2019). *The Middle East, 15th edition*. Sage Publication
2. Stephen Kinzer. (2008). *All the Shah's Men, 2nd edition*. Wiley
 - o Additional materials will be posted on Moodle by the lecturer.

ROLES/COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading Components: Grading is based on the following course components;

Map quiz	10 points
Chapter summary	10 points
Forum discussions	10 points
Opinion paper	10 points
Midterm exam	15 points
Country presentation	10 points
Country report	10 points
Final exam	15 points
Participation	10 points
<u>Total points possible</u>	100 points

Assignments:

1. Map Quiz: Student will be asked about the countries, the important geographical shapes, and the regions in the Middle East.
2. Chapter Summary and Forum Discussions: Each week, some students will be responsible to write a summary (at least 750 words) of the chapter associated to the week. The other students will write comments (at least 50 words) about the summaries using forum pages.
3. Opinion Paper: Each student will summarize Stephen Kinzer's *All the Shah's Men* with his/her opinions (at least 750 words).
4. Country Report: Each student needs to select a country from the region and analyze its domestic politics, economic system and its relations with other regional states and its importance for the region. Students are required to write a short paper (750 words). Students will present the countries starting from October 26.
5. Exams: There will be two exams. The midterm exam will be on Thursday, October 14. The final exam will be on Wednesday, December 18. The exams will cover material presented in the lectures, textbooks, visual materials, and any assigned outside readings. Each of the two exams will consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions. If you must miss an exam, please contact me before the date of the exam. The format of the make-up exam (multiple choice, short answer, or essay) is left to the discretion of the instructor. NOTE: If you miss an exam and fail to contact me before the date of the exam, this behavior will result in a ZERO for that exam.
6. Attendance and Class Participation: Attendance is required and active participation in class discussion is expected. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed all of the reading and assignments before class.

Further details about the assignments will be discussed on **Tuesday, August 24**.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct (<http://saa.lsu.edu/code>) and Commitment to Community (<https://saa.lsu.edu/c2c>). It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and/or any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student. Preventing academic misconduct requires learners to take ownership of their individual work for individual assignments and assessments. Learners who violate the LSU Code of Student Conduct (<http://saa.lsu.edu/code>) will be referred to Student Advocacy & Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation,

the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

Campus resources that can assist with academic difficulties include the Center for Academic Success (<http://cas.lsu.edu/online-workshops-and-videos>), academic counselors within students' major department, and the Office of Student Advocacy & Accountability (<http://saa.lsu.edu/>). Please read more about these services by selecting the link above.

STUDENT WITH DISABILITIES

A learner with a disability is entitled by law to equal access to University programs. Two federal laws protect persons with disabilities in postsecondary education: the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. No. 93-112, as amended), the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (Pub. L. No. 101-336) and that ADA Amendments Act (Pub. L. No.110-325). Please contact Disability Services (<http://disability.lsu.edu/prospective-disabilityservicesstudents>) if you have a disability and want more information about accessibility services. If you have a letter from disability services, please provide me with a copy so I can provide the necessary accommodations.

It is your responsibility to get in touch with me if you have any questions. If an event arises that you think will impact your success in this course, please get in contact with me as soon as possible. This includes anything that will interfere with your ability to submit assignments in a timely fashion. It is much easier for me to work with you during the semester than after the final grades have been submitted.

PART 1. OVERVIEW

Introduction

Tuesday (August 24)

Course Overview and Introduction: (No Readings)

TOPIC 1: The Making of the Modern Middle East

Thursday (August 26)

Introduction to the Middle East

Lust, chapter 1

Tuesday (August 31)

Lust, chapter 1 (Continued)

TOPIC 2: State and Institutions

Thursday (September 2)

Lust, chapter 3

MAP QUIZ

Tuesday (September 7)

Tilly (2002). "*War Making and State Making as Organized Crime.*" Violence: A Reader chapter

Raine (2019). "*How the Middle East Moving from Regime Change to State Change.*" World Economic Forum

TOPIC 3: Religion, Society and Politics

Thursday (September 9) Chapter 4

Tuesday (September 14)

Samuel Huntington (1993). *“The Clash of Civilizations?”*

John Voll (2013). *“Political Islam and The State”*
Oxford Handbook of Islam and Politics.

TOPIC 4: Actors, Public Opinion, and Participation

Thursday (September 16) Lust, Chapter 5

Nadeer Hashemi (2013). *“Islam and Democracy”*
Oxford Handbook of Islam and Politics.

TOPIC 5: Social Change

Tuesday (September 21) Lust, chapter 6

Thursday (September 23)

Rached Ghannouchi (2016). *“From Political Islam to Muslim Democracy.”* Foreign Affairs.

Jean Kirby (2021). *“The Political Crisis in Tunisia, Explained by an Expert.”* Wox.com.

Sabrina Tavernise (2008). *“Turkish School Offer Pakistan a Gentler Islam.”* New York Times

Zaman Stanizai (2017). *“Civil Liberties in the Throes of Turkish Authoritarianism.”* Fountain Magazine.

TOPIC 6: The Political Economy of Development

Tuesday (September 28) Chapter 7

Thursday (September 30)

Ross (2012). *“The Oil Curse”* chapter 2

OPINION (SUMMARY) PAPER DUE

TOPIC 7: International Relations

Tuesday (October 5) Chapter 8

Thursday (October 7) Kinzer (2008)

Tuesday (October 12) Review

Thursday (October 14) **MIDTERM**

PART 2. COUNTRY CASES

Tuesday Oct 19	Chapter 2 (The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict)
Thursday Oct 21	FALL BREAK
Tuesday Oct 26	Chapter 13 (Israel) Chapter 20 (Palestine)
Thursday Oct 28 & Tuesday Nov 2	Lust, chapter 19 (Morocco) Lust, chapter 9 (Algeria) Lust, chapter 24 (Tunisia)
Thursday Nov 4 & Tuesday Nov 9	Lust, chapter 17 (Libya) Lust, chapter 10 (Egypt) Lust, chapter 22 (Sudan)
Thursday Nov 11 & Tuesday Nov 16	Lust, chapter 14 (Jordan) Lust, chapter 16 (Lebanon) Lust, chapter 23 (Syria)
Thursday Nov 18 & Tuesday Nov 23	Lust, chapter 25 (Turkey) Lust, chapter 12 (Iraq) Lust, chapter 11 (Iran)
	COUNTRY PAPER DUE
Thursday Nov 25	THANKSGIVING
Tuesday Nov 30	Lust, chapter 21 (Saudi Arabia) Lust, chapter 18 (The Lower-Gulf States)
Thursday Dec 2	Review

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8 (12:30pm – 2:30pm) FINAL EXAM