

SYLLABUS FOR M.St POLITICS MODULE:

THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

8 – 13 DECEMBER 2011

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The course will address major themes of governance, security and development as they relate to the Middle East region. Focusing on the littoral populations of the Southern Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf, it seeks to provide insight spark debate on the ideological paradigms, identity politics, rentier economics and continuing conflicts which have characterized the modern history of this region. Dominated by a common religion – Islam – and, except for Iran, Turkey and Israel, a shared language – Arabic – the states composing the Middle East have experienced a unique degree of external interference, largely because of security concerns, including terrorism, and the prize resource of oil. The course will offer a historical grounding for understanding how the states of the region developed into the entities they are today, followed by more in depth investigation of the complex politics and economics of the modern Middle East. Additionally, it examines the reasons why the region is of such acute importance to the United States and Europe, and increasingly, other global players. The course includes a focus on key upheavals, including the Iranian revolution, three Gulf wars and the ‘Arab Spring’ – in order to highlight the internal dynamics of ideological and sectarian conflict, the affect of superpower politics, the role of alliances, and the relationships between energy security and sovereignty.

Drawing on documentary material, and a range of scholarship in the field of contemporary international relations and the Middle East, the course offers students the opportunity to engage with and comprehend this critical region in novel ways, both theoretical and practical, and to draw their own assessments as to its many influences on the conduct of international affairs.

*Star indicate required readings, ** indicate required reading is included in reading booklet; ** indicates available on Course online website

Assessment: 1 4000-word essay

Timetable:

Day One:	Lecture 1	The Pre-Colonial Period: The Middle East’s Awakening
	Lecture 2	The Colonial Period, 1918-1940

Lecture 3 Post-imperial politics and state building

Readings for Lectures 1-3:

*Cleveland W.L and Bunton, M. (2009), *A history of the modern Middle East* (4th edition) , Parts 2,3,4

*Ajami, Fuad (2005) *The Arab Predicament* (second edition), introduction

* Bromley, S. (1994), *Rethinking Middle East Politics*, Chapt 1,3

*Halliday F. (1996), *Islam and the myth of confrontation: religion and power in the Middle East*, chapters 1,4.

** Joffe, G. (2006) 'Politics in the Muslim World, Morocco, Iran and Indonesia'

*Henry and Springborg (2001) *Globalization and the Politics of Development in the Middle East* (Cambridge U Press), Chapter 2

*Lawson, Fred H. (2006) *Constructing International Relations in the Arab World* (Stanford U Press), Chapter 1, Conclusion

Cleveland W.L. and Bunton, M. (2009) *A history of the modern Middle East* (4th edition), Part 1

Owen R. (2000), *State, power and politics in the making of the Middle East*, (second edition) , chapters 2,3,4,6

Fromkin, David (1989) *A Peace to End all Peace*, Parts IX, X.

Day Two: Seminar 1 The Arab-Israeli Dispute

Readings for Seminar 1:

*Schlaim, W.L (2000) *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World*

*Fawcett, L (2009) *International Relations of the Middle East*, Chapters 11, 12.

*Walt, Stephen (1987) *The Origins of Alliances*, Chapters 4-6

Pappé, I. (2003) *A history of modern Palestine*

*Brand, L., "Palestinians and Jordanians: A crisis of identity," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 24, Issue 4 (Summer 1995): 46-61.

* Jabotinsky (1923) 'The Iron Wall', *Jewish Herald*, Nov 4 (available online)

Lecture 4 Resources, Economics and Oil

Lecture 5 Identity and Ideology, Pan Arabism and the stirrings of Political Islam

Lecture 6 Revolution and Three Gulf Wars: Secularism, Sectarianism and Terrorism

Readings for Lectures 4-6:

*Cleveland, W.L. and Bunton, M. (2009) *A History of the Modern Middle East* (4th edition), Part 5.

