



2019-2020 Academic Year  
Summer Session 2019



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 369-L01: Government & Politics of the Middle East**

**Pre and Co-requisites: None.**

**Instructor: Dr. Walid Kazziha — SS 746**

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**Office Hours: T R 1500 – 1600, or with appointment.**

**Class Time: TR 12:00 to 14:45 (165min)**

**Class Location: ES 054.**

**Website: <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:**

This course seeks to introduce the students to the basic historical events, and the political processes, which have been influential in the emergence and development of political entities in the modern Middle East. It is also the objective of this course to equip the students with the various tools of political analysis, which will enable them to understand the contemporary politics of the region, especially as an increasing number of countries face internal upheavals, civil wars, and challenges from within the region and outside it.

It is intended to achieve the objectives of the course by examining the commonalities as well as the disparities among the peoples and countries of the Middle East. Issues such as the nature of the states, civil society, the role of religion in politics, ideologies, impact of the West, and the consequences of international and regional interventions will be addressed.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING SCALE:**

1. Test #1 - Multiple Choice format (50 minutes) Tues. July 16, 2019, 40%.
2. Test #2 - Short answers and essay questions format (60 minutes) Tues. July 30, 2019, 40%
3. Quiz - short answers and essay questions format (25 minutes) Tues. August 6, 2019, 10%.
4. Final Test (In-class), Multiple Choice Format (25 minutes) Tues. August 13, 2019, 10%.

**Note 1 :** Course Requirements 1-4 are closed book. No aids permitted. Also no assignments are required to be submitted in electronic format.

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

**Note 2 :** This is primarily a lecture course. However, whenever possible, documentaries will be shown to assist students better understand the Politics of the Middle East. Students in this course are also encouraged to participate in the discussions which may enrich their analytical knowledge of the region. Despite the fact that there is no assigned grade for attendance, yet it is believed that those who regularly attend more often gain full benefit from the course. If students wish to take the risk of relying on the notes of their colleagues, they should make sure that the notes are comprehensive and reliable. My advice is attend, listen, watch, read, and get involved in the discussions.

**Writing Statement:**

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one (Test #2 and Quiz), and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

**Make-Up Tests and Quiz** – Are only possible if a student has a legitimate reason and provides appropriate documentation (see **Supporting Documentation and the use of a Statutory Declaration**). Make-ups may be offered in an alternative format to multiple choice (definitions and essays) or to short answers and essays (multiple choice questions).

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK and OTHER RESOURCES:**

Ismael, T.Y., and Ismael, J. S., Government and Politics of the Contemporary Middle East: Continuity and Change, 2nd edition, Routledge, (2015).

In addition, occasionally, the instructor will refer students to some online articles, relevant to topics under discussion.

Whenever possible, and technical support is available, the instructor will show documentaries of a historical and political nature related to the assigned weekly topics. Students will be responsible for the contents of these documentaries and the discussions in class that may ensue.

**RESERVE READINGS, (recommended but not required)**

- Owen, Roger 2013: State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East, (London, New York, Routledge, 3rd edition)
- Penney Angrist, Michele (ed.) 2013: Politics, and Society in the Contemporary Middle East, (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2nd Ed.)
- \* Owen, Roger 2014, The Rise and Fall of Arab Presidents for Life, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. 2nd Edition.
- Lister, Charles R., The Syrian Jihad: Al-Qaeda, The Islamic State And The Evolution Of An Insurgency, Oxford University Press, 2015
- Ilan Pappé, The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine, 2009.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS:**

It is recommended that students address current affairs and explore the nature of media coverage by comparing western reports on current affairs with Middle Eastern and non- western coverage.

Al-Jazeera: <http://english.aljazeera.net>

Al-Ahram Weekly: <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/>

Haaretz: <http://www.haaretz.com/>

Jordan Times: <http://www.jordantimes.com>

Japan Times Online: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/>

Asian Times Online: <http://www.atimes.com>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

CBC: <http://www.cbc.ca>.

