

International Politics of the Middle East

POLI 4059
130-0250 T TH
0104 AUDUBON

Professor: Dr. Mohamad Homayoun-Vash
Email: homayounvash@gmail.com
Office Hours: M/W/F 1:30 –3 PM Stubbs Hall 231

Course Introduction:

The Middle East has uninterruptedly been at the forefront of international geopolitics for almost a century. This enduring geopolitical visibility has important cultural, societal, economic, and security implications at national, regional, and international levels. This course is designed to tackle some of these issues by providing students with a historico-cultural, politico-economic, and geo-strategic survey of the Middle East.

Grading:

Three multiple-choice exams (each consisting of 30 questions with each question worth HALF A PERCENT of the final grade) along with a term paper (35% of the final grade) and active class participation (20% of the final grade) will collectively constitute your grade in the course.

The tests will be based on your general understanding and appreciation of the main themes tackled over the course of the class. An intimate engagement with the assigned readings and video links should do the trick for these tests.

The term paper could address any issue area of your interest in the IR of the Middle East broadly conceived, and should be approximately 2,000 words long. You need to cite at least 5 scholarly works in the paper and submit it electronically via the TURNITIN link I will generate on Moodle. The deadline for submission of this paper is Sunday, December 7th, 2014 at 11:55 PM Central Standard Time.

The first test will be on Thursday, October 16th, 2014.

The second test will be on Thursday, November 6th, 2014

The third test will be on the time slot to be designated by the university during the Finals Week.

The Terms paper will be due on Sunday, December 7th, 2014 at 11:55 PM Central Standard Time.

At the sole discretion of the professor a maximum of 10% extra credit will be granted to students who demonstrate outstanding performance in class discussions.

Grading Summary:

Final grades will be computed based upon performance on the following items:

Class Participation :	30%
3 Exam :	45%
Term Paper :	35%
Class Participation:	20%
Total:	100%

Grading Scales:

A= 90-100%
B= 80-89 %
C= 70-79%
D= 60-69%
F= Below 60%

Required Texts:

1) Politics and Change in the Middle East (10th Edition); Roy R. Andersen, Robert F. Seibert, Jon G. Wagner

- **Publisher:** Pearson; 10 edition (March 2, 2011)
- **ISBN-10:** 0205082394
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0205082391

2) The Rise of Islamic Capitalism: Why the New Muslim Middle Class Is the Key to Defeating Extremism (Council on Foreign Relations Books (Free Press)); Vali Nasr

- **Publisher:** Free Press (June 8, 2010)
- **ISBN-10:** 1416589694
- **ISBN-13:** 978-1416589693

3) The Battle for the Arab Spring: Revolution, Counter-Revolution and the Making of a New Era; Lin Noueihed , Alex Warren

- **Publisher:** Yale University Press; Rev edition (May 7, 2013)
- **ISBN-10:** 0300194153
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0300194159

Course Layout:

Section 1: August 26, 28

Theme: Introduction to Islam as a Faith System and Its Legacy
Readings: Politics and Change in the Middle East (Chapters 1 &2)
Video Links: Inside Islam - The History Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mdp3v9feoSA>

Islam: Empire of Faith. Part 1: Prophet Muhammad and rise of Islam:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX3UHNhQ1Zk> (Part 1)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1PxJomypQE> (Part 2)

THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD (PBUH) BBC – Documentary:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSIsBSTRfUY>

Section 2: September 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25

Theme: The Middle East in the International System

Readings: Politics and Change in the Middle East (Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14)

Video Links: Conversations With History: Islam and the Secular State
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YD-7sTyeZvc>

THE HISTORY OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpPGxJT9qQI>

A History of the Middle East since WWII:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdsmZo_1-gw

Rethinking the Cold War in the Middle East; April 6, 2007:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LS1I9NVCnSg>

Promises and Betrayals - Middle East - History Channel Documentary:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW2sm0iR0E8>

The 50 Years War: Israel And The Arabs -- Complete Documentary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJnSY-lvCJM> (Part 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwqCO2NKfnA> (Part 2)

BBC documentary - Birth of Israel - Birth of a Nation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4X4JCPckWgY>

The Six Day War : Documentary on the 1967 Arab Israeli War:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAGsoPgPCk0>

The Other Side of Suez (BBC Documentary):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETOUALw2EIs>

Conversations with History: U.S. Iran and Saudi Arabia with Andrew Scott Cooper:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BXCx8oNvoo>

BBC Documentary The Iraq War:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZzSL09hsF0>

The United States and the Middle East with Fouad Ajami:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agXxrj6oz4k>

President Obama Speech to Muslim World in Cairo:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_889oBKkNU

Empire - The post-American Middle East

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtfMVxJSCjg>

Section 3: September 30, October 7, 9, 14

Theme: Politics of Identity and Political Reform in the Middle East

Readings: Politics and Change in the Middle East (Chapters 8, 9, 10)

Video Links: Conversations with History: John L. Esposito: Islam and the West
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ev02n0Tdk7M>

Conversations with History: Islam with Tariq Ramadan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06WeUC-GsZg>

Tariq Ramadan at PEN American Center - Secularism, Islam, and Democracy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kgHN3xzC44>

Davos Annual Meeting 2004 - Islam and Democracy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rGDE7GNo_Q

Bernard Lewis: "What Went Wrong"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yd0Yw3hKF0>

Edward Said: Orientalism April 16, 2003

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JncXpQQoZAo>

Iran and the West:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTFWfTbkCiw>

Conversations With History: Robert Baer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=382M7AxK6eU>

The first test will be on Thursday, October 16th, 2014.

Section 4: October 21, 23, 28, 30, November 4

Theme: Political Economy of the Middle East;

Readings: Politics and Change in the Middle East (Chapter 11)

The Rise of Islamic Capitalism: Why the New Muslim Middle Class Is the Key to Defeating Extremism (The Entire Book)

Video Links: Fight For Oil In Middle East; 100 Years Of Wars

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZ_9DfNHZxU

Vali Nasr - Rise of Muslim Middle Class

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sBET7VUE-g>

The second test will be on Thursday, November 6th, 2014

Section 5: November 11

Theme: 9/11 and the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)

Readings: Politics and Change in the Middle East (Chapter 15)

Video Links: **Russia's War in Afghanistan : Documentary on 10 Years of Soviet War in Afghanistan:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUPsGDsnNGE>

Empire - 9/12 and the 'war on terror':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2eANNmJGsk>

BBC The Secret War On Terror:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2O92H7MRuY>

PBS America at a Crossroads: JIHAD The Men and Ideas Behind Al-Qaeda:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lagdeg1Bz5E>

Manhunt: The Search for Bin Laden 2013 HD (HBO Full Documentary):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w06I6_aTuHc

Section 6: November 13, 18, 20, 25 & December 2, 4

Theme: The Arab Spring

Readings: The Battle for the Arab Spring: Revolution, Counter-Revolution and the Making of a New Era (The Entire Book)

Video Links: Arab Spring: The Documentary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iqLaPS4Zv8>

Robin Wright at IPI on the 'Counter-Jihad' and Arab Spring:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQnRiZiZiGo>

First program a documentary about the Egyptian revolution.flv

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQ8ozcpdExQ>

BBC Syrian Uprising Documentary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF7sRdOJMD0>

Is Bahrain On The Brink Of Another Bloody Revolution?:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lmg1N1AKfFc>

AE - The Rise of ISIS [SPECIAL REPORT]:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3mnfaMa7RM>