

POLI 4061
COMPARTIVE MIDDLE EASTERN POLITICS
Fall 2020

Instructor:

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Class:

T 6-9pm (Online)
Office Hours: W 9-11am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a systematic approach to the study of Middle Eastern Politics. It includes a wide range of topics, including the formation and consolidation of authoritarian rule in contemporary Middle Eastern states, election and party systems, the political economy of the region, the political impact of oil, the prospect of democracy, role of religion, and recent developments. The class offers an overview of current Middle Eastern politics and seeks to provide a case-based approach to lay out the empirical evidence regarding the politics of the region's individual countries.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to;
- Understand the modern Middle Eastern politics by determining the historical, social, political, cultural factors
 - Understand the region and the politics of individual countries in the region based on theoretical and empirical evidence
 - Understand the interaction between regional politics and global politics.

RECOMMENDED ELECTRONIC DEVICE

For best results for interacting with course components (such as taking quizzes, writing discussion posts, and viewing videos), please utilize a computer connected via a wire to the internet. Although you can use your wireless computer to complete your coursework, you will not have the best connection. Also, for optimal connectivity reasons, I do not recommend using your smartphone or tablet to complete coursework.

REQUIRED READING

Sallama Shaker and Steven Childs (2020). *The Middle East in the Global Era, 1st edition*. Cognella Academic Publishing.

Stephen Kinzer. (2008). *All the Shah's Men, 2nd edition*. Wiley

Hard copies of the books are available at the LSU bookstore. The books are also available online in multiple formats. You can also order the textbook on publisher's website using this link <https://store.cognella.com/82273-1a-006>

Additional required materials are linked to on the course Moodle page.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND DELIVERY

This course will be delivered in a synchronous format. Each week begins on Monday morning and concludes on Sunday at 11:59 PM. For most weeks during the semester, you will have a required reading assignment, a PowerPoint to view, sometimes a video to watch, a quiz

and group discussion. All materials, with the exception of the textbook, will be made available to you in Moodle. All exams and quizzes will be taken within the Moodle environment. Though I will be available on internet during the course hours (tuesdays from 6pm to 9m), students will not be required to come together in an online environment in these hours most of the weeks unless it is requested via email.

In an online course, it is very easy to get behind or put off the work and assignments. My recommendation is that you determine at the beginning of the semester what times during the week you are going to dedicate to this course. Online courses do not necessarily require less time than traditional courses; they provide more flexibility in terms of when you do the required work. So expect to put in the same amount of time that you would for a traditional 3 credit hour course. LSU's general policy states that for each credit hour, you (the student) should plan to spend at least two hours working on course related activities outside of class. Thus, for this class your workload would average out to about **nine hours a week**.

GRADING SCALE

97-100=A+	93-96.9=A	90-92.9=A-
87-89.9=B+	83-86.9=B	80-82.9=B-
77-79.9=C+	73-76.0=C	70-72.0=C-
67-69.9=D+	63-66.9=D	60-62.9=D-
59.0 and Below=F		

ROLES/COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading Components: Grading is based on the following course components;

Quizzes	15 points
Forum summary	10 points
Forum presentation	10 points
Forum discussions	20 points
Opinion paper	15 points
Country presentation	15 points
Country report	15 points
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Total points possible	100 points

Assignments:

1. Quizzes: Student will take weekly quizzes. The quizzes will be related to the materials of the week.
2. Forum summary, presentation and discussions: There will be three groups (group A, group B, and group C) for the course format. Each week, one or two students in each group will summarize the materials related to the week, and will post this summary to the forum page. In addition to this summary the student(s) will prepare a video presentation and present the materials for the rest of the group. The rest of the group members are required to post at least one comment in each week to the forum page about the summary

and/or video presentation. The summary should at least be 750 words. The video presentation should at least be 5 minutes. And, the comments should at least be 50 words.

3. Opinion Paper: Each student will write an opinion paper on Stephen Kinzer's *All the Shah's Men* (at least 750 words).
4. Country Presentation and Country Report: Each student needs to select a country in the region and analyze its domestic politics, economic system and its relations with other regional states and its importance for the region. Each student is required to write a short paper (750 words). Students will also prepare a video presentation (5 minutes) about the country.
5. Extra Credit (3 possible points): You can receive up to three extra points towards your final course grade by completing extra credit activities. The extra credit activities require you to do some internet research and answer a few questions. You will receive one point for each activity that you complete. I reserve the right to not give credit for an extra credit assignment if it shows very little to no effort on your part.

COURSE POLICIES

Student Responsibilities: As a student in this course, you are responsible for being familiar with the information contained in the syllabus. It is also your responsibility to regularly check your LSU email as I may communicate important course information via email.

Gradebook Updates: Grades will be added and updated on a regular schedule. Please review the class schedule below for details. If you have any questions concerning your grade, please feel free to contact me.

Office Hours: I will be ready to meet you online during the course time (Tuesdays from 6pm to 9pm) or office hours (Wednesdays from 9am to 11am). Don't hesitate to send an email and ask an appointment for me to organize an online meeting if you have any questions. Besides these hours, you can also ask an online appointment, so we can meet online based on my availability.

Classroom Behavior: This course is a safe space. Please respect the rights of all students to voice their ideas and opinions. All students should feel able to voice their ideas and opinions without fear of intimidation, interruption, harassment, or violence of any kind. Such actions on the part of students are in violation of the LSU Student Code of Conduct.

It is important to remember that communication in the online classroom comes across differently than the communication we are accustomed to through academic writing and face-to-face classroom discussion. For this reason, I recommend using etiquette guidelines to format your communication. Here are a few tips straight from our LSU Online Moodle Student Orientation.

- Avoid using all capital letters as it can give the impression that you are shouting. If you want to emphasize a point, use asterisks around a word.

- Avoid personal attacks, called "flaming." If you read a message that you suspect might be a personal attack, resist the temptation to fire off a response. Instead, let your response sit before sending or request that your instructor resolve the situation.
- Avoid offensive language or comments that attack the writer of the comment rather than his or her argument.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct (<http://saa.lsu.edu/code>) and Commitment to Community (<https://saa.lsu.edu/c2c>). It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and/or any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student. Preventing academic misconduct requires learners to take ownership of their individual work for individual assignments and assessments. Learners who violate the LSU Code of Student Conduct (<http://saa.lsu.edu/code>) will be referred to Student Advocacy & Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

Campus resources that can assist with academic difficulties include the Center for Academic Success (<http://cas.lsu.edu/online-workshops-and-videos>), academic counselors within students' major department, and the Office of Student Advocacy & Accountability (<http://saa.lsu.edu/>). Please read more about these services by selecting the link above.

STUDENT WITH DISABILITIES

A learner with a disability is entitled by law to equal access to University programs. Two federal laws protect persons with disabilities in postsecondary education: the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. No. 93-112, as amended), the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (Pub. L. No. 101-336) and that ADA Amendments Act (Pub. L. No.110-325). Please contact Disability Services (<http://disability.lsu.edu/prospective-disabilityservicesstudents>) if you have a disability and want more information about accessibility services. If you have a letter from disability services, please provide me with a copy so I can provide the necessary accommodations.

It is your responsibility to get in touch with me if you have any questions. If an event arises that you think will impact your success in this course, please get in contact with me as soon as possible. This includes anything that will interfere with your ability to submit assignments in a timely fashion. It is much easier for me to work with you during the semester than after the final grades have been submitted.

COURSE OVERVIEW

- Week 1: August 24 - August 30:** COURSE OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION
- Week 2: August 31 - September 6:** WHY THE MIDDLE EAST MATTER
Shaker and Childs (2020). Chapter 1
Quiz 1
Forum 1
- Week 3: September 7 - September 13:** A CHESS GAME IN THE MIDDLE EAST/ THE LASTING IMPACT OF SYKES PICOT
Shaker and Childs (2020). Chapter 2 & 3
Quiz 2
Forum 2
- Week 4: September 14 - September 20:** OIL AND GEOPOLITICS IN THE REGION / POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE GULF
Shaker and Childs (2020). Chapter 4 & 9
Ross (2012), "*The Oil Curse.*" Chapter 2
Quiz 3
Forum 3
- Week 5: September 21 - September 27:** THE DYNAMIC AND DYNASTIC / CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS?
Shaker and Childs (2020). Chapter 11
Huntington (1993). "*Clash of Civilizations?*"
Said (2001). "The Clash of Ignorance."
Quiz 4
Forum 4
- Week 6: September 28 - October 4:** ALL THE SHAH'S MEN
Kinzer (2008). "*All the Shah's Men.*"
Opinion Paper – Due September 29
- Week 7: October 5 - October 11:** GLOBALIZATION AND IMPACT OF SOCIAL

MEDIA / 2011 ARAB UPRISING

Shaker and Childs (2020). Chapter 10 and 12

Quiz 5

Forum 5

Week 8: October 12 - October 18: DEMOGRAPHY, EDUCATION, AND
POLITICAL PULURALISM

Shaker and Childs (2020). Chapter 13

Hashemi (2013). *“Islam and Democracy.”*

Quiz 6

Forum 6

Week 9: October 19 - October 25: DISPLACEMENT, DANGER, AND
DESTRUCTION

Shaker and Childs (2020). Chapter 15

Connor (2016). *“Middle East’s Migrant Population More than Doubles since 2005.”*

Quiz 7

Forum 7

Week 10: October 26 - November 1: CHALLENGES FACING WOMEN

Shaker and Childs (2020). Chapter 14

Quiz 8

Forum 8

Country Presentations: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia

Week 11: November 2 - November 8: REGIONAL POWERS: IRAN AND SAUDI
ARABIA

Shaker and Childs (2020). Chapter 5

Quiz 9

Forum 9

Country Presentations: Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, the Gulf States

Week 12: November 9 - November 15: REGIONAL POWERS: TURKEY

Shaker and Childs (2020). Chapter 6

Quiz 10

Forum 10

Country Presentations: Turkey, Syria, Iraq

**Week 13: November 16 - November 22: REGIONAL POWERS: ARAB ISRAELI
CONFLICT**

Shaker and Childs (2020). Chapter 7

Quiz 11

Forum 11

Country Presentations: Israel, Palestinian Authority, Jordan

Week 14: November 23 - November 29: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15: November 30 - December 6:

Quiz 12

Forum 12

Country Presentations: Egypt, Libya, Sudan

Extra Credits due date December 8

Notes:

- 1- Students are required to take quizzes on Tuesdays between 6pm and 9pm.
- 2- Forum presentations and posts should be submitted (or emailed to me) before the Sunday midnight of the associated week. Forum comments is required to be posted before the next week starts (Sunday midnight of the upcoming week).
- 3- Country presentations and posts should be submitted (or emailed to me) before the Sunday midnight of the associated week.