

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

POLITICAL SCIENCE 147 – INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE EAST GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This course introduces students to the politics and governance of the Middle East and North Africa. The course will cover the political, social, and economic development of specific countries in the region, conflict, revolution, key individuals, armed conflicts, the role of Islam, Judaism, and Christians, and the role of foreign powers in shaping the politics of the region. The course begins with the origins of the Modern Middle East from the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the First World War (1914-1918), the consequences of the Ottoman Empire's collapse, the rise of the modern nation-state, the role of oil in politics and economic development, Westernization and the Islamic resurgence, and nationalism. The curriculum proceeds to a study of armed conflicts in the region, including, but not limited to, the Arab-Israeli conflict, The War on Terror, and U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Comprised of units to give students a foundation and understanding of contemporary issues of politics and governance in the Middle East which include:
 - a. Describe, interpret, and analyze the political ideologies, religious and social movements which have shaped the Middle East focusing on nationalism and political Islam.
 1. The Young Turks (early 20th century) movement in Turkey.
 2. Nationalism in Turkey (Mustafa Kemal Atatürk)
 3. Zionism
 4. Pan-Arabism in the 1950's and 1960's (Gamal Abdel Nasser Hussein)
 5. Ba'athism in Syria and Iraq
 6. Westernization
 7. Islamic Fundamentalism
 8. Arab Spring (2011)
 9. Wahhabism
 10. Hamas and Hezbollah
 - b. Recognize, compare, and articulate the influence of key individuals in the emergence of the modern Middle East including:
 1. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk
 2. Colonel T.E. Lawrence
 3. Faisal, I bin Al-Hussein bin Ali Al-Hashemi
 4. Winston S. Churchill
 5. Gamal Abdel Nasser Hussein
 6. David Ben-Gurion
 7. Menachem Begin
 8. Anwar Sadat
 9. Menachem Begin
 10. Yasser Arafat

11. Ayatollah Khomeini
 12. Pahlavi Dynasty
 13. Hosni Mubarak
 14. Bashar al-Assad
 15. Recep Erdogan
- c. Identify, and appraise the governing structures and emergence of nation-states in specific countries in the region, including but not limited to:
1. Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Afghanistan, Israel, Lebanon
- d. Identify and analyze the consequences colonialism, imperialism, and foreign intervention through significant historical events in the creation of modern nation-states in the first half of the twentieth-century.
1. The rise of European influence and collapse of the Ottoman Empire 1800-1918
 2. The British occupation of Egypt (1882) and the war against the Mahdi Revolution (1881-1899)
 3. The First World War and Collapse of Ottoman Empire
 4. Turkish Nationalism
 5. The Balfour Declaration
 6. The Sykes-Picot Treaty
 7. League of Nations Mandate
 8. Emergence of Modern Nation-States during inter-war period (1919-1939)
- e. Describe, analyze, and explain the origins and consequences of specific conflicts and wars collectively known as the Arab-Israeli Conflict (second half of the twentieth-century)
1. The 1948 Israeli War of Independence
 2. 1956 Suez War
 3. 1967 Six Day War
 4. 1973 Yom Kippur War
 5. 1982 Lebanon War
 6. Palestinian Intifada 1987
 7. The Second Palestinian Intifada 2000
 8. Israeli-Palestinian Conflicts 2000-Present (Gaza, the West Bank, Southern Lebanon)
- f. Analyze the origins of intra and inter-state violence and competition in the region.
1. The Armenian Genocide (1915-1917)
 2. The Egyptian War in Yemen (1962-1967)
 3. Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988)
 4. Sectarian Conflicts Iraq (1991-2008)
 5. Yemen Civil War (2014-Present)
 6. Hamas, Hezbollah, Israel in Gaza, The West Bank, and Lebanon
 7. Sunni-Shia Divide
- g. The United States and The Middle East:
1. The Truman and Eisenhower Administration's policy of containment in the Middle East (1945-1961)
 2. The Johnson, Nixon, Carter Administrations: 1961-1978 and the search for peace in the Middle East, with a focus on the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli Wars, Shuttle Diplomacy, and Camp David Accords
 3. U.S.-Iranian Relations 1979-1991: Iran Hostage Crisis, and U.S.-Iranian Rivalry
 4. U.S and the Middle East: Post Cold War
 5. The George H.W. Bush and Clinton Administration in the 1990's with a focus on Iraq and Al Qaeda

