

Instructor: Jill E. Hickson  
Office: Stubbs 217  
Office Hours: T/TH 10-11:30  
e-mail: [jhick21@lsu.edu](mailto:jhick21@lsu.edu)

POLI 4061 Spring 2014  
MWF 12:30-1:30  
100 Tureaud Hall  
Louisiana State University

## Comparative Politics of the Middle East

**Overview:** This class examines domestic politics in the contemporary Middle East. It focuses on the types of political systems that exist in the region and the recent changes that have occurred as a result of the Arab Spring. It also provides an overview of the recent political histories of the various countries of the region.

**Objectives:** The class provides a conceptual and historical framework for understanding domestic politics in the Middle East region. It also provides an opportunity for you to polish your research and writing skills.

**Outcomes:** After completing this class, you will have a better understanding of how domestic politics plays out in the various countries of the Middle East. Your research and writing skills will improve. These outcomes will enrich you intellectually and help you prepare for internationally oriented careers in government, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, business, and academia.

**Academic Integrity and Honesty:** I will not tolerate, nor will LSU tolerate, any instance of academic misconduct. Students who violate the [LSU Code of Student Conduct](#) will be referred to Student Advocacy & Accountability. For undergraduate students, the outcome will range from failing the assignment to failing the class. If a student has a second academic violation, suspension from LSU is the outcome. Please review the LSU Code of Conduct at <http://saa.lsu.edu/code.htm> and the following article from LSU regarding plagiarism: <https://grok.lsu.edu/Article.aspx?articleId=17072>.

### Assessment and Grades:

- **Participation** – Participation will not be graded; however, to master the material covered in this class and prepare adequately for the exams, you should do all of the assigned readings before class, participate actively and constructively in class discussions, and take good notes. If students are not prepared or participating, pop quizzes may be given and incorporated into exam grades. Please turn off cell phones before class and use a laptop only for class-related activity.
- **Units I and II Exam** – This exam will require students to identify the states and capitals included in a broad definition of the “Middle East.” Students will also be expected to be familiar with material covered in Units I and II. The format will consist of definitions and essay questions. The exam will be in class and is scheduled for Friday, February 28th. Part of this exam will be take-home, and due in class Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Make-up exams will be given only under exceptional circumstance and only with *prior* permission. This component of the course is worth 30% of your overall grade.
- **Final Exam** – The final exam is not cumulative. The exam will cover material from Units III and IV. The format will consist of definitions and essay questions. The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00-noon. Final examinations must be given during the published dates for the final examination period and cannot be rescheduled by the instructor. The final exam is worth 30% of your overall grade.

- **Research Paper:** Student research and writing skills will be assessed through a research paper. Papers can be on almost any topic dealing with *domestic* politics in the Middle East, such as an important leader or political organization, or a major domestic policy or event such as a popular uprising or civil war. You may not choose a topic covered extensively in class or in the readings. Students *must* submit a short research paper summary by Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. The final paper is due in class on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, with no exceptions. Late papers will receive at least one letter grade off. More detailed guidelines for the paper are provided at the end of the syllabus. The paper is worth 40% of your grade (5% paper summary; 35% final paper).

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade</b>
Units I and II Exam	30%
Final Exam (Units III and IV)	30%
Research Paper (5% paper summary; 35% final paper)	40%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Current Events:** Students are expected to be familiar with current events in the Middle East and we will begin many class periods with a brief discussion of these events and how they reflect the topics we have discussed to date. You should regularly check out at least two (2) news sources each day, preferably from different countries. This may be most easily accomplished on-line by going to the “world news” section in any of the following news outlets or broadcast sources (this is a sample list only): The New York Times; The Washington Post; The Christian Science Monitor; The Wall Street Journal; The Christian Science Monitor; The Financial Times; The International Herald Tribune; The BBC; The Guardian; al Arabiya; al Jazeera.

**Texts:** The main text is Mark Gasiorowski (eds.), *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa*, Seventh Edition (Boulder: Westview Press, 2013) which is available at the LSU bookstore or through Amazon.com. Do not use earlier editions. All other readings listed below are posted on the Moodle site for this class.

## Schedule of Readings (read in the order listed):

- I. Introduction** (approx.. 2 weeks: January 15-February 1, no class January 20)
- Michael Gasper, "The Making of the Modern Middle East," in Ellen Lust (ed.), *The Middle East, Thirteenth Edition* (Washington: CQ Press, 2013), pp. 1-72
  - Colbert C. Held and John Thomas Cummings, *Middle East Patterns: Places, Peoples, and Politics, Fifth Edition* (Boulder: Westview Press, 2011), ch. 4 ("Patterns of Peoples, Cultures, and Settlements").
  - Ellen Lust, "Institutions and Governance," in Lust, *The Middle East*, pp. 107-160.
  - Jilliam Schwedler, "Religion and Politics," in Michele Penner Angrist (ed.), *Politics & Society in the Contemporary Middle East* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2013), pp. 121-144.

**II. Monarchies** (approx.. 3 ½ weeks: February 3-February 28)

- Sean E. Yom and F. Gregory Gause III, "Resilient Royals: How Arab Monarchies Hang On," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 23, No. 4, October 2012, pp. 74-88.
- Held and Cummings, *Middle Eastern Patterns*, ch. 6 ("Riches Beneath the Earth").
- Gasiorowski, *Government and Politics*, chs. 4, 6, 10, 15.
- Freedom House, "Kuwait," *Freedom in the World 2013*, <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2013/kuwait>.
- Freedom House, "Jordan," *Freedom in the World 2013*, <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2013/jordan>
- Daniel Brumberg, "The Trap of Liberalized Autocracy," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 13, No. 4, October 2002, pp. 56-68.

