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Spring 2012

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

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The Modern Middle East – History, Challenges and Opportunities

DIPL 6500

Spring 2012

Monday 6.15 – 8.25 pm

Duffy Hall Room 82

Instructor: Ambassador S. Azmat Hassan (Ret.)

Adjunct Professor

Office Hours: Monday between 4-6 pm by appointment in room 105 McQuaid Hall

Email: hassanaz@shu.edu

I. Course description and objectives.

The course will commence with an overview of the history of the Middle East. Students are requested to pay special attention to this portion as a grasp of the historical background of the Middle East is crucial to understanding current events. The historical portion which will be based on Albert Hourani's book will be followed by the emergence of the modern period from 1832 to the present day. The text used for this portion will be the book by Mehran Kamrava.

I will give my own insights on Middle East topics based on my diplomatic assignments in Syria, United Arab Emirates, Morocco and heading the Middle East Division at Headquarters in Pakistan's Foreign Ministry.

I will circulate articles from newspapers and magazines relevant to the course. I also expect all students to share material they have found relevant with me, for onward transmission to the class if found relevant by me. Credit will be given to those students who can cite relevant books and articles during class discussions.

II. Course Strategy

The best strategy for students to do well on the course is to complete all reading assignments beforehand, come punctually to class, listen attentively to my lectures and **take notes**. I want an interactive class asking questions and making brief comments when called upon.

Class participation will count towards the grade. If any points discussed in the class are not clear to any student, he/she should not hesitate to approach me either before or after class. Students can also meet me by prior appointment. I can also be reached by email. I hope that by the end of the course all students will have a good grasp of the Middle East, its history, political evolution and trends for future developments.

III. Course materials

Compulsory reading: selected chapters from the books mentioned below. These are detailed in the course schedule and readings section of the syllabus.

1. A History of the Arab Peoples by Albert Hourani with a new Afterword by Malise Ruthven
2. The Modern Middle East by Mehran Kamrava

Background reading

1. A Border Passage, by Leila Ahmed
2. The Modern Middle East by James L. Gelvin
3. Resurrecting Empire by Rashid Khalidi

The students will benefit enormously by devoting at least thirty minutes every day to reading a newspaper providing coverage of Middle East issues. I recommend the New York Times, the Financial Times and journal articles on the Middle East which can be accessed on the internet and in the Library and should be perused from time to time. Listening to Middle East topics on NPR and on the BBC regularly will be extremely beneficial. The careful reading and absorption of the above mentioned materials will advance the understanding and comprehension of students.

IV. Course activities:

- Lectures
- Research Paper
- Paper presentation
- Class discussions
- Seminar
- Final Examination

V. Course requirements:

- a. There will be a final examination based on essay type questions carrying a maximum total of 100 points (40% of the grade).
- b. A well developed research paper carrying a maximum of 100 points (40% of the grade). The research paper will make an in depth analysis of the topic selected. The paper should not be less than 16 pages (excluding the cover page and bibliography) and not more than 22 typed double spaced pages. Papers of a length less than the prescribed minimum will be penalized. **Footnotes** at the bottom of each page in sequential order, plus the bibliography are mandatory. Citations or references should not be inserted in the text. Only footnotes should be used. Credit will be given for proper citations and footnotes. The topic will be proposed by the student and approved by the Instructor. The topic should be selected and submitted to me in writing by **Monday, February 27**. I require a one para outline of the paper from each student in hard copy. An approved topic cannot be changed. If a paper is submitted on any topic other than the one approved, it will receive 0 points and result in the student failing the course. **The paper is due on Monday April 9**. If the papers are not submitted by the deadline, **2 points per every late day** will be deducted from the grade. If the paper has not been submitted **within 7 days** of the expiry of the dead line i.e. **by Monday, April 16 at the end of class** the student will get **0 points** and forfeit 40% of the grade. Regrettably this means not getting a passing grade. **I require hard copies of the paper properly stapled and page numbered. Email submissions will not be accepted.**
- c. Class attendance throughout the course, participation and class presentations will constitute 20% of the grade. Each student will make a short presentation based on his/her research paper. There will be a class discussion on the presentations. Attendance during the presentations by all students is mandatory.

Grading:

To get a good grade all students are expected to concentrate equally on the research paper and final exam. Meeting the date deadline for the paper is important. For the paper, I give credit for sustained efforts to locate appropriate material on the chosen topic from scholarly books and journals, and to analyze and present it in an effective manner. The writing of the paper should not be left to the last minute as this will inhibit your performance. Similarly for the final exam, well formulated answers demonstrating knowledge and insights about the subject will earn a good grade. Students who work conscientiously throughout the semester in comprehending the material will find their efforts rewarded. I give credit to those students who participate in class discussions and ask occasional questions.

Plagiarism

Students may please note that plagiarism will not be tolerated. The Whitehead School of Diplomacy takes serious note of students who indulge in plagiarism. If it is established by me that a student has copied material from any source and tried to pass it as his or her own work, the paper will get 0 points resulting in the student failing the course. Moreover students will be subject to administrative action by the School.

General Comments:

I expect all students to perform to the maximum of their ability. Cultivation of good study habits will contribute to the achievement of this goal. These are punctuality and regularity in attendance, concentration in class, taking of lecture notes by hand and **not on the laptop**, regular and methodical study, turning in the research paper on time and not trying to do a rushed last minute job. Regular attendance will be **counted** towards class participation.

Absence from the final examination will result in 0 points for that examination and thereby result in failing the course. The date for the final examination cannot be changed.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1: January 23: General introduction about parameters of the course – explanation of syllabus, grading, readings. The importance and significance of the Middle East today. How the course will improve the students' comprehension of world affairs.

Week 2 : January 30: The emergence of the Arabs in the Middle East.

The emergence of Islam. Hourani, Prologue, Part 1 - chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 & 9.

Week 3 : February 6: The Ottomans and the Ottoman age. Hourani, chapters 13, 14 & 15

Week 4 : February 13: The European interaction with the Middle East 1774 –1939

Hourani, chapters 16, 17, 18 & 19

Week 5: February 20 : Arab Unity and Disunity (since 1967), A Disturbance of Spirits Hourani, chapters 25, 26 & Afterword by Malise Ruthven

Week 6 : February 27: Mehran Kamrava, The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. Chapter 7

Week 7: March 5: Mehran Kamrava, The challenge of Economic Development, States and their Opponents. Chapters 8 & 9

Week 8 : March 12: No Class – Spring Break

Week 9: March 19: Mehran Kamrava, The Arab Israeli Wars, the Iranian Revolution, the Gulf Wars and beyond. Chapters 4, 5 & 6.

Week 10: March 26: Mehran Kamrava, The Question of Democracy, Challenges facing the Middle East, chapters 10 & 11

Week 11: April 2: The Arab Spring in Tunisia and Egypt (material will provided by the Instructor)

Week 12 : April 9: The Arab Spring in Syria, Yemen and Bahrain. (material will be provided by the Instructor)

Week 13: April 16: Discussion of the latest Arab Human Development Report. Please download it from the UN website www.un.org

Week 14: April 23: Class presentations and discussion.

Week 15: April 30: Class presentations and discussion.

Week 16: May 7: Seminar on Iran's nuclear program. Students will prepare for the seminar by conducting their own research.

May 9-15: Final Examinations. The final examination date will be announced later.

Good luck on the course!