

POLS 363: GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

San Diego State University
Fall 2016
T, Th 12.30-1.45
AH-3110

Prof: Ahmet T. Kuru
akuru@mail.sdsu.edu
Office: Nasatir Hall 125
Office hrs: M 8.30-10.30

Description

This course is designed to contribute to students' critical thinking on socio-political phenomena and help them ask appropriate questions, develop well-grounded arguments, and analyze the validity of alternative perspectives. The lectures will be interactive, in a sense that students will be active by asking questions, answering questions, and participating class discussions. To do so, they have to read the materials in the syllabus *before* coming to the class.

Middle East is an intriguing area to analyze. Historically, it is the birthplace of three monotheistic religions and several ancient civilizations. Currently, the region is the core of the Muslim world and includes more than half of the world's oil reserves. The study of the Middle East politics includes many controversial issues. Students will encounter readings that may challenge their personal opinions. They should keep in mind that in highly politicized issues such as this subject, there are multiple answers to the questions posed. The purpose of the course is to encourage students to read the materials seriously and, then, develop their own arguments.

Goals for GE Courses in the Social and Behavioral Sciences

This is a GE course with the following goals:

Goal 1: Explore and recognize basic terms, concepts, and domains of the social and behavioral sciences. Goal 2: Comprehend diverse theories and methods of the social and behavioral sciences. Goal 3: Identify human behavioral patterns across space and time and discuss their interrelatedness and distinctiveness. Goal 4: Enhance understanding of the social world through the application of conceptual frameworks from the social and behavioral sciences to first-hand engagement with contemporary issues.

Student Learning Objectives:

In this course, students will:

- Utilize basic approaches, perspectives, and theories on Middle East Politics.
- Define, explain, and illustrate by contemporary examples various theories of political regimes in the region, by addressing their origins, evolution, institutions, processes, and effects.
- Compare and contrast key concepts of political ideologies, as systems of organizing political movements and institutions in the Middle East.
- Analyze the meaning of citizenship in the Middle East, including the rights, duties, and obligations of the citizen.
- Examine the effects of increasing globalization on the state and society in Middle Eastern countries.
- Exercise skills in critical thinking, close reading of texts, verbal and written communication, organization and integration of ideas, and problem-solving.

Class Requirements

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings. Attendance is mandatory.

Required Readings

Ellen Lust, ed., *The Middle East* (CQ Press)

Mohammed Ayoob, *The Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Muslim World* (University of Michigan Press, 2007).

Other book chapters and journal articles are in the Blackboard.

Grading

Class Participation: 20 %

Final Exam: 40 %

Midterm Exam: 40 %

TOTAL: 100 %

A = 4.0

B = 3.0

C = 2.0

D = 1.0

A- = 3.7

B- = 2.7

C- = 1.7

D- = 0.7

B+ = 3.3

C+ = 2.3

D+ = 1.3

F = 0

Disability Accommodation

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Academic Dishonesty

Students caught engaging in cheating will receive an automatic F and will be reported.

SCHEDULE

PART I: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

August 30 Islam and Islamic Empires I

The Middle East, "The Making of the Modern Middle East," pp. 1-5.

September 1 Islam and Islamic Empires II

In Class Videos: The Message (Migration to Abyssinia);
Islam, Empire of Faith (Baghdad and Cordoba).

September 6 Ottoman Empire

The Middle East, "The Making of the Modern Middle East," pp. 5-18.

Ahmet Kuru, *Secularism and State Policies toward Religion*, pp. 205-215 (BB).

September 8 First World War and its Aftermath

The Middle East, "The Making of the Modern Middle East," pp. 26-31, 39-44.

Ahmet Kuru, *Secularism and State Policies toward Religion*, pp. 216-235 (BB).

PART II: CONTEMPORARY STATES

September 13 Turkey

- Ahmet Kuru, "The False Promise," *Critical Muslim* (Oct.-Dec. 2015), pp. 15-23 (BB).
- Ahmet Kuru, "The Rise and Fall of Military Tutelage in Turkey: Fears of Islamism, Kurdism, and Communism," *Insight Turkey* (Spring 2012), pp. 37-57 (BB).
- Ahmet Kuru, "Turkey's Failed Policy toward the Arab Spring: Three Levels of Analysis," *Mediterranean Quarterly* (Fall 2015), pp. 94-116 (BB).

September 15 Iran

- The Middle East*, "The Making of the Modern Middle East," pp. 44-47.
- The Middle East*, "Iran," pp. 478-506.
- In Class Video: Iranian Shah and American Presidents.

September 20 Egypt

- The Middle East*, "The Making of the Modern Middle East," pp. 48-50, 53-54, 67-69.
- The Middle East*, "Egypt," pp. 448-477.

