

**San José State University**  
**Political Science Department**  
**Political Science 144: Middle Eastern Politics**  
**Fall 2019**

### **Course and Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Dr. Danijela Dudley  
**Office Location:** Clark Hall 404F  
**Telephone:** 408-924-5573 (during office hours only)  
**Email:** danijela.dudley@sjsu.edu  
**Office Hours:** Monday 1:30-2:30pm, Wednesday 10:00-11:30am, and by appointment  
**Class Day/Time:** Monday 4:30-7:15pm  
**Classroom:** Hugh Gillis Hall 116  
**Prerequisites:** Pols 02 recommended

### **Course Description**

From the catalog: Study of unfolding events in the Middle East. Themes include: the failure of democratic movements, nuclear proliferation and terrorism, US foreign policy towards the region, the Israel-Palestine conflict, urbanization, gender and human rights.

This course will introduce you to the politics of the contemporary Middle East. The first part of the course will focus on characteristics of political and economic systems of the countries in the region, debates surrounding the prospects of democracy, as well as the recent political developments introduced by the 'Arab Spring.' The second part of the course will look at contemporary conflicts, instability, and human security in the region, including the issue of Israeli-Palestinian relations, conflicts in Syria and Yemen, terrorism, the refugee crisis, and the controversies surrounding international intervention in the region.

### **Course Website (CANVAS)**

Course materials including the syllabus, handouts, additional readings, assignments, and grades will be posted on the CANVAS course page accessible to registered students at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>.

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

**CLO 1:** identify and explain key characteristics of contemporary political systems across the Middle East, including the variations among different types of authoritarian systems, social movements, and democratic transitions (assessed in exam 1);

**CLO 2:** identify and explain political economic systems across the Middle East, the degree to which different countries do or do not rely on oil revenues, and how this reliance affects their political developments (assessed in exam 1);

**CLO 3:** demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics and consequences of ongoing conflicts across the Middle East, how these divisions affect contemporary politics, international relations, and human security (assessed in exam 2);

**CLO 4:** understand current events across the Middle east, identify key players in these events, and analyze their preferences (assessed in news analyses and group presentations);

**CLO 5:** conduct original research, critically analyze the literature, and propose original solutions to contemporary problems as they relate to the politics of the Middle East (assessed in group presentations and research paper); and

**CLO 6:** discuss and debate major issues related to the Middle Eastern politics in a collaborative manner (assessed in participation).

## **Political Science Program Learning Outcomes (PSPLO)**

Upon completion of the Political Science major program, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

**PSPLO 1 Breadth:** Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

**PSPLO 2 Application and Disciplinary Methods:** Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

**PSPLO 3 Communication Skills:** Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

**PSPLO 4 Citizenship:** Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

## **Required Texts**

MacQueen, Benjamin. (2018). *An Introduction to Middle East Politics* (2nd edition). Sage Publications: Los Angeles & London. ISBN: 978-1-4129-6216-2.

The text is available for purchase from the Spartan Bookstore or from various online retailers.

Other required readings will be posted on the Canvas course page.

In addition to the required readings, students are expected to keep up with the news and political developments across the Middle East. Some resources that provide a good place to start are the New York Times, BBC News, Al-Jazeera English, Al-Monitor, The Economist, and similar. All these are either available directly on-line or through the SJSU library.

## **Library Liaison**

The library liaison for Political Science is available to answer questions and provide one-on-one help using the library for research. His name is Paul Kauppila and he can be reached by phone at (408) 808-2042 or by email [paul.kauppila@sjsu.edu](mailto:paul.kauppila@sjsu.edu).

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Because this is a four-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week, in addition to time spent in class, on scheduled tutorials, assignments, or activities. This additional unit will allow for more in-depth investigation and engagement with course topics. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses.

**In-class exams:** There will be two in-class exams which will consist of a variety of question types (multiple-choice, short-answer, essays, and map tests). Exam 1 will cover readings, lectures, discussions, and videos from weeks 1-7. Exam 2 will cover readings, lectures, discussions, and videos from weeks 8-15.