- * Cole, Juan (2006) 'A Shi'ite Crescent?' *Current History*, January; pp. 20-26
- **Nasr, Vali *The Shi'a Revival*, Introduction, and Chaps. 7,8,9
- ** Dodge, Toby, *Inventing Iraq: The Failure of Nation Building and a History Denied* (Columbia University Press, New York, 2005)., Chapters 1,2
- ** Mottahedeh, Roy (2003) 'The Clash of Civilizations: An Islamicist's Critique', in Emran Qureshi and Michael Sells, eds. *The New Crusades: Constructing the Muslim Enemy* (Columbia University Press), pp. 131-151.
- *Yergin, D. *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power*, Chaps. 7-15
- **Ansari, A. (2003) *Modern Iran Since 1921*, Chaps. 8,9,
- * Ehteshami, A. (2003) 'Reform from Above: The politics of participation in the oil monarchies', *International Affairs*, Vol. 79 (1), January; pp. 53-75.
- *Ehteshami, A. and Nonneman, Gerd (1991) *War and Peace in the Gulf: Domestic politics and regional relations into the 1990s*, Chapters 3,4,6.
- *Fawn, R. and Hinnebusch, R. (2006) *The Iraq War: Causes and Consequences*, Chapters 14, 16, 17, 23.
- ** Gheissari, Ali and Nasr, Vali (2004) 'Iran's Democracy Debate', *Middle East Policy*, Vol 9 (2), Summer
- *Salem, P. (1994) *The Bitter Legacy: Ideology and politics in the Arab World*
- **Sadowski, Yahya (2006) 'Political Islam: Asking the Wrong Questions?', *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 9, pp. 215-40.
- * Sluglett, P. (2008) 'Imperial Myopia: Some lessons from two invasions of Iraq', *Middle East Journal*, 62, iv, Autumn 2008, pp.593-609.
- *Stevens, Paul (2008) 'National Oil Companies and International Oil Companies in the Middle East: Under the shadow of government and the resource nationalism cycle', *The Journal of World Energy, Law and Business*, Vol. 1(1); pp. 5-30.
- *Telhami, S. and Barnett, M. (2002) *Identity and Foreign Policy in the Middle East* (Cornell U. Press), Chapter by Barnett: 'Identity and Alliances'

Lynch, Marc (1999) *State Interests and public spheres: The international politics of Jordan's identity* (Columbia U Press)

Fawcett, L (2009) *International Relations of the Middle East*, Chapter 4.

Halliday, F (1996) *Islam and the Myth of Confrontation*, Chapter 2, 3

Schofield, Richard (2004) 'Position, Function, Symbol: The Shatt-al Arab Dispute in Perspective', in Lawrence Potter and Gary G. Sick, eds., *Iran, Iraq and the Legacies of War*, pp. 29-70

Ross, Michael L. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics*, (53) April 2001, pp. 325-61

Day Three: Lecture 7 The Middle East and the EU
 Lecture 8 Relations with the US and the outside world

Readings for lectures 7 and 8:

*Joffé, G. (2007) 'The European Union and the Mediterranean', in Teló, M. , ed. *European Union and the New Regionalism*

- * Del Sarto, Rafaela (2006) *Contested State Identities and Regional Security in the Euro-Mediterranean Area* (Palgrave Macmillan), Chaps 1-3
- ** Dodge, T. and Higgot, R. (2002) *Globalization and The Middle East: Islam, Economy, Society and Politics*, Chapters 2,3
- *Halliday, F (1996) *Islam and the Myth of Confrontation*, Chapter 6
- ** MacAllister, M (2001) *Epic Encounters: Culture, media and American interests in the Middle East*, Univ. of California Press, Chap. 4,6
- **Parsi, Trita (2007) *Treacherous Alliance, The secret dealings of Israel, Iran and the US*, Introduction, Chapt. 20
- * Gerges, Fawaz A.(1999) *America and Political Islam, Clash of cultures or clash of interests?* Chapters 2-6.
- **Roy, Olivier (2004) *Globalized Islam: The Search for a new Ummah*, Chapters 1,2

- Youngs, Richard (2006) *Europe and the Middle East in the Shadow of September 11* (Lynne Rienner),
- Norton, A.R. (2007) *Hizbullah, a short history*
- Cockburn, P. (2008) *Muqtada: Muqtada al-Sadr, the Shi'a revival and the struggle for Iraq*
- Tamimi, A. (2007) *Hamas: A history from Within* (Olive Branch Press)

Seminar 2 The Arab Awakening

Readings:

- *Zoubir, Y. and Amirah-Fernandez, H. (2007) *North Africa: Politics, religion, and the limits of transformation*, Chaps 2,4.
- * Willis, Michael J. (2008), 'Containing radicalism through the political process in North Africa' in Volpi, Frederic *Transnational Islam and Regional Security: Cooperation and diversity between Europe and North Africa*
- *Barzegar, Kayhan. "Iran's Interests and Values and the 'Arab Spring'." Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, April 20, 2011.
- * Bicchi, Federica and Martin, Mary (2008) 'Talking tough or talking together? European security discourses toward the Mediterranean' in Volpi, see above.
- *Salome, G.,ed. (1994) *Democracy without Democrats? The Renewal of Politics in the Muslim World*, London: I.B. Tauris, Introduction
- * Tehranian, Majid (2003) *Bridging the Gulf: Peacebuilding in West Asia*, Chaps. 7 (Naumkin); 10 (Chubin)
- **Journal of North African Studies*, special edition on the Arab Spring, forthcoming.