

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST
POL S 5470/MID E 5647
FALL, 2006

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Theory is a lens that we use to understand reality. As it is impossible to examine everything, theory hones in on a few key variables needed to understand multifaceted political phenomena. Theory structures the type of questions we ask and simplifies complex realities. We use international relations theory to describe, explain, and predict probable outcomes.

Two of the primary theories used as a lens to explain and describe the international relations of the Middle East include identity politics and balance of power politics or realism. Identity politics aims to explain foreign policy and transnational relations through regional, state, or national identity. Balance of power politics denies the relevance of identity to international relations and, instead, posits that a state's position in the international system is the primary determinant of identity.

Political science relies on theory to develop an understanding of reality advanced upon the premises of relevant facts. Although it is fashionable these days to not allow facts to get in the way of fondly held opinions, this class requires that we acknowledge our biases, stereotypes, and opinions in order to build an analysis based upon facts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This class will acquaint you with two of the major theoretical paradigms used to analyze the international relations of the Middle East. The use of these theories will promote an understanding of methodical and systematic analyses of Middle East Politics. We will take a topical approach that will explore the historical relations of the

Middle East and the West, globalization and the politics of development, and explore current issues of conflict and crises in the international relations of the Middle East. You should keep theory in mind as we explore these issues as a major goal of this class is to give you the analytical tools to approach the politics of the Middle East in a more methodical, systematic, and critical manner.

COURSE TEXTS

The following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore.

Bulliet, Richard. *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004).

Henry, Clement M. and Robert Springborg. *Globalization and the Politics of Development in the Middle East*. 4ed. (United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2005)

All other readings will be on electronic reserve at the Marriott Library.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Presentation	50 pts
Midterm (Oct. 2)	50 pts
Quiz 1 (Oct. 23)	25 pts.
Quiz 2 (Dec. 6)	25 pts
Video Reviews	5 pts ea (15 total)
Final Paper (Dec. 8)	100 pts
Participation	25 pts.
Total:	240 pts

PRESENTATION

You are required to make a group presentation to the class concerning an issue area in Middle East International Relations. Presentations will occur Oct/Nov. Sign up will be through Web CT. You are responsible for finding the other members of the group in order to plan a presentation. After the presentation you are required to give me a grade for each person in your group with a short explanation as to why you gave a particular grade. Your grade will be an average of the grades given you by your group and my overall grade of the presentation. If your group requires the use of instructional media, you need to give me at least 24 hours notice (as a business day) or make your own arrangements with IMS at <http://www.ims.utah.edu/>

Your presentations should cover the issue area you choose as objectively and analytically as possible. Who are the primary actors involved in your issue area? Is this issue often misunderstood in the U.S.? If so, how and why? Why is this particular issue important? What is the relevance of the matter to international and regional relations? What is the probable outcome?

VIDEO REVIEWS

A short one-page review (double-spaced) of videos shown in class is due at the beginning of the next class.

QUIZZES

We will have two quizzes covering reading and lecture material. Each quiz is worth 25 pts. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class.

PARTICIPATION

Attendance is mandatory as is participation in class discussion and the presentations of other groups. You are expected to pay attention and ask relevant questions of presenters. This is a 5000-level course and the reading load reflects the high expectations placed on advanced students such as yourselves. You are required to get the reading completed before coming to class. Failure to attend and/or to read will impact your grade.

FINAL PAPER

Using one of the theoretical models discussed in class (subaltern realism or identity politics) write a 9-10 page paper that analyzes an issue in the International Relations of the Middle East. Issue areas include:

Transnational media

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

American invasion/occupation of Iraq

Turkey-EU relations

Oil

Terrorism

Economic Globalization and the Middle East (it would be acceptable to limit the relations of one Middle Eastern country or region to the global economy. E.g. Persian Gulf, Egypt, Euro-Mediterranean Partnership)

Hydropolitics

U.S.-Middle East Relations (Again it's acceptable to limit to a country or region)

Middle East Relations with various Great Powers (including the Quartet but also China and Japan)

State foreign policy (pick one state, e.g. Iranian foreign policy)

Foreign Aid

Weapons of Mass Destruction

The Arms Trade

If you wish to undertake an analysis of an issue that does not appear in the syllabus, please talk to me. It is likely that I will allow it. If you do not speak to me or follow the instructions for the paper, you will be dropped one full grade. At least two of your sources must be scholarly. Use a citation system and use it consistently (I don't care which one—use whatever style you are most comfortable with). Be aware that the bibliography and a cover page do not count towards the 9-10 page requirement.

Persons with Disabilities:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. In order to establish the existence of a disability and/or request reasonable accommodation for this class, you should contact the Center for Disabled Student Services (in Olpin Union Building at 581-5020, voice or TDD). Accommodations can then be made with reasonable prior notice to the instructor.

Plagiarism Policy:

Cases of suspected plagiarism will be reported to relevant university authorities and may result in severe consequences. If you are concerned about unintended plagiarism and would like to avoid it, please consult to various sources that describe how to cite references. There are also good online resources that describe ways to avoid internet plagiarism. If you have any further questions, please see me for clarification

CLASS SCHEDULE

Aug. 3: Introduction

THE CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS?

