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Fall 2015

The Modern Middle East: History, Challenges and Opportunities

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Seton Hall University

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Seton Hall University
School of Diplomacy

DIPL 6500: The Modern Middle East: History, Challenges and Opportunities

Fall 2015

Hossein Hafezian, PhD
Office Hours: Wednesdays 06:00-07:30PM
Fridays 11:00AM-12:00PM

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Seminary Building 122

Course Objectives:

After considering the geography, religions and modern history of the Middle East, the course will examine the governments and political systems of the Middle Eastern countries. The course will also focus on the political elites, leadership styles and state structure prevalent in the region, trying to explain the region's problem with democratic deficit and challenges to political development. Women's conditions in the region as well as challenges to their economic and political participation will be another subject matter to be discussed. Case studies of the major countries of the Middle East including Turkey, Iran and Egypt will help study the process of political development and the prospect for change in these three countries. The roots and results of the Arab Spring and the rise of fundamentalist Islamic movements in recent decades will also be discussed.

Required Textbook:


Recommended:

Course Requirements:

Students will be graded on the following basis:

1) Class Participation (20 percent of course grade): Students are expected to attend all class
sessions, to read all assigned materials prior to class, and to take part actively in discussions.

2) A term paper of 12-15 pages with at least ten references (not including the textbooks),
on a topic to be approved beforehand by the professor. Due December 2 and counts 40
percent of the final grade. Students will present their research topic in class in 10 minutes
followed by five minutes of discussions by the other students.

3) Take home final exam for which essay type questions will be provided on December 10
and must be received by December 17. It will cover the entire course, lectures and readings,
counting 40 percent of the final grade. Students can choose three out of five questions and
write a 2-page essay for each.

Disability Services Statement

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Civil Rights Restoration
Act, students at Seton Hall University who have a disability may be eligible for
accommodations in this course. Should a student require such accommodation, he or she
must self-identify at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 67, Duffy Hall,
provide documentation of said disability, and work with DSS to develop a plan for
accommodations. The contact person is Ms. Diane Delorenzo at (973) 313-6003.

Academic Integrity & Dishonesty

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration,
and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal
from the School of Diplomacy. See university and school standards for academic conduct
here: http://www.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/community-
standards.cfm

http://www.shu.edu/academic/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>Introductory Notes</td>
<td>Introduction (Kamrava)</td>
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<td>9/9</td>
<td>Islam and Its Impact on the ME</td>
<td>Kamrava, Chap. 1</td>
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<td>Brief History until First World War</td>
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<td>9/23</td>
<td>Brief History after First World War</td>
<td>Kamrava, Chaps. 3 &amp; 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>Arab-Israeli Conflict</td>
<td>Kamrava, Chaps. 4 &amp; 7</td>
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<td>Bill &amp; Springborg, Chap. 7</td>
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<td>Political Systems in the ME</td>
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<td>Kamrava, Chap. 8</td>
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Owen, Chap. 7

10/28 Arab Spring and Questions of Democratization
   Kamrava, Chap. 10
   Bill & Springborg, Chap. 9

11/4 Gender and Women's Issues
   Chamlou, Chaps. 1-2

11/18 Case Study: Turkey
   Kamrava, Chap. 11
   Owen, Chap. 5

11/25 Thanksgiving

12/2 Case Study: Iran
   Kamrava, Chap. 5
   Owen, Chap. 5

12/9 Case Study: Egypt
   Kamrava, Chap. 9
   Owen, Chap. 4

12/17 Final Exam Essays Due