INTS 251-500 Contemporary Issues in the Middle East
Dr. Sena Karasipahi
Fall 2013

Office: ACAD 103
Office hours: Tuesday 2:00-4:00
E-mail: senokam@amu.edu
Phone: 845-2124 (INTS main office)

MWF 11:30-12:20
BLTN 003

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The purpose of this course is to equip students with the theoretical and empirical knowledge necessary to understand the Middle East and its culture, society, and politics within a historical context. It will address issues in Middle East international relations such as the Arab Spring, the evolving US role in the region, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the challenge of Iran, the war in Iraq, and political Islam.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
• Articulate key aspects of Middle Eastern culture, history and politics.
• Describe and explain contemporary events in the Middle East.
• Formulate a position on historical and political issues.

CORE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES
Critical Thinking: The course enhances critical thinking skills through students’ multifaceted, active engagement with course materials, lectures, and course discussions. Student presentations, written examination, and the production of a research paper are all exercises through which students develop and demonstrate critical thinking skills.

Communication: The course enhances students skills in written, oral, and visual communication through in-class discussions and presentations, a research project, and written examinations.

Social Responsibility: The course enhances students’ intercultural competence through sustained engagement with diverse materials from the cultures of the Middle East. Synthesis of this material allows students to make comparisons between the cultures studied and their own, and will enable students to be participants in the ongoing dialogue concerning social and ethical issues among cultures in a rapidly globalizing world.

Personal Responsibility: The course enhances personal responsibility through engagement with contemporary social issues in the Middle East, including questions of personal and national identity, complex issues surrounding the events and the consequences of the Arab Spring, and the role of personal choice as a function of being a global citizen.

PREREQUISITES
None
COURSE MATERIALS

EXPECTATIONS
Students are expected to read all of the assigned material in order to have a necessary understanding of the subject matter. Lecture material and reading assignments are complementary and should not be considered substitutes for each other. Students are highly encouraged to ask any and all questions, to join and to participate in discussions that will be fostered in the classroom, and to realize that this is an open forum for debate and discussion where the expression of all views and questions are highly encouraged. This is an open forum and this class should be viewed as a learning experience by all involved. This can be achieved only with full class participation as this contributes to overall understanding of the subject by students. Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate their skills in social science.

ATTENDANCE
Attendance in this class is mandatory! We will take attendance at the beginning of each class. If you miss more than two unexcused classes, I will deduct one letter grade from your final grade unless you have a university-excused absence. For current University policy on excused absences and documentation see Rule #7 of the Student Rules at http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07. Also, in light of the fact that my presentations will complement rather than reiterate the assigned readings, you will miss a great deal by not coming to class.

GRADING
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Class</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale:
A: (90-100); B: (80-89); C: (70-79); D: (69-60); F: (59 and Below)

Oral Presentation: During the oral presentation, you are expected to present and discuss the readings of the day and use relevant handouts or power point. After the presentation, students are expected to comment on the presentation and raise either theoretical or empirical questions regarding the information that has been presented. Student participation is required and expected immediately following these oral presentations. Students will sign up for a presentation date during the first week of classes.

Research Paper: Final research paper should be maximum 10 pages and the topics must be approved in advance. You are expected to write an analytical essay on a particular topic of interest related to one of the historical or political issues or conflict in the region or a specific country-case study.
The paper should persuasively support and elaborate on the argument stated in your thesis section. As such, while you could present arguments that contradict your line of thought, you do not necessarily have to do so. Yet, if you decide to present arguments that oppose your claim, you need to show convincingly how your argumentation accommodates or refutes them. While doing so may constitute extra work for you, it may also improve the overall quality of your argument. In both instances, please keep in mind that this is a paper written for a political science not a history course. Therefore, you will need to use historical phenomena to support your arguments. Mere narration of events without showing any connection to your main thesis will not earn you much credit.

Grading Criteria for Final Research Paper:
1. Degree of synthesis, logic and persuasiveness of your argument;
2. Extent to which you have answered the question(s) posed;
3. Correct spelling and grammar.

The due date for the research paper is December 3, 2013. Late submissions will not be accepted, except in the case of university-approved absence.

USEFUL REFERENCES AND RESOURCES
Blogs are an increasingly useful source of information and commentary on Middle East international politics. One of the best is www.juancole.com. Cole's blog also has a good list of other blogs on the region.

