**POL 337 Middle East Politics**

**Spring 2012**

Professor: Lisa Glidden Office: Mahar 439

Email: lisa.glidden@oswego.edu Office Hrs: TTh 11 - 12

Class Website: via Angel

TA: T.J. Scandaliato

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Office hours: TTh 11:30 – 12:30 in Lake Effect Cafe

Class Meetings: TTr 12:45 – 2:05 in Mahar 122

**Course Description:**

Is the “Arab spring” over? Why did it happen in the first place? Why haven’t Israel and Palestine been able to negotiate a peace accord? This course examines contemporary political issues in the Middle East and North Africa. Other topics we’ll study are international relations, the politics of oil, issues of democratization, gender, religion, and the development of civil society. You will have the opportunity to question your assumptions, learn how to critically approach the subject matter, articulate informed positions on relevant issues, and develop policy prescriptions to address key political problems.

**Required Texts:**

This course has two required texts. They are available in the College Bookstore, Kraftees, and online.

1. Lust, Ellen, ed. (2011) The Middle East, 12th Ed., CQ Press ISBN:  978-1-60426-548-4
2. Council on Foreign Relations (2011) *The New Arab Revolt* ISBN:  978-0876095003

**Recommended:**

**1)** *A manual for writers of research papers, theses, and dissertations*, 7th ed., by Kate L. Turabian [University of Chicago Press, 2007; ISBN 9780226823379]

**2)** Rogan, Eugene.  (2009) The Arabs: a history.  Basic Books (Perseus group) ISBN:  978-0-465-07100-5

**Course Expectations:**

We will have discussions on a regular basis. In order to participate you must be prepared when you come to class by having read the chapter for that day listed on the course schedule below. Please be sure to give yourself ample time to read the chapter, and of course, bring any questions you have to class.

**Grading** for the class is as follows:

Exams 30%

Final exam 20%

Participation 10%

Presentation 15%

Research Paper 25%

Make-up exams will only be given if I am notified BEFORE you miss the exam (circumstances permitting).

Late papers/components of papers will lose ½ a grade every day it is late, including if it is handed in late on the due date.

**Academic Honesty**

You can make sure that you **don’t plagiarize** either by checking out this link: <http://www.oswego.edu/library/instruction/plagtut/index.html>

As noted by the [Committee on Intellectual Integrity](http://www.oswego.edu/administration/provost/integrity/index.html), "Intellectual integrity on the part of all students is basic to individual growth and development through college course work. When academic dishonesty occurs, the teaching/learning climate is seriously undermined and student growth and development are impeded." With this in mind, you're expected to be(come) familiar with the [College Policy on Intellectual Integrity](http://www.oswego.edu/administration/registrar/policy_text.html%22%20%5Cl%20%22cpii). Your submission of written work for this class will be taken as your formal indication that you fully understand this policy, including relevant definitions and consequences of academic dishonesty.

**Campus Resources:**

There are many resources on campus to help you to succeed in this class.

***Library***

With your Oswego ID you have access through the Penfield Library to e-journals and databases, which should be helpful in research projects. Please contact a reference librarian if you have any questions.

***Office Hours***

I hold office hours every week. Please feel free to come by to talk about the class, or if you want to further understand a concept, etc. If you can’t make my office hours, email me to see about setting up an alternate time.

***Class Discussions***

We will have some discussion every class meeting. This is a time for you to bring up questions for discussion (which you will hand in for part of your participation grade), talk about the posted discussion questions, talk about current events, etc. Use this time to develop, define, and refine your own informed arguments.

***Disabled Student Services***

The Office of Disability Services is available to assist students who have a legally documented disability or students who suspect that they may have a disability. If you have a disabling condition that may interfere with your ability to successfully complete this course, please contact the office of Disability Services. Also, please see me to let me know how we may be of assistance. Alternative testing for students with learning disabilities is available.

Phone: (315) 312-3358

email: dss@oswego.edu <mailto:dss@oswego.edu

web: www.oswego.edu/dis\_svc

visit /mail: 183 Campus Center, SUNY Oswego, NY 13126

**Course Schedule**

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| **Week 1** |  |
| Tues, 1/24 | Introduction to the course |
| Thurs, 1/26 | The making of the modern Middle East* Ch 1: 1 – 38
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| **Week 2** | **The Making of the Modern Middle East** |
| Tues, 1/31 | * Ch 1: 38 – 64
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| Thurs, 2/2 | Film: *On Orientalism* |
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| **Week 3** | **Social Change in the Middle East** |
| Tues, 2/7 | * Ch 2: 65 – 98
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| Thurs, 2/9 | Film: *Dishing Democracy* |
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| **Week 4** | **The Levant** |
| Tues, 2/14 | Israel* Ch 13: 460 – 485

