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PSC 496.01: National Council on US-Arab Relations

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National Council on US-Arab Relations www.ncusar.org

Model Arab League

Professor Mehrdad Kia

Secretary General: Leslie Venetz

Director General: Brent Epperson

Assistant Secretary General: Andrea Helling

Assistant Secretary General: Eric Schultz

Class Time: Tuesday 7:00 – 10:00PM LA 11

Contact Information: Professor Kia – mehrdad.kia@mso.umt.edu

Leslie – berraberro@hotmail.com, 243-2037

Brent – brenteperson1@yahoo.fr, 239-8765

Attendance: Your presence and participation in class is imperative given that we have a limited amount of time to prepare for the conference. Attendance will be taken during each class. One unexcused absence will be permitted. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a drop of one letter grade. Excused absences are (A) medical (with a doctor's note), (B) university sanctioned event where your attendance is required (for athletes, choir members, etc), (C) Family Emergency (documentation required).

Grading:

Delegates:

Class Attendance 10%, Quizzes 20%, Draft Resolutions 15%,
Papers 15%.

The additional 40% of your grade will be based upon your attendance, SG, DG and staff evaluations at the conference. Evaluations at the conference will consider:

Parli-Pro Skills 15%, Country Knowledge 15%, Attendance and
Participation 10%

Staff: Grading on in-class work will be the same. At the conference, the Faculty Advisor, SG and DG will evaluate your performance.

Quizzes:

There will be a quiz at the end of every class period. The quizzes will test your understanding of information contained in the CIA World Factbook, BBC Country Profiles, and assigned articles. Quizzes will also contain current events questions. Delegates are encouraged to follow Middle Eastern news from the *Economist*, *Washington Post*, *Middle East Times*, *Le Monde*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Al Jazeera Online*, *Chicago World Tribune*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, and the *New York Times*.

Papers:

Delegates:

You will be required to write two papers in this class:

- The first is a three page country history paper. A detailed assignment will be given on January 31st. It will be due on February 7th.
- The second paper will detail your country's position on the subject matter that your committee will address. This paper will be 5-6 pages in length. A detailed assignment explanation will be given in class on February 14th. This paper will be due on March 07th.

Staff:

Chairs will be required to write two backgrounders for their committee topics. Each backgrounder is 7-8 pages long. The first backgrounder is due on February 14th. The second backgrounder is due February 28th. Vice Chairs will write one 7-8 page backgrounder which will also be due on February 14th. In addition to the backgrounder, Vice Chairs will write a second 6-7 page paper in which they will imagine a hypothetical crisis in a given Arab country and conceive a solution. This paper will be due on March 28th.

Course and Conference Summary:

Delegates and Staff will be asked to write a one page summary of their experience in the class and a one page summary of their experience during the conference. These summaries are to be turned in on the last day of class, April 11th.

Draft Resolutions:

In addition to the two papers, Delegates will also write three 1 page resolutions prior to the conference. One resolution will be done in class. The other two will be done at home, typed and turned in the following class period. Each resolution is worth 5% of your grade and must be approved by the SG before a final grade is given. The resolutions must contain at least five perambulatory clauses and 8 operative clauses and follow the guideline laid out by the National Council on US-Arab Relations (NCUSAR).

Class Schedule

January 24th- Introduction to Model Arab League, Basic Arab World Knowledge Quiz.

Country assignments

Readings for 1/31:

- (1) Iraq, Jordan BBC Country profiles
- (2) CIA World Fact Book: Iraq and Jordan.
- (3) "Unfamiliar questions in the Arab air - Arab world, Iraq and al-Qaeda; Arab world, Iraq and al-Qaeda," The Economist 19, November 2005
- (4) "Caught in the middle, as usual" The Economist 12, November 2005

January 31st - Iraq / Jordan Quiz, Parli-Pro practice, Syria, Lebanon discussion

Readings for 2/7:

- (1) Syria, Lebanon BBC Country Profiles
- (2) CIA World Factbook: Syria and Lebanon.
- (3) Péan, Pierre. "The Past is always Present" Le Monde Diplomatique, September 2002.
- (4) "Nervous But Hopeful; Lebanon" The Economist 25, June 2005
- (5) "Who Will Blink First" The Economist 2 April 2005
- (6) "One of the last survivors of a dying breed; Syria under Bashar Assad." The Economist 18 June, 2005
- (7) de la Gorce, Paul-Marie. "Syria Surrounded" Le Monde Diplomatique July 2004.

February 7th - Syria, Lebanon Quiz, Parli-Pro practice,
Maghrib discussion (the other Arab world)

Readings for 2/14:

- (1) Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia BBC Country Profiles
- (2) CIA World Factbook: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia
- (3) "Flawed Charter: Algeria" The Economist 08, October 2005

(4) McLean, Renwick. "Morocco Again Expels Africans Trying Risky Path to Europe" The New York Times 17 October, 2005

(5) Gorenberg, Gershom. "Algeria, Theirs and Ours" The Jerusalem Report 28, November, 2005

February 14th – Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia Quiz, Arab World Map Quiz
Gulf Discussion
Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure

Readings for 2/21:

- (1) Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman BBC Country Profiles
- (2) CIA World Factbook: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman
- (3) "The Shock of the New: Saudi Arabia" The Economist 19 November, 2005
- (4) "Saudi Arabia: WTO or Bust" The Economist 21 August, 2005
- (5) Gause, F. Gregory. "Desert Conundrum; Two vastly different takes on the puzzle that is Saudi Arabia" The Washington Post 16, September 2005
- (6) Katz, Mark. "Assessing the political stability of Oman" Middle East Review of International Affairs 2004
- (7) Rizzo, Helen. "Women, politics, and Islam in Kuwait" ISIM Newsletter 2004

February 21st – Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman Quiz

Food and Culture Day

Class will meet in the University Center (room to be announced) for a Middle Eastern potluck dinner. Each country delegation will cook food from their country and explain to the class the significance of their food on the culture of their country.

Note – UM students from the Arab world will be joining us for dinner..

Readings for 2/28:

- (1) Yemen, Qatar, United Arab Emirates BBC Country Profiles
- (2) CIA World Factbook: Yemen, Qatar, United Arab Emirates
- (3) "A Shia Shadow" The Economist 21 May, 2005
- (4) Vedantam, Shankar. "Qatar Advances Plan to Privatize Al-Jazeera" The Washington Post 31 January, 2005
- (5) Sayegh, Fatma al. "Post 9/11 Changes in the Gulf: the case of the UAE" Middle East Policy 2004

February 28th – Yemen, Qatar, United Arab Emirates Quiz

Committee Discussion and Assignments

Readings for 3/7:

- (1) Djibouti, Mauritania, Sudan BBC Country Profiles
- (2) CIA World Factbook: Djibouti, Mauritania, Sudan
- (3) "Qatnappers: Djibouti" The Economist 8 October, 2005
- (4) "An Awkward Friend for America; Mauritania" The Economist 3 September, 2005
- (5) Wax, Emily. "Sudan's Unbowed, Unbroken Inner Circle" The Washington Post 3 May, 2005
- (6) "Darfur's Despair" The Economist 15 October, 2005
- (7) Kristof, Nicholas D. "Sudan's Department of Gang Rape" The New York Times 22 November, 2005

March 7th -- Djibouti, Mauritania, Sudan Quiz

Guest Speaker: Samir Bitar, Arabic Language Instructor

Readings for 3/14:

- (1) Palestine/Israel BBC Country Profile
- (2) CIA World Factbook: Israel, West Bank, Gaza Strip
- (3) Myre, Greg. "Gaza Gets Ready for a Harvest of Produce and Promise" The New York Times 26 November, 2005
- (4) Wilson, Scott. "Israelis Hand Off Gaza Crossing; Palestinians Take Control of Rafah" The Washington Post 25 November, 2005

March 14th – Palestine Quiz

Mock Session Using Prepared Resolutions

Readings for 3/21:

- (1) Libya, Egypt BBC Country Profiles
- (2) CIA World Factbook: Libya, Egypt
- (3) "To Libya and beyond; Energy in Africa" The Washington Post 12 February, 2005
- (4) Ibrahim, Saad. "Promises to Keep in Egypt" The Washington Post 24 September, 2005
- (5) "Only a first step, but it matters; Egypt" The Economist 10, September, 2005

March 21st – Libya, Egypt Quiz

Mock Session, Resolutions prepared in class

Readings for 4/4:

- (1) Bahrain, Comoros, Somalia BBC Country Profiles
- (2) CIA World Factbook: Bahrain, Comoros, Somalia
- (3) Boustany, Nora. "In Bahrain, Doubts About Reform" The Washington Post 24 June, 2005
- (4) "Yusuf the Uniter?" The Economist 19 February, 2005

March 28th – Spring Break – No class**April 4th** - Bahrain, Comoros, Somalia Quiz

Final Preparation for Conference

April 6th - 8th – Northern Rockies Model Arab League

Guest Speakers

Tuesday, January 24th - Introduction to MAL/League of Arab States/NCUSAR/Parli Pro
- Basic Knowledge Quiz

7:15 – Arnie Sherman

8:00 – Udo Fluck

- Arnie and Udo will talk about the importance of global awareness and the benefit of taking Model Arab League.

Tuesday, January 31st – Research and Geography

- **Librarian** will show students how to effectively and efficiently find the articles and information they will need to learn about their countries and topics.
- **Professor Jeff Gritzner** (Geography) will do an overview of important geographical features of the area, including mountain ranges, rivers, deserts, important oil fields, and country capitals.

Tuesday, February 7th – History and the League of Arab States

- Professor Hale Yilmaz (History) will discuss the important historical developments over the last century, including a discussion about modern borders and the development of country nationalisms, pan-nationalism, pan-Arabism, and pan-Islamism and their impact on current politics. (Hopefully, she will also be able to address the problems the League of Arab States faced when Anwar Sadat signed the Camp David Peace Accords.)
- Professor Karen Adams (Political Science) will discuss the development and problems faced by international organizations, especially the League of Arab States and OPEC.

Tuesday, February 14th – Islam

- Professor Mehrdad Kia (Geography/Office of International Programs) will address the importance of the Model Arab League and students' preparation in order to adequately represent their countries. Additionally, Professor Kia will talk about development of Islam in the region and its impact on current politics and the internal relations of member states.

Tuesday, February 21st – Food and Culture Day!

- Students will cook food from the countries they have been assigned to represent. Also, UM students from Arab countries will be joining the class to provide an opportunity for class members to ask questions of people our age who grew up in the region. Class will be held in the UC, room number tba.

Tuesday, February 28th – Future of Fluids

- Professor Sarah Halvorson (Geography) will discuss the future of water in the region and its impact on politics between member states.

- Ambassador Mark Johnson (World Affairs Council) will discuss the future of oil in the region and its impact on politics between member states and on international politics.

Tuesday, March 7th – Economics and Women

- Professor Jeff Bookwalter (Economics) will discuss the economics of the region and the implication for growth and stability.
- Professor G.G. Weix (Anthropology) will discuss the role of women in the Arab world.

Tuesday, March 14th – Diaspora and the Brain Drain

- Professor Samir Bitar (Modern and Classical Literatures and Languages) will discuss the Palestinian Diaspora and the implication of the question of Palestine on Arab politics.
- Begin to run Mock Sessions

Tuesday, March 21st – Mock Sessions

Tuesday, March 28th – Spring Break

Tuesday, April 4th – Mock Sessions, Final Preparation for conference.

Tuesday, April, 11th – Outcome Assessment