New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Fox News: <http://www.foxnews.com>

Foreign Policy, Middle East Channel: <http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/>

The Economist, Middle East and Africa: <http://www.economist.com/world/middle-east-africa>

Amnesty International: <http://www.amnesty.org>

Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org>

## **COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS:**

(This schedule is subject to minor modifications if and when it is necessary. Any change will always be preceded by an official announcement made ahead of time by the instructor in the classroom or through d2l. Students are required to read the scheduled assignment, before coming to class).

Week 1- July 2 and 4, Introduction to the course. Emergence of the Middle East State System.  
Text: Introduction: "Middle East politics: patterns of continuity and change", pp 1-16. Also read "The Burden of History: from Empire to Nation States", pp 23-55.

Topics which will be discussed relate to the break down of the Ottoman Empire after WWI, and the emergence of new political entities in the Middle East.

Discussion will focus on the phases of the the integration of various parts of the Middle East into the modern state system, as promoted by the colonial powers.

Week 2- July 9 and 11, Nationalism and Islam in Politics.

Nationalism, the rise and decline of pan- Arabism from WWI till Nasser's death 1970.

The re-emergence of Islam as a major political force in Middle Eastern politics, and its impact on the modern state system in the Middle East.

Text: "The Legacy of Islam: Continuity and Change", pp. 59-90. AND

Online article by Charles Lister, "Profiling the Islamic State", Brookings Doha Center Analysis Paper, number 13, November, 2014.

Week 3, July 16 (Test #1) and 18. The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Rise of a Shii Arc of power in the Middle East.

Text: "The Islamic Republic of Iran", pp 146-225.

Topics of interest include Khomeini's contribution to Shii political thought, and the expansion of Iranian influence in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Lebanon.

Contemporary confrontation between Iran and the US: causes and prospects. The Israeli Dimension in the conflict.

Week 4, July 23 and 25. The Syrian Crisis and the aftermath of Lebanon's Civil War.

Text: "The Syrian Arab Republic and the Lebanese Republic", pp 303-351.

Topics: Defining the various political forces in Syria and prospects of conflict resolution. The regional powers and their input in the Syrian crisis as well as Lebanon's precarious situation.

Week 5, July 30 (Test #2), and August 1. Egypt's Predicaments after two revolutions.

Text: "The Arab Republic of Egypt", pp 440-490.

Topics: discussions will focus on the major predicaments facing Egypt today, with reference to the continuing crisis in civil liberties as well as the deterioration of the economy.

The role of the Egyptian Military in contemporary Egypt, in the context of a regional phenomenon of similar developments in Sudan, Algeria, and Libya.

Week 6, August 6, (Quiz) and August 8. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Text: "The Arab Gulf States and the Gulf Cooperation Council", pp 499-576.

Please note that students will only be responsible for that section of the chapter covering Saudi Arabia. The rest of the chapter is not included.

Topics: the rising power of Saudi Arabia and prospects of its eventual decline as a result of its military, political, and financial involvement in Yemen and Syria, in addition to its conflict with Iran.

The phenomenon of MBS, the new leadership in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Week 7, August 13 (Final Test – In-class) Israel and Palestine.

Text: "Israel and Palestine" pp. 359-423.

Topics: The New Deal of the Century: the chances of a peaceful settlement to the conflict in the light of Palestinian divisions, Israel's tilt to the right, and shift in US policy under Trump.

**INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES:**

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or his office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cellphones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the web is disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

**IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION****Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration**

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

*Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.*

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html).

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points:

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at [www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints) and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call [403-220-3580](tel:403-220-3580) or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advisingfor](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advisingfor) for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Important Contact Information:**

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)  
Phone: [403-220-5333](tel:403-220-5333)

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives  
Phone: [403-220-6551](tel:403-220-6551)

Email: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)



Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

**Campus Mental Health Resources:**

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>