Palestinian Authority* Ch 19: 603 – 631

Jordan* Ch 14: 486 – 510
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| Thurs, 2/16 | Iran* 431 - 436

Lebanon* Ch 16: 530 – 550

Syria* Ch 22: 675 – 701
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| **Week 5** | **Security in the Middle East** |
| Tues, 2/21 | Security in the Levant |
| Thurs, 2/23 | Exam 1 Film: *Promises – for next time I teach this – move this up to exam day.* |
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| **Week 6** | **The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict** |
| Tues, 2/28 | * Ch 6: 238 – 277

Film: *Promises* |
| Thurs, 3/1 | * Ch 6: 277 – 313
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| **Week 7** | **Political Economy** |
| Tues, 3/6 | The PE of development in the Middle East* Ch 3: 99 – 142
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| Thurs, 3/8 | Regime types and governance – how oil affects politics* Ch 4: 143 – 192
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| **Week 8** | **Spring Break** |
| Tues, 3/15 |  |
| Thurs, 3/17 |  |
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| **Week 9** | **The Gulf States** |
| Tues, 3/20 | Iraq* Ch 12: 437 - 458

Kuwait* Ch 15: 511 – 529

Persian Gulf States* Ch 20: 632 – 658
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| Thurs, 3/22 | Saudi Arabia* Ch 21: 659 – 673

Yemen* Ch 25: 761 – 778
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| **Week 10** | **North Africa/the Magreb (and Turkey)** |
| Tues, 3/27 | Actors, Public Opinion, and Participation* Ch 5: 193 – 237
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| Thurs, 3/29 | Algeria* Ch 9: 371 – 386

Egypt* Ch 10: 387 – 410

Libya* Ch 17: 551 – 575
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| **Week 11** |  |
| Tues, 4/3 | Morocco* Ch 18: 576 – 602

Tunisia* Ch 23: 702 – 729

Turkey* Ch 24: 730 – 760
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| Thurs, 4/5 | Exam 2 dueRegional International Relations* 314 – 340
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| **Week 12** | **The Arab Spring—successes?**  |
| Tues, 4/10 | * Angrist, Michele Penner. “Morning in Tunisia: The Frustrations of the Arab World Boil Over”. Foreign Affairs.com (January 16, 2011)
 |
| Thurs, 4/12 | * Wickham, Carrie Rosefsky. “The Muslim Brotherhood After Mubarek: What the Brotherhood is and How it will shape the future”. ForeignAffairs.com (February 3, 2011)
* Goldberg, Ellis. “Mubarakism without Mubarek: Why Egypt’s Military Will Not Embrace Democracy” ForeignAffairs.com (Feb. 11, 2011)
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| **Week 13** | **The Arab Spring—failures?**  |
| Tues, 4/17 | * Diwan, Kristin Smith. “Bahrain’s Shia Question: What the United States Gets Wrong About Sectarianism” ForeignAffairs.com (3/2/11)
* Broning, Michael. “The Sturdy House That Assad Build: Why Damascus Is Not Cairo” ForeignAffairs.com (3/7/11)
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| Thurs, 4/19 | * “Iran’s protests and economic realities” – cfr.org (2/22/11)
* “The Arab Turmoil and Palestinians” – cfr.org (2/25/11)
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| **Week 14** | **The Arab Spring and Intervention** |
| Tues, 4/24 | * Zenko, Micah. “The Mythology of Intervention: Debating the Lessons of History in Libya” ForeignAffairs.com (3/28/11)
* Boot, Max. “Qaddafi Must Go” *Weekly Standard* (3/28/11)
 |
| Thurs, 4/26 | * O’Hanlon, Michael. “Winning Ugly in Libya: What the United States Should Learn from its War in Kosovo” ForeignAffairs.com (3/30/11)
* Haass, Richard. “Prepared Statement Before the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate” First Session, Congress Hearing on Perspectives of the Crisis in Libya. (4/6/11)
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| **Week 15** | **Conclusions** |
| Tues, 5/1 | * Anderson, Lisa. “Demystifying the Arab Spring: Parsing the Differences between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya” Foreign Affairs (May/June 2011)
* Goldstone, Jack A. “Understanding the Revolutions of 2011: Weakness and Resilience in Middle Eastern Autocracies” Foreign Affairs (May/June 2011)
 |
| Thurs, 5/3 | International Politics of the Middle East* Ch 8: 341 – 370
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| **Final****Exam** | **Thursday, May 10th** **10:30 – 12:30 am in Mahar 122** |