**News analyses:** Each student will write two short (400–500 words) analyses of a current event in the Middle East. Briefly summarize the event and devote the rest of the paper to looking at how the various dynamics we have discussed in class influence what is going on. The two assignments must analyze different events in different countries. Students may be called in class to discuss and explain their news analyses. More details on each assignment will be provided a week before each is due.

**Group presentation:** Working in groups of four, you will prepare a 25-minute presentation on an ongoing issue affecting the Middle East. Each presentation will explain the issue and propose at least three solutions from the point of view of the government of the country concerned, the population of the country, other countries in the region, or the U.S. and other western states. Each group will be required to consult with me regarding the topic in advance, and to submit an outline on the day of the presentation. Detailed instructions on guidelines, expectations, and grading will be posted on Canvas.

**Participation:** Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings and ready to discuss them. Contributing to class discussions and participating in class activities demonstrates your desire to understand the material; it also helps your learning process and material retention. Your participation grade will be based on both frequency and quality of your contributions to class discussions and in-class activities. Students may be called by name to address concepts from the readings. As participation evaluates your contribution to class discussions, any disruptive behavior such as using cell phones, talking to your classmates, interrupting others' statements, arriving to class late or leaving early, and similar, counts as negative contribution to class discussion and will adversely affect your participation grade.

**Research paper:** University Policy S17-1 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>) states “Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.” The culminating activity in this class is a 2,500-words research paper on a topic related to Middle Eastern politics. You will submit a paper proposal no later than October 28. The proposal should include your thesis, a brief description of how you intend to develop your argument, and a preliminary bibliography of at least five sources you intend to use in your paper. Additional details on possible topics, expectations, and grading will be posted on Canvas.

## Assignment weight and tentative dates (dates subject to change with fair notice)

Assignment	% of Course Grade	Date	CLO
Exam 1	20%	October 14	1 & 2
Exam 2	20%	December 9	3
Group presentation	10%	Oct. 28 and Nov. 04	4 & 5
Participation	15%	Recorded each day	6
News analyses	15% total (7.5% each)	September 30 November 25	4
Research paper	20%	December 16	5

## Grading Policy

All assignments are graded based upon a percentage system, which can be converted to letter grades. For example, if an assignment is out of 100 points, 97-100 is an A+, 93-96.9 is an A, 90-92.9 is an A-, and so on. All assignments and exams total 100% of the course grade. The same letter grade distribution applies to the final course grade as it does for each assignment.

Grade	Percentage
A plus	97 to 100%
A	93 to 96.9%
A minus	90 to 92.9%
B plus	87 to 89.9%
B	83 to 86.9%
B minus	80 to 82.9%
C plus	77 to 79.9%
C	73 to 76.9%
C minus	70 to 72.9%
D plus	67 to 69.9%
D	63 to 66.9%
D minus	60 to 62.9%

## Late Work

Late assignments and exam make-ups will be allowed only in case of medical or family emergency for which proper documentation is provided. If you miss an exam, you must contact me immediately to schedule a make-up. **Missed participation and group presentations cannot be made up.** Late news analyses and research papers will be penalized 10% for each 24-hour period for the first 5 days. After 5 days, the late assignment will receive 0.

## Use of Electronic Devices

Please **turn off cell phones** before entering the classroom. **Absolutely no use of computers, phones, or any other electronic devices during class except for medical reasons.** While technology can be very useful in our daily lives it can also cause unnecessary distraction during class both to those using it and to those around them. Thus, bring a pen and a notebook for taking notes. Exceptions to this policy will only be made for medical reasons. Please bring proper documentation before class if you need an approval to use electronic devices.

## Classroom Courtesy

The purpose of discussion in this course is to provide a forum in which students can safely and supportively ask questions, present and debate their ideas, receive and interpret new information and perspectives, and develop and clarify their thinking. While you will likely be passionate about some issues discussed in class, it is essential to be **respectful** to others and their opinions. Offensive remarks or attacks of personal nature will not be tolerated!

