

**POLI 4061:  
MIDDLE EAST POLITICS  
Fall 2018**

**Instructor:**

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Office Hours: M, W 1-2 pm.

And other times by appointment.

**Class:**

Hours: M, W & F 10:20AM-11:50AM  
Classroom: 019 Allen 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	15 points
Mid-term	15 points
Analytical paper	15 points
Country Report Presentation	10 points
Country report	10 points
Opinion (Summary) Paper	10 points
Map Quiz	7.5 points
Review Quiz	7.5 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). Students will present their papers starting from Week 10.
4. Analytical Paper and Presentation: Each student needs to select a topic from the course materials such as (social movements, democracy, Islam, conflict, oil) and apply it to a regional state and write a paper (5-7 pages).

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 **September 7, 2018**. 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.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct (<http://saa.lsu.edu/code>) and Commitment to Community (<https://saa.lsu.edu/c2c>). It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and/or any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student. Preventing academic misconduct requires learners to take ownership of their individual work for individual assignments and assessments. Learners who violate the LSU Code of Student Conduct (<http://saa.lsu.edu/code>) will be referred to Student Advocacy & Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation,

the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

Campus resources that can assist with academic difficulties include the Center for Academic Success (<http://cas.lsu.edu/online-workshops-and-videos>), academic counselors within students' major department, and the Office of Student Advocacy & Accountability (<http://saa.lsu.edu/>). Please read more about these services by selecting the link above.

## **STUDENT WITH DISABILITIES**

A learner with a disability is entitled by law to equal access to University programs. Two federal laws protect persons with disabilities in postsecondary education: the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. No. 93-112, as amended), the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (Pub. L. No. 101-336) and that ADA Amendments Act (Pub. L. No.110-325). Please contact Disability Services (<http://disability.lsu.edu/prospective-disabilityservicesstudents>) if you have a disability and want more information about accessibility services. If you have a letter from disability services, please provide me with a copy so I can provide the necessary accommodations.

It is your responsibility to get in touch with me if you have any questions. If an event arises that you think will impact your success in this course, please get in contact with me as soon as possible. This includes anything that will interfere with your ability to submit assignments in a timely fashion. It is much easier for me to work with you during the semester than after the final grades have been submitted.

## **PART I. OVERVIEW**

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

- Monday (August 20):** Course Overview and Introduction: (No Readings)
- Wednesday (August 22):** Introduction to Middle East (No Reading)
- Friday (August 24):** Lust, chapter 1

### **Week Two: Social Changes in the Middle East**

- Monday (August 27):** Lust, chapter 1 (Continued)
- Wednesday (August 29):** Lust, chapter 2
- Friday (August 31):** Lust, chapter 2 (Continued)  
**MAP QUIZ**

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

- Monday (September 3):** Labor Day
- Wednesday (September 5):** Lust, chapter 4
- Friday (September 7):** Lust, chapter 4 (Continued)  
Tilly (2002). “*War Making and State Making as Organized Crime.*” Violence: A Reader chapter 4.
- Country Selection for Country Report**  
**Topics Selection for Analytical Paper**

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

- Monday (September 10):** Lust, chapter 3
- Wednesday (September 12):** Lust, chapter 3 (Continued)
- Friday (September 14):** Ross (2012). “*The Oil Curse*” chapter 2

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

- Monday (September 17):** Lust, chapter 5
- Wednesday (September 19):** Samuel Huntington (1993). “*The Clash of civilizations?*”
- Friday (September 21):** 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 (September 24):** Nadeer Hashemi (2013). *Islam and Democracy* -in the Oxford Handbook of Islam and Politics.
- Wednesday (September 26):** Lust, chapter 6
- Friday (September 28):** Lust, chapter 6 (continued)

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

- Monday (October 1):** Kinzer
- Wednesday (October 3):** Lust, chapter 7  
**REVIEW QUIZ**
- Friday (October 5):** Fall Holiday

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

- Monday (October 8):** Mardi Gras - Holiday
- Wednesday (October 10):** REVIEW  
**OPINION (SUMMARY) PAPER DUE**
- Friday (October 12):** 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.
- Ahmet Donmez(2018). "*Why is July 15<sup>th</sup> still not being clarified?.*" Politurco.com
- Zaman Stanizai (2017). "*Civil Liberties in the Throes of Turkish Authoritarianism.*" Fountain Magazine.

**Week Nine: MIDTERM**

- Monday (October 15):** REVIEW
- Wednesday (October 17):** REVIEW
- Friday (October 19):** **MIDTERM**

## Part 2. COUNTRY CASES

### Week Ten: North Africa

Monday (October 22):	Lust, chapter 19 (Morocco)
Wednesday (October 24):	Lust, chapter 9 (Algeria)
Friday (October 26):	Lust, chapter 24 (Tunisia)

### Week Eleven: North Africa

Monday (October 29):	Lust, chapter 17 (Libya)
Wednesday (October 29):	Lust, chapter 10 (Egypt)
Friday (November 2):	Lust, chapter 22 (Sudan)

### Week Twelve: Levant

Monday (November 5):	Lust, chapter 14 (Jordan)
Wednesday (November 7):	Lust, chapter 13 & chapter 7 (Israel)
Friday (November 9):	Lust, chapter 20 & chapter 7 (Palestinian Authority)

### Week Thirteen: Levant

Monday (November 12):	Lust, chapter 16 (Lebanon)
Wednesday (November 14):	Lust, chapter 23 (Syria)
Friday (November 16):	Lust, chapter 25 (Turkey)

### **COUNTRY PAPER DUE**

### Week Fourteen:

Monday (November 19):	Lust, chapter 12 (Iraq)
Wednesday (November 21):	Lust, chapter 11 (Iran)
Friday (November 23):	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>

### Week Fifteen:

Monday (November 26):	Lust, chapter 21 (Saudi Arabia)
Wednesday (November 28):	Lust, chapter 18 (The Lower-Gulf States)
Friday (November 30):	REVIEW <b>ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE</b>

## DECEMBER 3 : FINAL EXAM