September 22 Saudi Arabia

- The Middle East*, "Saudi Arabia," pp. 746-763.

September 27 Iraq

- The Middle East*, "Iraq," pp. 507-536.

September 29 Syria

- The Middle East*, "Syria," pp. 764-788.

October 4 Israel

- The Middle East*, "The Making of the Modern Middle East," pp. 31-39.
- The Middle East*, "Israel," pp. 537-563.

October 6 Palestine and Jordan / Map Quiz

- The Middle East*, "Palestinian Authority," pp. 688-716.
- The Middle East*, "Jordan," pp. 564-589.

October 11 The Arab Spring?

- Eva Bellin, "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective," *Comparative Politics* (January 2004), pp. 139-157 (BB).
- Eva Bellin, "The Robustness of Authoritarianism Reconsidered: Lessons of the Arab Spring," *Comparative Politics* (January 2012), pp. 127-149 (BB).

October 13 Review

October 18 10 MIDTERM EXAM

PART III: AUTHORITARIANISM AND DEMOCRACY

October 20 Islam, Secularism, and Democracy

Alfred Stepan, "Religion, Democracy, and the Twin Tolerations," *Journal of Democracy* (October 2000), pp. 37-57 (BB).

Ira Lapidus, "State and Religion in Islamic Societies," *Past & Present* (May 1996), pp. 3-27 (BB).

October 25 Arab-Majority Countries

Alfred Stepan with Graeme B. Robertson, "An 'Arab' More than 'Muslim' Electoral Gap," *Journal of Democracy* (July 2003), pp. 30-44 (BB).

Alfred Stepan and Graeme B. Robertson, "Arab, Not Muslim, Exceptionalism," *Journal of Democracy* (October 2004), pp. 140-146 (BB).

October 27 Patriarchy

Michael Ross, "Oil, Islam, and Woman," *American Political Science Review* (February 2008), pp. 107-123 (BB).

November 1 Rentier States

Michael Ross, "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* (April 2001), pp. 325-361 (BB).

Giacomo Luciani, "Oil and Political Economy in the International Relations of the Middle East" in Louise Fawcett, ed., *International Relations of the Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 81-103 (BB).

November 3 Regional Diffusion

Ahmet Kuru, "Authoritarianism and Democracy in Muslim-majority Countries: Rentier States and Regional Diffusion," *Political Science Quarterly* (Fall 2014), pp. 399-427 (BB).

PART IV: THE WEST AND THE MIDDLE EAST: A CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS?

November 8 Colonial and Post-Colonial Periods

Frantz Fanon, "On Violence," *The Wretched of the Earth* (Grove, 2004 [1961]) pp. 1-43 (BB).
The Middle East, "International Politics of the Middle East."

November 10 Clash of Civilizations

Samuel Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993), pp. 22-49 (BB).

In-Class Video: Edward Said, "The Myth of the Clash of Civilizations."

November 15 Orientalism

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (Vintage, 1979), pp. 1-11 (BB).

Graham Fuller, "A World without Islam," *Foreign Policy* (January-Feb. 2008), pp. 46-53 (BB).

Homework Video: Orientalism with Edward Said.

November 17 The US and the Middle East

John J. Marsheimer, Stephen Walt, Aaron Friedberg, et al, "The War over Israel's Influence," *Foreign Policy* (July-August 2006), pp. 57-66 (BB).

Michael Hudson, "The United States in the Middle East" in Louise Fawcett, ed., *International Relations of the Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 308-330 (BB).

Mohammad Ayoob, Chapter 8, pp. 161-169.

PART V: POLITICAL ISLAM

November 22 From Quietism to Radicalism

Mohammad Ayoob, Chapters 1 and 2.

November 24 Thanksgiving Break

November 29 Saudi Arabia and Iran

Mohammad Ayoob, Chapter 3.

December 1 Egypt and Pakistan

Mohammad Ayoob, Chapter 4.

December 3 Turkey and Indonesia

Mohammad Ayoob, Chapter 5.

Greg Barton, "The Gülen Movement, Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama: Progressive Islamic Thought, Religious Philanthropy and Civil Society in Turkey and Indonesia," *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* (May 2014): 1-15.

December 8 Lebanon and Palestine /

Mohammad Ayoob, Chapter 6, 7, and 8 (only pp. 161-168).

Glenn Robinson, " Hamas as Social Movement," in Quintan Wiktorowicz, ed., *Islamic Activism: A Social Movement Theory Approach* (Indiana University Press, 2004), pp. 112-39 (BB).

December 10 Transnational Islamists

John Esposito, "Islam and Political Violence," *Religions* (September 2015), pp. 1067-1081.

December 13 Review

FINAL EXAM Th, December 15 at 10.30-12.30