You are encouraged to read news sources, such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Independent, The Christian Science Monitor, The Economist, or the BBC on-line, and bring in current news items for discussion in the beginning of each class. This will be an important component of your participation grade.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) POLICY STATEMENT
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu.
PLAGIARISM STATEMENT
As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of the passing off as one’s own ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for plagiarism destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please see the section on Academic Misconduct on the Aggie Honor System Office web site: http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/Descriptions/.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal or tolerate those who do."
Week 1: August 26-30

**Introduction What/Where is the Middle East?**

- Introduction to the class. Clarification of the course, including reading material, expectations, requirements.
- Video: “Islam: Empire of Faith.”

Week 2: September 2-6

**The Long 19th Century Transformation**

- Renewal and Reform of the Middle East; Cleveland, chs. 5, pp. 81-103.
- Forms of Modern Islamic Thought; Cleveland, ch. 7, pp.119-133.
- The Middle East through the experience of World War I; Cleveland, ch. 9, pp. 149-171.

Week 3: September 9-13

**The Interwar Era to the End of World War II and Decolonization & Post-Colonial Identity**

- The End of Empires; Roger Owen, *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*, ch.1, pp. 5-23.
- Egypt and the British to World War II; Cleveland, ch. 11, pp.193-217.
- The Mandate System: Syria, Lebanon, Iraq; Cleveland, ch. 12, pp. 217-239.

Week 4: September 16-20

**Decolonization & Post-Colonial Identity**

- Democracy and Authoritarianism: Turkey; Cleveland; ch. 14, pp.275-288.
- Nasser and “Revolution” in Egypt; Cleveland; ch. 15, pp. 301-322.
- Radical Politics and Six-Day War; Cleveland, ch. 16, pp. 323-344; Charles Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, pp. 273-286.

Week 5: September 23-27

**Introduction & Question of Orientalism and Islamic Threat: Clash of Civilizations?**

Week 6: September 30-October 4

**The Middle East State System: Origins and Evolution**
- State formation and international behavior; Hinnebusch, ch. 4, pp. 73-91.

Week 7: October 7-11

**International Politics of the Middle East**
- Introduction to Middle East International Relations; Raymond Hinnebusch, *The International Politics of the Middle East*, chs. 1-3, pp. 1-73.
- Nazih Ayubi, *Overstating the Arab State*, pp.224-240; and 296-320.

❖ Midterm: Friday, October 11

Week 8: October 14-18

**The Evolving US Role: New Imperialism?**
- Amin Tarzi, James Zogby, Leon Hadar, Jon Alterman, “The United States in Middle Eastern Eyes: A Reliable Security Partner or a ‘Problem to be Managed’?” *Middle East Policy Council*, 2010.
- America attempts to remake the Middle East; Owen, pp. 219-229.

Week 9: October 21-25

**The Arab-Israeli Conflict**
- Charles Smith, chs. 5,6.
- The Pales ine mandate and the birth of the State of Israel; Cleveland, ch. 13, pp. 239-273.
- Israel and the Palestinians from 1948 to the 1970s; Cleveland, ch.17, pp. 345-367.
- 1973 War, Cleveland, ch. 18, pp. 374-382.
Week 10: October 28-November 1

**The Challenge of Iran**
- Centralization and westernization in Iran after WWI; Cleveland, ch. 10, pp. 185-191.
- Juan Cole, ch. 6.
- The Reestablishment of Royal Autocracy; Cleveland, ch. 14, pp. 288-299.
- The Iranian Revolution; Cleveland, ch.20, pp. 423-440; Hinnebusch, pp. 188-200.

Week 11: November 4-8

**The War in Iraq and Afghanistan**
- Background: The Era of Saddam Husayn and the Ba'th; Cleveland, ch. 19, pp. 408-420.
- Juan Cole, ch. 4.
- Mahmood Mamdani, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim*, ch. 4.

Week 12: November 11-15

**Arab Spring**

Week 13: November 18-22

**Islamic Jihad**
- Cole, ch. 2.
Week 14: November 25-27, December 2

Political Islam
- Country studies; Nazih Ayubi, *Political Islam*, chs. 4-5.
- Socio-economic bases; Ayubi, ch. 7.

RESEARCH PAPER DUE DECEMBER 3