6. George W. Bush and the War on Terror emphasizing Operation Enduring Freedom (2001) in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq (2003)
7. The Obama, Trump, and Biden Administrations and ending “endless wars” with an emphasis on the ISIS War, the Iran Nuclear Deal, rising tensions with Iran, and the withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan
- h. Analyze economic development strategies and the role of economic actors in Middle Eastern politics.
 1. The role of oil in economic development.
 2. The Emergence of OPEC
 3. 1973 Oil Embargo
 4. Petro Dollars and the Global Economy
 5. Economic sanctions and foreign policy

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Use social-science methodology to describe and evaluate the historical and political origins and evolution of systems of government in Middle Eastern and North African nation-states.
- 2) Define, analyze, and contrast social-movements and their impact on shaping governance and politics in the Middle East.
- 3) Identify and make arguments for the sources of political violence in the region.
- 4) Recognize and extract the reasons for great and regional power competition and policies in the region in both historical and contemporary perspectives.
- 5) Identify and evaluate the role of individual leaders in the shaping and conduct of politics and governance in the Middle East.
- 6) Identify, and interpret the role of oil in the economic development strategies of the region and its impact on democracy and authoritarianism
- 7) Analyze the effectiveness of economic policies and development strategies in the Middle East.
- 8) Recognize and assess American foreign policy and its impact on the region since World War II
- 9) Recognize the significance of the differences between Sunni and Shia Islam in the shaping of politics in the Middle East.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Quizzes and examinations, including a final exam: multiple choice, true/false questions, objective, and essay questions.
- 2) Research Paper: A semester long project where students research a question of their interest within the field of Latin American Politics and Government in which they apply social science methodology, learn to use Grossmont College Library Data Bases, and are mentored by the faculty.
- 3) Written Assignments: Written assignments include bi-weekly think pieces where students analyze and think about a particular topic in roughly two-to-three double-space pages.
- 4) Participation and Discussion: Students will be asked to evaluate and debate the themes and questions of a particular week as individuals or in a group structure during course.

Special Materials Required of Student

None.

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom.

Method of Instruction

- 1) Class Discussions
- 2) Group Work Activities
- 3) Foreign Policy Simulations
- 4) Multimedia Presentations
- 5) Documentaries and Films
- 6) Guest Lecture (Academics and Foreign Policy Practitioners)
- 7) Lecture
- 8) Field Trip to Islamic Cultural/Religious Centers in San Diego and Presidential Libraries (e.g., Nixon Library)

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Textbook reading.
- 2) Conduct research in preparation for written and/or oral projects on topics related to politics and government in the Middle East including, but not limited to, economic development, foreign policy, social justice, civil-military relations, religion, democracy, economic development, and authoritarianism.
- 3) Audio/Visual: Watch documentaries on specific course topics.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Yom, Sean, *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa: Development, Democracy, and Dictatorship*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2019.
 - b. Mahler, Gregory S., *Politics and Government in Israel: The Maturation of a Modern State*. Upper London, UK: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016.
 - c. Lewis, Bernard, *What Went Wrong: Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2002.
 - d. Smith, Charles D., *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents*, 10th Edition. New York, NY: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2020.
 - e. Malkasian, Carter, *The American War in Afghanistan: A History*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2021.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1) Contrast the institutions and structures of governments in Middle Eastern countries and evaluate the roles of major forces shaping the formation of modern nation states, including the role of nationalism and Islam.
- 2) Identify and assess the role social movements, political identity, Arab nationalism, Zionism, Islam (Sunni and Shia), radical Islam, and Westernization, play and have played in shaping the modern Middle East.
- 3) Evaluate the origins of political violence and armed conflicts (inter and intra-state war) the Middle East.
- 4) Assess economic development strategies and the role of oil in Middle Eastern economies and politics.
- 5) Recognize, contrast, and assess the different policy approaches American administrations have implemented in the Middle East.