Aug 28: Read: Bulliet, ch 1

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations" (R)

Aug. 30: Read: Bulliet, ch. 2
Bernard Lewis, "The Roots of Muslim Rage" (R)
Muqtedar Khan, "Understanding the Roots of Muslim Rage" (R)
VIDEO: EDWARD SAID ON THE CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS

Sept. 4: **LABOR DAY. NO CLASS!**

Sept. 6: Read Bulliet, ch. 3 & 4

THEORY

Realism:

Sept. 11: Read, Mohammad Ayoob, "Subaltern Realism: International Relations Theory Meets the Third World" (R)
Stephen Walt, "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power" (R)

Constructivism:

Sept. 13: Read: Michael Barnett, "Identity and Alliances in the Middle East" (R)
Alexander Wendt, "Constructing International Relations" (R)

GLOBALIZATION

Economy and Development:

Sept. 18: Read: Henry and Springborg, chapter 1

Sept. 20: Read: Henry and Springborg, chapters 2 & 3

Sept. 25: Read: Henry and Springborg, chapters 4 & 5

Sept. 27: **TAKE-HOME EXAM PASSED OUT**

Read: Henry and Springborg, chapters 6, 7 & 8

Transnational Media and Global Communications:

Oct. 2: **TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE**

VIDEO: AL JAZEERA: VOICE OF ARABIA

Oct 4: **VIDEO REVIEW DUE**

Mai Yamani, "Challenged by Example: Globalization

and the New Arab Awakening" (R)
Marc Lynch, "Beyond the Arab Street: Iraq and the Arab Public Sphere" (R)

Oct. 9: Read: Peter Mandaville, "Reimagining the Ummah?(R)
Jon Anderson, "New Media, New Publics:
Reconfiguring the Public Sphere of Islam." (R)

Regionalism

Oct. 16: Turkey and the EU:
Read: Hasan Kosebalaban, "The Impact of
Globalization on Islamic Political Identity: The
Case of Turkey" (R)
Paul Kubicek, "Turkish Accession to the European
Union: Challenges and Opportunities" (R)

Oct. 18: The Persian Gulf:
Read: Michael Ryan Kraig, "Forging A New
Security Order for the Persian Gulf"(R)
Henner Furtig, "GCC-EU Political Cooperation: Myth
or Reality" (R)

Oct. 23: **QUIZ #1**

CLASS PRESENTATIONS:

Oct. 25: Presentations, Groups 1 & 2

Oct 30: Presentations, Groups 3 & 4

Nov. 1: Presentations, Groups 5 & 6

Nov. 6: Presentations, Groups 7 & 8

Current Conflicts and Issues:

Terrorism:

Nov. 8: Read: David Ryan, "Framing September 11: Rhetorical
Device and Photographic Opinion" (R)
Osama bin Laden, "Terror for Terror" (R)

Nov.13: Read: Bruce Hoffman, "The Changing Face of Al-
Qaeda and the Global War on Terrorism" (R)
Vincent M. Cannistaro, "The Emerging Security
Environment: Premptive War and International
Terrorism after Iraq" (R)
Mohammed Ayooob, "Deciphering Islam's Multiple

Voices: Intellectual Luxury or Strategic
Necessity?" (R)

Israel/Palestine

Nov. 15: Read: Ahmed H. Sa'di, "Catastrophe, Memory,
Identity: Al-Nakbah as a Component of Palestinian
Identity"(R)
Michael Barnett, "The Israeli Identity and
the Peace Process" (R)

Nov. 20: Read: Malik Mufti, "Israel and the Arab States
The Long Road to Normalization" (R)
Melissa Boyle Mahle, "A Political-Security
Analysis of the Failed Oslo Process" (R)
Graham Usher, " Hamas Risen" (R)
**VIDEO: PEACE, PROPAGANDA, AND THE PROMISED
LAND**

Nov. 22: **VIDEO REVIEW DUE**

Iraq:

Read: Ahmed S. Hashim, "Military Power and State
Formation in Modern Iraq" (R)
Khalid Mustafa Medani, "State RebuildingReverse:
The Neoliberal "Reconstruction" of Iraq" (R)
Judith S. Yaphe, "Reclaiming Iraq from the
Baathists" (R)

Nov. 27: Read: "Symposium, "Occupied Iraq: One Country,
Many Wars" (R)
Juan Cole, "A "Shiite Crescent"? The Regional
Impact of the Iraq War" (R)

Nov 29: Hydropolitics

Read: Peter H. Gleick, "Water and Conflict:
Fresh Water Sources and International Security" (R)
Miriam R. Lowi, "Bridging the Divide: Transboundary
Resource Disputes and The Case of West Bank
Water" (R)
Hilal Elver, "Hydropolitics in the Middle East" (R)

Evaluating Current U.S. Policy and Future Possibilities:

Dec. 4: Read: Louis J. Cantori and Augustus Richard
Norton, eds. "Evaluating the Bush Menu for Change
in the Middle East" (R)
Mohammed Ayoob, "The Future of Political Islam:
The Importance of External Variables" (R)
Daniel Brumberg, "Islam Is Not the Solution (or

The Problem)" (R)

Dec. 6: QUIZ 2

FINAL PAPER DUE IN POLS DEPT. (OSH 252) AT 4:00 P.M. ON
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8. NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED.