

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

**POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE MIDDLE EAST**  
**POEC 5319/SOC 5390/PSCI 7381**  
**FALL 2009**

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### **Professor Contact Information**

*(Professor's name, phone number, email, office location, office hours, other information)*

**INSTRUCTOR: MERYL G. NASON**

**OFFICE: GR 2.612**

**TELEPHONE: (972) 883-6722**

**OFFICE HOURS: M, W 11:30-2PM, R 3:15-3:45 and by appt.**

**E-MAIL: [Mnason@UTDallas.edu](mailto:Mnason@UTDallas.edu)**

**Please note that I do not use WEBCT for e-mail.**

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### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

*(including required prior knowledge or skills)*

There are no pre-requisites. However, a basic knowledge of Middle East history and culture is assumed.

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### **Course Description**

This course is intended to be an analysis of the interplay of cultures and conflicts in the Middle East. The course will examine ancient cultures, Islam, the Arab-Israeli conflict, water politics, and the rise of the Oil Kingdoms, the Kurds, the Gulf Wars and terrorism in the name of Islam. The course will also focus on U.S. relations with a number of Middle Eastern countries including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Israel and Lebanon.

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### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the ancient civilizations of the Middle East.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the various ethnic and religious groups in the Middle East as well as their beliefs and rituals.

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the political economy of the Middle East today including oil, water, and population issues.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf Wars.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of U.S.-Middle East Relations.

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### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Cleveland, William and Bunton, Martin. A History of the Modern Middle East, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Westview, 2009.

Sorenson, David S. An Introduction to the Modern Middle East. Westview, 2009.

Plus—one more TBD. Numerous articles available in electronic format through the library's electronic databases

### **Suggested Course Materials**

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### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

*(Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates)*

Week 1 Introduction and Overview of the Course  
8/20 Selection of Journal Articles

Week 2 Ancient Cultures  
8/27 Film: Islam: Empire of Faith

Week 3 Religion in the Middle East  
9/3 Sorenson (S): chapter 2  
Cleveland and Bunton (C&B): 1-3  
Book Selection Due

Week 4 Water and Economic Growth and Development  
9/10 S: chapter 3, 73-83 and 87-92  
Chapter 4  
Film: Recycle

Arab Economies at a Tipping Point, Middle East Policy (MEP), SP2008, Vol15, #1, 1-18.  
Abu Dhabi's New Economy: Oil, Investment and Domestic Development, MEP, SM2009, Vol16, #2, 59-79.

Week 5 Oil and the Persian Gulf  
9/17 S: chapter 3, 83-87, chapters 5 and 6  
C&B: 21

Internal and External Security in the Arab Gulf States, MEP, SM2009, Vol16, #2, 39-58.

Week 6            The Middle East in the Age of Nasser  
9/24                C&B: 15 and 16

Week 7            The Arab-Israeli Conflict  
10/1                S: Chapter 1  
                      C&B: Chapters 13, 17, 23  
                      EXAM I ESSAYS DUE  
                      Film: The Six Day War

Week 8            The Arab-Israeli Conflict (continued)  
10/8                S: Chapters 14, 16  
Two Complementary Views of Peacemaking: The Palestinian-Israeli Case, MEP, F2008, Vol15, #3, 56-66.  
Can the Two State Solution be Salvaged, MEP, SP2009, Vol16, #1, 1-27.  
The Arab Peace Initiative: An Assessment, MEP, SP2009, Vol16, #1, 33-39.  
Negotiating An Israeli-Palestinian Breakthrough, MEP , SP2009, Vol16,#1,53-62.

Week 9            The Kurds, The Iranian Revolution, The Iran-Iraq War  
10/15               C&B: Chapter 19, 415-420,  
                      Chapter 20, Chapter 24, 529-532  
The Kurds and Iraq: The Struggle between Baghdad and Erbil, MEP, SP2009, Vol16, #1, 134-145.

Week 10           The Gulf Wars and Iraq  
10/22               C&B: chapters 22, 23  
                      S: chapter 9  
Shiism and Ethnic Politics in Iraq, MEP, SM2008, Vol15,#2,53-65.

Week 11           The Middle East post the First Gulf War  
10/29               Egypt and Lebanon  
                      C&B: chapter 24, 541-556  
                      S: chapters 10, 13  
                      Film: 20 Years Old in the Middle East

The Hariri Tribunal: Politics and International Law, MEP, F2008, Vol15, #3, 80-92.  
Rethinking Hezbollah's Disarmament, MEP, F2008, Vol15, #3, 93-106.  
Hezbollah's Social Jihad: Nonprofits as Resistance Organizations, MEP, SM2009, Vol16, #2, 122-137.

Week 12           Iran  
11/5                S: chapter 8  
                      Film: Iran

Iran's Reformists and Activists: Internet Exploiters, MEP, SP2008, Vol15, #1, 46-59.  
Iran's Nuclear Decision Making Calculus, MEP, SM2009, Vol16, #2, 26-38.

