Course Title:
Politics and Policy of the Middle East

Course Number:
IAS 5453-221

Course Description:
This course is an introduction to political science approaches to Middle East politics. Students will become familiar with the major concepts and theories involved in the study of Middle Eastern politics. Some of the conceptual topics and themes we will cover include: states and state formation in the Middle East; the persistence and dynamics of authoritarianism in the region; nationalism and identity (specifically, Arab nationalism and pan-Arabism); the Arab-Israeli conflict; oil and the *rentier* state theory; political Islam; U.S. policy toward the region, the Arab Uprisings (“Arab Spring”) and other subjects. We cannot hope to be comprehensive in our coverage of these issues in one course. Moreover, we will primarily focus on cross-country and conceptual issues rather than on the specific political histories of individual nation-states.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

  Dates:       December 8-13, 2015
  Location:    Classes held at Building 2784, Room 301, Kapaun Air Station on Vogelweh Air Base.
  Hours:       Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
  Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: November 9, 2015

Site Director:
Tiffany Winfield. Assistant: Nichole Soukup. Phone: DSN 480-6807, Civilian 06371-47-6807; Fax: 06371-479839; E-mail: apramstein@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

  Course Professor:  Dr. Samer Shehata
  Mailing Address:   Department of International & Area Studies
                    729 Elm Avenue
                    Hester Hall
                    Norman, OK 73019
  Telephone Number:  (405) 325-1341
  E-mail Address:    shehata@ou.edu
  Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Reading materials for this course will be available through Desire 2 Learn (D2L) and/or available on the Internet. Access D2L at [http://learn.ou.edu](http://learn.ou.edu); enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.
Course Objectives:

- To gain knowledge of the political geography of the Middle East.
- To become familiar with the major theories and conceptual approaches in the study of Middle East politics.
- To understand and analyze the most important issues and themes in the politics of the region.
- To become a more informed and critical consumer of news and information about the region.

Course Outline:

Day 1

Introduction to the Course: Middle East Politics & US Policy

States & State Formation in the Middle East:

Readings (Read before Class):

- “Where is the Middle East?” http://mideast.unc.edu/where/
- 40 Maps that explain the Middle East http://www.vox.com/a/maps-explain-the-middle-east
- Review various political maps of the “Middle East”

Day 2

Overview of U.S. Policy Toward the Region

Readings (Read before Class):


Day 3

Arab Nationalism & Identity

Arab-Israeli conflict

Map Exam

Readings (Read before Class):


Supplemental Reading (not required):

Day 4 - 6

Authoritarianism in the Middle East

Politics from Below

Readings (Read before Class):

  Available at: http://www.polisci.ucla.edu/faculty/ross/doesoil.pdf
  Available at: http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2007/10arabworld.aspx

Supplemental Reading (not required)

- TBD, Activist Politics & Politics from below

News Items & Current Happenings in the Middle East

Readings:

Follow the news items this week about Middle politics (especially in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Al Jazeera*, *BBC*, and other respected international sources). What are the main issues being discussed? What are U.S. interests in these matters?

Political Islam

Arab “Spring”

Readings (Read before Class):

- Osama Bin Laden’s “Letter to America,” November 24, 2002: Available at: http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2002/nov/24/theobserver
- Statements by Osama bin Laden on October 7, 2001, Available at: http://www.pbs.org/newshour/terrorism/international/binladen_10-7.html
- Documentary Film (in class)
- Eva Bellin, “Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East,” in *Comparative Politics*, January (44) 2, 2012.
- Arab Spring Four Years Later, TBD
- Melani Cammet and Ishac Diwan, “Toward a Political Economy of the Arab Uprisings” (Part I), *Jadaliyya*, December 26, 2013, (available on D2L)
- Melani Camett and Ishac Diwan, “Toward a Political Economy of the Arab Uprisings” (Part II), *Jadaliyya*, December 27, 2013, (available on D2L)
Supplemental Reading (not required)

- F. Gregory Gause, “The Middle East Academic Community and the “Winter of Arab Discontent”: Why Did We Miss It?” in *Seismic Shift: Understanding Change in the Middle East* (Stimson Center, Washington), May 2011, pp. 11-26.

Review & Final Exam

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

There are four graded components of this course.

Pre-course Paper:

A pre-course paper of approximately 1500 words (4-5 double-spaced pages) due to the D2L dropbox by **Wednesday February 18, 2015**. The pre-course paper will count for 20% of the course grade.

Class Discussion:

Contributions to class discussions – measured in terms of quality, not simply quantity, and especially thoughtful consideration of the assigned readings – will comprise another 20% of the course grade.

Exam:

A map and political geography exam will count for 15% of the course grade.

Post-course Essay:

A post-course essay of approximately 2500 words (8-10 double-spaced pages) is due by **December 27, 2015**. The final paper will count for the remaining 45% of the grade.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Course Short Essay</td>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>During Class</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Geography Exam</td>
<td>During Class</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Exam</td>
<td>During Final Class Session</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>Due two weeks after end of onsite class, December 27, 2015</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
Policies and Notices

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Samer S. Shehata Ph.D.

Education
- Ph.D., Princeton University, 2000
- M.Phil, University of Cambridge, 1991
- BA, University of California, Berkeley, 1990

Current Positions
Associate Professor of Middle East Studies, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
IAS 5453 Politics and Policy of the Middle East

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Middle East Politics
- U.S. Foreign Policy toward the Middle East
- Egyptian Politics & Society
- Islamist Politics/ The Muslim Brotherhood

Representative Publications and Presentations
- *Shop Floor Culture and Politics in Egypt* (SUNY Press), 2009, 2010
- (ed.) *Islamist Politics in the Middle East: Movements and Change* (Routledge), 2012

Representative Honors and Awards Received
- Carnegie Scholar, 2009-2011
- Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2008-2009
- Visiting Scholar, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, U.C. Berkeley, 2009-2010.

Major Professional Affiliations
- Middle East Studies Association
- American Political Science Association