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Spring 2-1-1995

### PSC 320H.01: Politics of the Middle East

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Political Science 320  
Politics of the Middle East

Spring 1995  
Office Hours: 10-11 MWF  
LA 349

Texts:

Lewis, The Shaping of the Modern Middle East  
Ayubi, Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Arab World  
Smith, Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict (2nd ed)

Requirements:

The purpose of this course is to identify and describe the major influences shaping the character of politics in the contemporary middle east. It is not a country by country survey nor will much attention be directed at formal structures of governments. The objective is to develop an understanding of the underlying reasons why middle east politics takes the form it does.

There will be two one-hour exams: the first will be on March 1 and the second on April 5. Each exam will count for 20% of the final grade. A two-hour comprehensive final exam will count for 40% of the final grade. The final exam is scheduled for May 9, 10:10-12:10. Exams will consist of combinations of identification, short answer and essay questions.

An additional requirement is a 15 page analytical paper on some aspect of contemporary Middle Eastern politics or public policy (contemporary being defined as Post-World War II). Deadline for topic selection is February 17. The paper should adhere to conventional manuscript style (Turabian) and is due no later than April 28. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. This paper counts for 20% of the final grade.

In order to make the experience of this course as pleasant and rewarding as possible for all concerned, you are asked to observe the following rules. Do not come to class late or depart early. Do not use class time to read the Kaimin, write letters, chat with your neighbors or engage in other activities not related to the course.

## Topic Outline

1. Introduction
  - A. Geography
  - B. Demography
  
2. Historical Background Reading Assignment
  - A. Pre-Islam Smith, Ch. 1-3
  - B. Islamic Empire Lewis, Ch. 1
  - C. Encounter with the West Lewis, Ch. 2
  
3. Islam Reading Assignment
  - A. Basic Tenets
  - B. Religion and Life Ayubi, Ch. 2
  - C. Religion and Society Ayubi, Ch. 3
  
4. The Islamic State Reading Assignment
  - A. Political Theory Ayubi, Ch. 1,6
  - B. Socio-Economic Factors Ayubi, Ch. 7
  
5. Islam and Politics in the 20th Century Reading Assignment
  - A. Imperialism Lewis, Ch. 3
  - B. Nationalism Lewis, Ch. 4
  
6. Islamization Reading Assignment
  - A. Islamic Practice Ayubi, Ch. 8
  - B. Liberals and Conservatives Ayubi, Ch. 9
  
7. Revolutionary Islam Reading Assignment
  - A. Breaking Out Lewis, Ch. 5
  - B. The Middle East After WWII Lewis, Ch. 6
  - C. Iran
  - D. Fundamentalism Ayubi, Ch. 10
  
8. The Arab-Israeli Conflict Reading Assignment
  - A. Background
  - B. The Palestine Question Smith, Ch. 4-9
  - C. The "Peace Process"
  
9. The Gulf Conflict Reading Assignment
  - A. Background
  - B. The Gulf Wars Smith, Ch. 10
  - C. The "New World Order"

Note: February 16 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.