

Political Science 144—The Middle East
TR 12:00-8:45, HGH 116
Fall 2009
Prof. Danopoulos, Tel. 924-5555, Email: cdanopou@email.sjsu.edu
CH 449
TR 10:15-12:00, 1:30-3:30, and by appointment

THE COURSE

This course examines Middle Eastern political systems and societies, and the impact of major international actors in the region. The first portion of the course provides a context for analysis by examining historical developments, population, religion, culture, living conditions, major social groups, and foreign influences in the region. We will study the application of various developmental models in the Middle Eastern context. The second segment of the course will be devoted to studying recent political developments in the region and selected countries. We will also look at the Palestinian problem and will analyze recent developments on this issue. We will seek to place and connect the Middle East in the light of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack and the war in Iraq. Course prerequisite: upper division standing or instructor consent.

READING

Jillian Schwedler and Deborah J. Gerner, eds, *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East*, 3rd edition
Monte Palmer, *The Politics of the Middle East*, 2nd edition
Bernard Lewis, *The Crisis of Islam*
Vali Nasr, *The Shia Revival*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Examinations: Students are required to take a midterm and a final examination consisting of short-answer and essay questions. Each exams will be worth 100 points (50 essay, 50 short answers). Class participants are responsible for all assigned reading, lecture material, and videos. Instructor will provide study questions for the essay portion a week before each examination.

Papers: In addition, students will be required to write TWO book reports (Lewis and Nasr books). Each report must be 5-6 pages long. Reviews will provide a two-page summary of the book followed by a critique. More details will be discussed in class. The report schedule is as follows:

Lewis, September 17

Nasr, October 22

Papers must be typed and written in standard American English. Proofread your work and make sure it is free of spelling and other grammatical errors.

GRADING

Grades will be determined as follows:

Midterm Examination	20 per cent
Final Examination	25 per cent
Book Reports	25 percent each
Class participation	5 per cent

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at SJSU, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs

Cheating. At SJSU, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating includes but is not limited to: copying in part or in whole from another's test or other evaluation instrument; submitting work previously graded in another course unless approved by the course instructor; submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both instructors; altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abating in any of the actions defined above. Violations of the SJSU academic integrity policy will not be tolerated in this class. Students who commit such violations will receive a grade of "F" in the course or assignment and will be referred to the Office of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

Plagiarism. In our university the policy on plagiarism reads as follows: "At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to: The act of incorporating ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's work; and Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures or similar works as one's own." Sanctions for plagiarism can range from an oral reprimand to expulsion from SJSU. In other words, the potential costs outweigh the immediate benefits. **Do not do it.** Students caught plagiarizing automatically **Fail** the course. If you are unsure of the policy on Academic Integrity, please see the information on the university website: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the professor or visit him during office hours as soon as possible. Presidential

Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must be registered with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

DISCLAIMER

All above information may be subject to change with fair notice from the University, the Department of Political Science and/or the professor. The professor reserves the right to administer quizzes should a severe lack of attendance, especially at the beginning of the class each day, become an evident trend.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

A. Regional Perspective

1. Introduction: Middle East or Near East?

2. Geographic Setting

Read: Gerner, ch 2

September 22, Furlough Day—No Class and No Office Hours

3. History: From ancient times to colonialism

Read: Gerner, ch 3

4. History: Colonialism and post-colonialism

Read: Gerner, chs 4 and 5; Palmer, ch 1

5. Religion

Read: Gerner ch 12

6. Population and Social Structure

Read: Gener, chs 9, 10, and 11

MIDTERM EXAMINATION---October 13 (bring large-size bluebook)

B. Contemporary Issues and Political Developments in Key Countries

7. Economics and the politics of oil

Read: Gerner, chs 7 and 8

October 22, Nasr paper due

8. The Palestinian Problem

Read: Gerner, ch 6

9. Israel

Read: Palmer, ch 3

10. Iran

Read: Palmer, ch 7

11. Turkey

Read: Palmer, ch 8

December 1, Furlough Day—No Class and No Office Hours

12. Egypt

Read: Palmer, ch 2

13. Iraq

Read: Palmer, ch 6

15. Conclusion

Read: Gerner, ch 14

FINAL EXAMINATION: Wednesday, December 16, 2009, 9:45-12:00