Please **come to class on time and stay for the entire period**. Late arrivals and/or early departures are disruptive and as such will affect your participation grade.

## Attendance

Attendance, in and of itself, will not be graded. However, regular attendance is crucial to your success in this course. Lectures will address some themes presented in the course readings, **as well as additional information** that you will not find in the readings, but which **you will be expected to know** for exams. We will also watch in-class videos and documentaries which you will be expected to know. Additionally, although attendance is not graded, participation makes a significant portion of your grade. If you are not present, you cannot participate.

## Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>) requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course. Recording in this class is allowed **only with my written permission**, and is granted only on a class by class basis if the student justifies the need to record lectures. Students must obtain a written permission of any guest speaker and every class member in order to record presentations or class discussions.

“Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

## Political Science Departmental Writing Policy

Students of political science should develop the ability to write in clear, grammatical English. Spelling and grammar count! Students must take care that appropriate citations are used. Direct quotations must be so indicated with quotation marks and a specific reference to the page in the source from which it was taken. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct which carries with it serious sanctions. A tutorial on citations is available at the library website at <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/writeandcite>.

For assistance with writing, please see me or visit the SJSU Writing Center located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

## University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>. Make sure to review these policies and resources.

## The Fine Print

Information in this syllabus can be changed with fair notice. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via announcements through Canvas. **It is your responsibility to sign into Canvas regularly and check for any important announcements and updates.**

<b>POLS 144 Fall 2019 Course Schedule</b> <b>Subject to change with fair notice</b>	
<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Topic, Readings, Assignments</b>
WEEK 1 August 26	Introduction and course overview
WEEK 2 September 2	<b>Labor Day, no class</b>
WEEK 3 September 9	The basics: introduction to Middle East politics READ: Gelvin "The Middle East 1945-2011" (canvas) MacQueen Chapter 4
WEEK 4 September 16	Authoritarianism in the Middle East READ: MacQueen Chapter 8 Cook "A Logic of Regime Stability" (canvas)
WEEK 5 September 23	Authoritarianism in the Middle East (continued) READ: Bellin, "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East" (canvas) Bayat "The Art of Presence" (canvas)
WEEK 6 September 30	Political Economy in the Middle East READ: MacQueen Chapter 6 Ross "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" (canvas) <b>News analysis 1 due</b>
WEEK 7 October 7	Democracy & democratization in the Middle East READ: MacQueen Chapter 9 Zakaria "Islam, Democracy, and Constitutional Liberalism" (canvas)
WEEK 8 October 14	<b>Exam 1</b>

**POLS 144 Fall 2019 Course Schedule (continued)**  
**Subject to change with fair notice**

<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Topic, Readings, Assignments</b>
WEEK 9 Oct. 21	Israeli-Palestinian peace process READ: MacQueen, Chapter 5
WEEK 10 October 28	<b>Student Presentations</b>
WEEK 11 November 4	<b>Student Presentations</b>
WEEK 12 November 11	<b>Veterans Day, no class</b>
WEEK 13 November 18	Conflict & security in the Middle East READ: MacQueen Chapter 7 The Economist, "The Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria," June 2014 (canvas)
WEEK 14 November 25	Conflict & security: ongoing instability and the refugee crisis READ: MacQueen, Chapter 11 <b>News analysis 2 due</b>
WEEK 15 December 2	United States-Middle East Relations READ: MacQueen, Chapter 10 Jamal, Keohane, Romney & Tingley, "Anti-Americanism and Anti-Interventionism in Arabic Twitter Discourses" (canvas)
WEEK 16 December 9	<b>Exam 2</b>
<b>Monday December 16</b>	<b>Research Paper due in class and online by 5:15pm</b>

**Final Notes**

If you have any questions or need help with class don't hesitate to talk to me. For quick inquiries it is best to email me at [daniela.dudley@sjsu.edu](mailto:daniela.dudley@sjsu.edu). For any substantive issues it is best to stop by my office in Clark Hall 404F. If you can't make it during my office hours, I will gladly work with you on finding other time to meet. I hope you enjoy the class!