

POL 256A Middle East Politics: A New Middle East
Monday/Wednesday/Thursday
Time: 16:00 – 16:50

AJU Mission Statement

Learning and Scholarship: We believe in the principle of Torah – learning as an intellectual and inspirational endeavor – that embraces both academic scholarship and the efforts of all Jews to explore their shared heritage through the formal and informal study of Judaism and the other great civilizations of the world.

Culture: We acknowledge that Judaism is a flourishing civilization with a culture that is fundamental to modern Jewish identity. We strive to advance that culture by encouraging artistic endeavor in all of its many forms.

Ethics: We recognize that ethics is the language of Judaism and its most important link to the world at large.

Leadership: We understand that the future of Jewish life depends on the careful preparation of dedicated and impassioned individuals who are called to leadership.

Peoplehood: We are a pluralistic institution that embraces diversity within Judaism and values the contributions of all groups to the growth of Jewish Civilization.

Students with Disabilities

American Jewish University is committed to assisting our students with documented disabilities to have a successful career at AJU. Contact the Office of Student Affairs to request accommodations and begin the documentation process. (See Enhancing Accessibility and/or AJU website for complete policy.)

Standards of Academic Integrity

The Honor Code of American Jewish University was written by a committee of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and administrators. Under the Honor Code, students have a two-fold obligation: individually, they must not violate the code, and as a community, they are responsible to see that suspected violations are reported. Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited, to the following definitions:

A. Examination Behavior: Unless expressly permitted by the instructor, the use of external assistance during an exam shall be considered academically dishonest. Inappropriate exam behavior includes but is not limited to: (1) communicating with anyone in any way during an exam, (2) copying material from another student's exam, (3) allowing a student to copy from one's exam, (4) using unauthorized notes, calculators, or other sources of unauthorized assistance.

B. Fabrication: Any intentional falsification, invention of data, or citation in an academic exercise will be considered to be academic dishonesty. Fabrication involves but is not limited to: (1) inventing or altering data for a laboratory experiment or field project, (2) padding a bibliography of a term paper or research paper with sources one did not utilize, (3) resubmitting returned and corrected academic work under the pretense of grader evaluation error when, in fact, the work has been altered from its original form.

C. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the appropriation and subsequent passing off of another's ideas or words as one's own. If the words or ideas of another are used, acknowledgement of the original source must be made through recognized referencing practices. Use of another's ideas or words must be properly acknowledged as follows:

- (1) Direct Quotation: Any use of direct quotation must be acknowledged by footnote citation and by either quotation marks or proper indentation and spacing.
- (2) Paraphrase: If another's ideas are borrowed in whole or in part and are merely recast in the student's own words, proper acknowledgement must, nonetheless, be made. A footnote or proper internal citation must follow the paraphrased material.

D. Other Types of Academic Dishonesty: Other forms of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Submitting a paper written by or obtained from another person.
- (2) Using a paper or essay in more than one class without the instructors' expressed permission.
- (3) Obtaining a copy of an examination in advance without the knowledge and consent of the instructor.
- (4) Altering academic records outside of official institutional procedures.
- (5) Using another person to complete academic assignments such as homework, take-home exams or using another person posing as oneself to take classroom examinations.

About the Course:

This course examines the politics of the Middle East regional system and states including the Middle East political systems, religions, authoritarianism, political economy, nationalism, human rights,

democracy, revolution, and the dependence on external powers both regional and international.

Course Description:

This course emphasizes the New Middle East in the context of the contemporary revolutions, wars, and other conflicts; authoritarianism, competing nationalisms, state structures and influences; the contemporary history of the Middle East to the extent that it is the extant basis of the politics in this region; Terrorism; foreign policy, and concludes with the focus on the impediments, pre-requisites, and transitions to Democracy in the Middle East.

Course Requirements:

There will be a Mid-Term examination and a comprehensive final examination. Both of these exams will be in identifications and essays format.

Written Work:

Research Paper. Guidelines will be distributed in class.

Book/article review paper. Guidelines regarding the paper and presentation will be distributed in class.

Assessment/Grading:

1. Mid-Term Exam (25%)
2. Final Exam (25%)
3. Research Paper (30%)
4. Book Review Paper (10%)
5. Book Review Presentation (10%)

Attendance is mandatory for all class sessions. Should a student miss 20% or more of class sessions, he/she will be automatically withdrawn from the course and receive a W. To get an excused absence one must be ill and bring a doctor's note.

Required Readings:

Topic 1: Introduction to the Middle East

Weeks: 1–2

Readings:

- Colbert C. Held and John Cummings, “The Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East,” in Karl Yambert (ed.), The Contemporary Middle East. Chapter 1
- Arthur Goldschmidt Jr. and Lawrence Davidson, “Roots of Arab Bitterness,” in Karl Yambert (ed.), The Contemporary Middle East. Chapter 3

Topic 2: State Structure in the Middle East

Weeks: 3–5

Readings:

- David E. Long, Bernard Reich, and Mark Gasiorowski, “The Middle East and its Political Systems”, in Karl Yambert (ed.), The Contemporary Middle East. Chapter 2
- Roger Owen, State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East, Third Edition, Chapter 6 – “The Remaking of the Middle East Political Environment Between the Two Gulf Wars”
<http://www.ius.edu.ba/hkorkut/ME%20in%20WP/State%20Power%20and%20Politics.pdf>
- “Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East,” Eva Beilin, *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 36, No. 2.
<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/4150140?uid=3738240&uid=2129&uid=2&uid=70&uid=4&sid=21100964746553>

Topic 3: Conflict Issues: Nationalism; Islamic Fundamentalism; Oil; War

Weeks: 6–9

Readings:

- Adeed Dawisha, “Requiem for Arab Nationalism,” *Middle East Quarterly*, winter 2003
<http://www.meforum.org/518/requiem-for-arab-nationalism>
- Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, “Islamist Perceptions of US Policy in the Middle East,” in Karl Yambert (ed.), The Contemporary Middle East. Chapter 27
- Lee Harris, “The Legacy and Future of Jihad,” in Karl Yambert (ed.), The Contemporary Middle East. Chapter 28
- Thomas Friedman, “The First Law of Petropolitics,” *Foreign Policy*, 2006,
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2006/04/25/the_first_law_of_petropolitics
- Barry Rubin, “The Palestinians and Israel”, in Karl Yambert (ed.), The Contemporary Middle East. Chapter 8.

- Benjamin Netanyahu, “Bar Ilan Speech,” in Karl Yambert (ed.), The Contemporary Middle East. Chapter 15

Topic 4: Terrorism

Week: 10

Readings:

- U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports on Terrorism 2011”
 - Chapter 1: Strategic Assessment
<http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2011/195540.htm>
 - Chapter 2: Middle East and North Africa
<http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2011/195544.htm>
 - Chapter 3: State Sponsors of Terrorism
<http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2011/195547.htm>

Topic 5: Foreign Policy & External Powers

Week: 11

Readings:

- Peter Apps, “Great power’ politics making a comeback in the Middle East – analysis,” *The Daily Star*, Feb, 2012
<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Feb-01/161739-great-power-politics-making-a-comeback-in-the-middle-east.ashx#axzz22m1kAmIW>
- Bernard Reich and Shannon Powers, “The United States and Israel,” in Karl Yambert (ed.), The Contemporary Middle East. Chapter 11

Topic 6: Democracy?

Weeks: 12–15

Readings:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>
- Lisa Anderson, “Demystifying the Arab Spring,” *Foreign Affairs*, 2011
<http://www.ssrresourcecentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Anderson-Demystifying-the-Arab-Spring.pdf>
- William B. Quandt, “New US Policies for a New Middle East? ,” in Karl Yambert (ed.), The Contemporary Middle East. Chapter 29