17.405 / 17.406
Seminar on
POLITICS & CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Fall 2011

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Course Content

CONTEXT
1. 9-12-11  Overview – Introduction  Parameters of Politics
2. 9-19-11  Strategic Legacies  Concepts, Cleavages, and Coherence
3. 9-26-11  Forging Modern Nation-States  Design by Great Power Politics

ARAB SPRING – REVOLUTIONS in 2011
4. 10-3-11  Egypt in Revolt  Key Drivers, Youth Power, Cyberspace
5. 10-17-11  Tunisia and Libya  Implications for Morocco and Algeria
6. 10-24-11  Syria and its Status Quo  Impacts for Lebanon and Jordan
7. 10-31-11  Yemen, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia  Relevance for Kuwait, Qatar, and UAE

CONTINUITY and CHANGE
8. 11-7-11  Arab-Israeli Conflicts  Internal Politics and External Challenges
9. 11-14-11  Israel and the Palestinians  Contentions and Power Differentials
10. 11-21-11  Iran and Iraq  Dangerous Disequilibria
11. 11-28-11  Turkey  Dilemmas of Democracy and Vision
12. 12-5-11  Southern Sudan  New State and its Spillover Effects
13. 12-12-11  Alternative Futures  What Next?

NC October 24, 2011
Course Requirements

Course requirements include

(a) written requirement,
(b) mid-term exam
(c) class discussion
(d) section attendance

Written Requirement

There are two options for fulfilling the written requirements of the course, both due on Friday December 16, 2011:

Option 1: Take home final distributed after class on Monday 12/12/11 short essay; three questions; no choice; covering all aspects of the course; open books and notes; full references required etc.

Option 2: Research paper –
Steps can be initiated any time before October 31:

The steps are:
(i) identify a topic and issues involved in a paragraph
(ii) obtain review and approval of instructor;
(iii) develop an outline– general for sense of coverage –
     also for approval;
(iv) tentative bibliography (also for approval).

Roughly 30-40 pages. References etc.

Mid-Term Exam:

Everyone is expected to take the mid-term exam.
It is intended to allow the instructor to give you feedback.

The mid-term is take home, open book, and questions with choice.

It will be distributed on Monday 10/31/11 and will be due the following Friday (11/4/11).
Course Materials

All readings assignments are on the course website other than assignments from the books that are ordered from the Coop.

Books ordered at the Coop constitute the basic texts for this course. Copies of the books are also on reserve at Dewey Library in E53.
Course Books: On order at the MIT Coop


Other Books: Below is a general course bibliography which includes selections available on the course website for each week.


NC October 24, 2011
Elgari, Mohamed A. 2009. –islamic Banking and Finance Explained| Foreign Affairs (Sponsored Section pg. 4) Volume 88, Number 5, September/October 2009.


Khalidi, Rashid, 2004 Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East, Boston: Beacon Press

Khoury, Philip S., Joseph Kostiner, Eds. 1990, Tribes and State Formation in the Middle East, Berkeley: University of California Press.


Lewis, Bernard, 1993, Islam in History: Ideas, People, and Events in the Middle East, Peru, IL: Open Court Publishing Company.


NC October 24, 2011


Tripp, Charles. 2009. “All (Muslim) Politics is Local: How Context Shapes Islam in Power” *Foreign Affairs* Volume 88, Number 5, September/October pg. 124


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September 12, 2011

(1) Overview -- Introduction


Related Reading:


Required Reading


Related Reading:


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September 26, 2011

(3) Forging Modern Nation-States: Design by Great Power Politics

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading


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October 3, 2011

(4) Egypt in Revolt – Key Drivers, Youth Power, and Cyberspace

Required Reading:


Related Reading:

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October 17, 2011

(5 ) Tunisia and Libya – Implications for Morocco and Algeria

Required Reading:


Related Reading:


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(6) Syria and its Status Quo – Implications for Lebanon & Jordan

Required Reading:


Related Readings:


Required Reading:


Related Reading:


(8) Arab-Israeli Conflicts—Internal Politics and External Challenges

**Required Reading:**


**Related Reading:**


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November 14, 2011

(9) Israel & the Palestinians: Contending Beliefs & Power Differentials

**Required Reading:**


**Related Reading:**


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November 21, 2011

(10) Iran and Iraq – Dangerous Disequilibria

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


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November 28, 2011

(11) Turkey – Dilemmas of Democracy and Vision

Required Reading:


Related Reading:

Carley, Patricia, 1995, Turkey’s Role in the Middle East, Washington D.C., Institute of Peace

Seminar on
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December 5, 2011
Southern Sudan –New State and Spillover Effects

To be completed
Seminar on
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December 12, 2011

Alternative Futures – What Next?

**Required**


**Related**