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Spring 2-1-1997

### PSC 320.01: Politics of the Middle East

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*The University Of Montana*

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Political Science 320  
Politics of the Middle East

Spring 1997  
Office Hours: 10-11 MWF  
LA 349

Text:

James Bill and Robert Springborg, Politics in the Middle East  
Reserve Materials (\*)

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. In general terms, the main topics are: Islam and politics, the politics of revolution, the Palestine issue, and the politics of oil.

There will be two one-hour exams: the first will be on March 3 and the second on April 7. 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 12, 10:10-12:10. Exams will consist of combinations of identification, short answer and essay questions.

An additional requirement is a paper (minimum 15 pages) which concerning some aspect of twentieth century politics or public policy. Deadline for topic selection is February 17. The paper should follow standard manuscript style (Turabian) and is due no later than April 28. The 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

Reading Assignments

1. Introduction
  - A. Geography
  - B. Demography

\*Perry Ch. 1

- 2. Historical Background \*Andersen, Ch. 3
  - A. Pre-Islam
  - B. Islamic Empire
- 3. Islam \*Esposito, Ch. 3
  - A. Basic Tenets
  - B. Religion and Life
  - C. Religion and Society
- 4. The Islamic State Bill, Ch. 2
  - A. Political Theory
  - B. Socio-Economic Factors

EXAM #1 MARCH 3

- 5. Modernization and Western Imperialism Bill, Ch. 1
- 6. Political Sociology Bill, Ch. 3
- 7. Politics and Personality Bill, Ch. 4-5

EXAM #2 APRIL 7

- 8. The Institutions of Government Bill, Ch. 6
- 9. The Arab-Israeli Conflict Bill, Ch. 7
  - A. Background
  - B. The Palestine Question
  - C. The "Peace Process"
- 10. The Gulf Conflict Bill, Ch. 8
  - A. Background
  - B. The Gulf Wars
  - C. The "New World Order"
- 11. The Politics of Oil Bill, Ch. 9

FINAL EXAM MAY 12 - 10:10 - 12:10

Note: March 10 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.