Week 13           U.S. Policy in the Middle East  
11/12               C&B: chapter 25

Iran and the U.S: The Nuclear Issue, MEP, SP2008, Vol15, #1, 19-29.  
 War with Iran: Regional Reactions and Requirements, MEP, F2008, Vol15, #3, 1-29.  
 Iran's Nuclear Program and the Future of U.S.-Iranian Relations, MEP, SP 2009, Vol16, #1, 121-133.  
 The United States and Iran: What are the Prospects for Engagement, MEP SM2009, Vol16, #2, 1-25.  
 Diplomacy and Hypocrisy: The Case of Iran, MEP, SP2008, Vol15,#1, 30-45.

Week 14        BOOK PRESENTATIONS  
 11/19        BOOK CRITIQUE DUE

Week 15        NO CLASS  
 11/26

Week 16        U.S. Policy (continued)  
 12/3        U.S. Foreign Policy toward Syria: Balancing Ideology and National Interests, MEP SM 2009, Vol16, #3, 93-105.  
 A New U.S. Policy for Syria: Fostering Political Change in a divided state, MEP, F 2008, Vol15, #3, 107-121.

### **Grading Policy**

*(including percentages for assignments, grade scale, etc.)*

Grades will be determined on the basis of the following point scale:

Two Exams each worth 200 points	400 points
Book Critique and Presentation	300 points
Journal Article Presentations	200 points
Class Participation	200 <u>points</u>
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE</b>	1000 points

1. **EXAMS:** There will be TWO Examinations for the class. The Exams will be Take-Home Essays. The First will be due On October 1<sup>st</sup> and the Second will be due on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Each exam will be worth 20% for a total of 40% of your final grade.
2. **BOOK CRITIQUE AND PRESENTATION:** Each student will select a contemporary book on the Middle East to read critique and present. The presentations will be on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The critique will also be due on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The presentation will be worth 10% and the critique will be worth 20% for a total of 30% of your final grade.
3. **JOURNAL ARTICLE PRESENTATIONS:** Each student will select two Journal articles to present during the semester. The presentations will each be worth 5% for a total of 10% of your final grade.

3. **PARTICIPATION:** Class participation will be worth 20% of your grade. You should plan to attend class regularly, come prepared, and participate in class discussions.

The dates of exams and other assignments are indicated on the class schedule. Only extreme and unusual physical or emotional circumstances will be considered as an excuse for not completing assignments by the due date, or receiving an incomplete grade in the course. You **MUST** either telephone or e-mail me on the day the essays are due if you will be absent in order to discuss your situation. If you fail to take an exam or turn in a paper or assignment without reasonable excuse, you will receive a “0” for that item. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per day. No make-up exams will be given except in rare cases, with written documentation needed. Students who request incomplete grades must do so in writing by the last regularly scheduled meeting of the class.

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### **Course & Instructor Policies**

*(make-up exams, extra credit, late work, special assignments, class attendance, classroom citizenship, etc.)*

#### **SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

Cheating is defined as the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, using someone else’s work for assignments as if it were your own, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of the course.

Plagiarism is defined as the use of an author’s work or ideas as if they were one’s own without giving credit to the source, including but not limited to failure to properly acknowledge a direct quote or paraphrase. Punishment for cheating and/or plagiarism is outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty section of the current Graduate catalogue. Students are expected to read and understand their rights and responsibilities under the Code. Any student in this class accused of cheating or plagiarism will be given an automatic grade of “0” (zero) on the test or assignment and will be turned over to the appropriate college authorities for possible further disciplinary action (which could include suspension or expulsion from the college). Cheating and plagiarism are very serious offenses and will not be tolerated.

The format will be lecture/discussion with the addition of films and cultural events. The instructor of this course makes several assumptions about the students enrolled in this course. As a student in this course, you will be expected to:

1. Attend class on a regular basis.
2. Be prepared for class. The students should have carefully read the material at least once before class. Some of the lecture material will not be in the readings.
3. Participate in class. Students are expected to actively participate and will be assigned a grade for participation. If something is covered in lecture or in the readings which you do not understand, **ASK A QUESTION**. You will be held responsible for the assigned materials on the examinations, so it is in your best interest to ask questions.

#### **CLASSROOM CITIZENSHIP**

I expect students to be attentive during class and to actively participate in group activities and discussions. You are expected to listen respectfully to me and to other students when speaking. Racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, ageism and other forms of bigotry are inappropriate to express in this class. We will be discussing issues that require sensitivity

and maturity. Disruptive students will be asked to leave and may be subject to disciplinary action.

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## **Field Trip Policies**

### **Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities**

*Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address [http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm). Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.*

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## **Student Conduct & Discipline**

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

## **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

## **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

## **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the

required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

## **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

## **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***