

**POLI 4061:  
MIDDLE EAST POLITICS  
Spring 2017**

**Instructor:**

Fevzi Sarac  
Office: 332 Stubbs Hall  
Email: fsarac1@lsu.edu  
Office Hours: M & W 2:30 pm -3:30 pm.  
And other times by appointment.

**Class:**

Hours: M, W & F 3:30AM-4:20PM  
Classroom: 112 Audubon Hall

**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 such as the Arab Spring. 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. (2013). *The Middle East, 14<sup>th</sup> 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;

Final exam	20 points
Mid-term	15 points
Analytical paper	15 points
Analytical paper presentation	10 points
Country report	10 points
Opinion (Summary) Paper	10 points
Map Quiz	10 points
<u>Participation</u>	<u>10 points</u>
<b>Total points possible</b>	<b>100 points</b>

**Assignments:**

1. Map Quiz: Student will be asked about the countries, the important geographical shapes, and the regions in the Middle East.
2. Opinion (Summary) Paper: Each student will summarize Stephen Kinzer's *All the Shah's Men* with his/her opinions (3 pages).
3. 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. Each student is required to write a short paper (3 pages).
4. Analytical Paper and Presentation: Each student needs to select a topic from the class materials such as (social movements, democracy, Islam, conflict, oil) and apply it to a regional state and write a short paper (5-7 pages). S/he needs to present his or her findings in five-minutes in class presentation starting from Week 10.

Further details about the assignments will be discussed and documentation about the country report and analytical paper will be given to students in class on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. There will be a signup sheet in this class to select countries, topics and presentation dates.

**Exams:** 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.

**Attendance & 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.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**  
**PART I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

**Week One: Introduction to Middle Eastern Politics**

**Wednesday (January 11):** Course Overview and Introduction: (No Readings)

**Friday (January 13):** Lust, chapter 1

**Week Two: Introduction to Middle Eastern Politics**

**Monday (January 16):** Martin Luther King Day – Holiday

**Wednesday (January 18):** Lust, chapter 2

**Friday (January 20):** **MAP QUIZ**

**Week Three: Institutions and Governance in the Middle East**

**Monday (January 23):** Lust, chapter 4

**Wednesday (January 25):** Lust, chapter 4 (Continued)

**Friday (January 27):** Tilly (2002). *“War Making and State Making as Organized Crime.”* Violence: A Reader chapter 4.

**Week Four: Political Economy of the Middle East**

**Monday (January 30):** Lust, chapter 3

**Wednesday (February 1):** Lust, chapter 3

**Friday (February 3):** Ross (2012). *“The Oil Curse”* chapter 2  
**Country Selection for Country Report**  
**Topics Selection for Analytical Paper**

**Week Five: Religion, Society and Politics in the Middle East**

**Monday (February 6):** Lust, chapter 5

**Wednesday (February 8):** Samuel Huntington (1993). *“The Clash of civilizations?”*

**Friday (February 10):** John Voll (2013). *“Political Islam and The State”* -in the Oxford Handbook of Islam and Politics.

**Week Six: Political Participation, Public Opinion and Actors in the Middle East**

**Monday (February 13):** Nadeer Hashemi (2013). *Islam and Democracy* -in the Oxford Handbook of Islam and Politics.

**Wednesday (February 15):** Lust, chapter 6

Friday (February 17): Lust, chapter 6 (continued)

**Week Seven: Conflict and War in the Middle East**

Monday (February 20): Kinzer

Wednesday (February 22): Lust, chapter 7

Friday (February 24): Lust, chapter 7 (continued)  
**OPINION (SUMMARY) PAPER DUE**

**Week Eight: Social and Political Movements in the Middle East and the Arab Spring**

Monday (February 27): Mardi Gras - Holiday

Wednesday (March 1): Jane Kinninmont (2015). *“Unrest in the Arab World: Why the 2011 Uprisings Still Matter?”*

Valerie Bunce and David Patel. *“Turning Points and the Cross-National Diffusion of Popular Protest.”* Comparative Politics-Democratization Newsletter.

Friday (March 3): Rached Ghannouchi (2016). *“From Political Islam to Muslim Democracy.”* Foreign Affairs.

Amanda Taub (2016). *“The Unsexy Truth About Why the Arab Spring Failed.”* Wox.com.

Shadi Hamid (2015). *“Islamism, the Arab Spring, and the Failure of America’s Do-Nothing Policy in the Middle-East.”* The Atlantic.

**Week Nine: International Relations in the Middle East**

Monday (March 6): Lust, chapter 8

Wednesday (March 8): Lust, chapter 8 (Continued)

Friday (March 10): **MIDTERM**

**Part 2. COUNTRY CASES**

**Week Ten: North Africa**

Monday (March 13): Lust, chapter 19 (Morocco)

Wednesday (March 15): Lust, chapter 9 (Algeria)

**Friday (March 17):** Lust, chapter 24 (Tunisia)

**Week Eleven: North Africa**

**Monday (March 20):** Lust, chapter 17 (Libya)

**Wednesday (March 22):** Lust, chapter 10(Egypt)

**Friday (March 24):** Lust, chapter 22 (Sudan)

**Week Twelve: Levant**

**Monday (March 27):** Lust, chapter 14 (Jordan)

**Wednesday (March 29):** Lust, chapter 13 (Israel)

**Friday (March 31):** Lust, chapter 20 (Palestinian Authority)

**Week Thirteen: Levant**

**Monday (April 3):** Lust, chapter 16 (Lebanon)

**Wednesday (April 5):** Lust, chapter 23 (Syria)

**Friday (April 7):** Lust, chapter 25 (Turkey)  
**COUNTRY PAPER DUE**

**Spring Break**

**Week Fourteen:**

**Monday (April 17):** Lust, chapter 12 (Iraq)

**Wednesday (April 19):** Lust, chapter 11 (Iran)

**Friday (April 21):** Lust, chapter 15 (Kuwait)

**Week Fifteen:**

**Monday (April 24):** Lust, chapter 21 (Saudi Arabia)

**Wednesday (April 26):** Lust, chapter 26 (Yemen)

**Friday (April 28):** Lust, chapter 18 (The Lower-Gulf States)  
**ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE**

**May 5: FINAL EXAM**