### Exam Units I and II: February 28th

**III. Authoritarian Republics** (approx. 5 weeks: March 3-April 7, no class March 3)

- Wikipedia articles "Ba'athism," "Nasserism," and "Political Thought and Legacy of Ruholla Khomeini."
- Eva Bellin, "Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East," *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 44, No. 2, January 2012, pp. 127-149
- Marc Lynch, "After Egypt: The Limits and Promise of Online Challenges to the Authoritarian State," *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 9, No. 2, June 2011, pp. 301-310
- Gasiorowski, *Government and Politics*, chs. 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17.

**IV. Pluralistic Regimes** (approx.. 3 weeks: April 9-May 2, no class April 14, 16, 17)

- Gasiorowski, *Government and Politics*, chs. 11, 8, 2.
- Gunul Tol, "The 'Turkish Model' in the Middle East," *Current History*, Vol. 111, No. 749, December 2012, pp. 350-355.
- Ellen Lust, Gamal Soltan, Jakob Wichmann, "After the Arab Spring: Islamism, Secularism and Democracy," *Current History*, Vol. 111, No. 749, December 2012, pp. 362-364.
- Freedom House, "Tunisia," *Freedom in the World 2013*, <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2013/tunisia>.
- Mohammed Darif, "Morocco: A Reformist Monarchy?" *Journal of the Middle East and Africa*, Vol. 3, Issue 1, January 2012, pp. 82-103.

**Final Exam Units III and IV: Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-noon**

## Research Paper Guidelines

Your paper can be on almost any topic dealing with *domestic* politics in the Middle East such as an important leader or political organization, or a major domestic policy or event such as a popular uprising or civil war. Do not choose a topic covered extensively in class or in the readings. You must go well beyond the material contained in any class reading pertaining to your topic. Should you have any questions, require clarification, or are having difficulty finding a suitable topic, please see me during office hours. All students are encouraged to consult with me prior to the paper's conclusion.

### I. Research paper summary

The research paper summary is designed to help the student clarify his paper topic as well as the structure of the research to be contained within. If anything, the assignment will prevent students leaving the writing of their term paper until the night before its due date.

In no more than one (1) double-spaced pages (250 words, 12 pt. font), summarize the paper you plan to write. Include in the summary the paper title, three preliminary PEER-REVIEWED sources (books or journal articles not used in class), and your email address. I will use this summary to gauge whether you are on the right track in developing your paper. I will ask you to rewrite the summary if it is not clear or if you seem to be going in the wrong direction.

The research paper summary is due Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.

### II. Research Paper

Your paper must be 18-20 double-spaced pages (12 pt. font), including notes and/or bibliography but not the cover page. I will grade it mainly on the depth and insightfulness of your analysis, though I will consider its organization, quality of sources, and writing style. Your paper should be factual and analytical, *not* opinionated. At least four of your sources must have been published in 2008 or later.

The paper is due in class on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, with *no exceptions*. Late papers will receive at least one letter grade off.

You must utilize an appropriate citation method for all work. Please review LSU's rules on plagiarism as it is your obligation to refrain from stealing another's academic property. A good tool to assist you in correct citations is the Microsoft Word "references" function. This program automatically formats the information you input according to the citation method you select for the document. This program also has the ability to generate a reference or works cited page for the information you input.

The best places to look for source material are the LSU library catalog and the article and databases search engines available at <http://lib.lsu.edu/>. Stephanie Braunstein, the political science research librarian in Middleton Library can also be very helpful. You can contact her at [sbraunst@lsu.edu](mailto:sbraunst@lsu.edu), or (225)-578-7021. Browse the following journals: *Current History*, *Middle East Journal*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Middle Eastern Studies*, *Middle East Report*, *Middle East Policy*, and *Journal of Palestine Studies*, which are available through the LSU library website or in the databases. Internet searches can be useful, though quality and reliability vary greatly. Once you have found a few good sources, use them to find others, e.g., by continuing to search with the same keywords, looking in other issues of the same journal, looking through footnotes or bibliographies in books and articles, looking near a book in the stacks, or using the library catalog to search for other books with the same subject classification. Do not cite class readings, local newspapers, Wikipedia, or other encyclopedias, though you can use them for general information.

An excellent guide to writing a research paper is at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/>, especially “The Writing Process” and “Academic Writing” Use a separate cover page giving the title, your name, the date, and the class name and number. Break your paper up into separate sections with section titles. Include a proper introduction and conclusion, as explained in <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/724/1/>. Organize your paper to flow smoothly from one section to another. Express your ideas clearly. Each paragraph should express a single idea and should not be too long, as explained in <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/606/1/>. Avoid run-on sentences. Using proper writing style, as explained in <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/>, “Mechanics” and “Grammar.” Quote only when necessary, as explained in <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/01/>. Cite your sources and any quotations correctly, using either MLA or Chicago Style, as explained in <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> or <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/1/>. If you use endnotes or a bibliography, put them on a separate page. Proof read your work using a dictionary. Be sure your paper is neat and clean. Keep an extra copy.

For help with writing, visit the LSU Writing Center at Coates B-18, or call them to schedule an appointment at (225) 578-4439. Remember: good ideas are wasted if they are not clearly presented!