

## Politics of the Middle East

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 12:00- 1:00 pm

Political Science: CPO 3403-U01  
Fall 2008  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
11:00 – 11:50 am

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This course will focus on the social, cultural, and international aspects of Middle East politics. Through an understanding and an interweaving of these complex facets, a student should gain a foundation and background for comprehension of the contemporary political issues that make this region such a focus of attention.

This course is intended for students with little or no knowledge of the Middle East. However, an introductory course in comparative politics or international relations is recommended for an understanding of the theoretical tools used in class.

### Readings

Students should buy the following texts for the course:

William L. Cleveland, *A History Of The Modern Middle East* Third Edition (Westview Press, 2004) ISBN: 0813340489.

Monte Palmer, *The Politics of the Middle East* Second Edition (Thomson Wadsworth, 2007) ISBN: 0875814425.

Naguib Mahfouz, *The Day the Leader Was Killed* (Anchor Books, 1997) ISBN: 0385499221.

Joe Sacco, *Palestine*. Fantagraphics Books, 2002. ISBN: 156097432X.

In addition students are expected to keep abreast of current events in the Middle East. Students are encouraged to gather their news from a variety of sources, but especially from (some sites may require a free registration):

<i>The New York Times</i>	<a href="http://www.nytimes.com/">http://www.nytimes.com/</a>
<i>Al-Jazeera</i>	<a href="http://english.aljazeera.net/">http://english.aljazeera.net/</a>
<i>The Jordan Times</i>	<a href="http://jordantimes.com">http://jordantimes.com</a>
<i>Ha'aretz</i>	<a href="http://www.haaretzdaily.com/">http://www.haaretzdaily.com/</a>
<i>Al-Ahram Weekly</i>	<a href="http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/">http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/</a>

Other additional reading material may also be assigned.

### Policies

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

Academic honesty is presumed and required on the part of all students in the course. Use of the work of others is positively encouraged and is central to scholarship, but it must always be properly credited. When it is not credited, and when the thoughts/words/ideas of others are passed off as your own, then that is PLAGIARISM. Plagiarism is serious academic misconduct and will be reported to the appropriate university office; penalties are severe. Please see the student handbook: [http://www.fiu.edu/~camplife/handbook\\_08/Student\\_Hanbook\\_08\\_09\\_2.pdf](http://www.fiu.edu/~camplife/handbook_08/Student_Hanbook_08_09_2.pdf) (page 40) for more information. If you are in doubt about how to handle quotations or citations, please consult the instructor.

### Requirements

Class attendance is required for all students. Much of what will appear on the exams will be taken from lectures and discussions in class, above and beyond the content of the readings. Yet, the assigned readings for class are essential as well. Material on the exams may draw from content of the readings that may not be covered in class. Readings should be done before the class for which they are assigned. *Class attendance and participation will be worth 5% of the final grade.*

The midterm exam will cover material from the first part of the course. The midterm will be a two part blue-book exam on October 8 and 10. There will be no make-up exam or rescheduling of the midterm. *The midterm exam will be worth 30% of the final grade.*

The final exam will be comprehensive. The final exam will be a blue-book exam at the regularly scheduled final exam time on TBA. There will be no make-up exam or rescheduling of the final. *The final exam will be worth 35% of the final grade.*

In addition, students will be evaluated on their application of theories and concepts learned in the course in 2 essays of 5 pages each based on their reading of the novel *The Day the Leader Was Killed* by Naguib Mahfouz and the graphic novel *Palestine* by Joe Sacco. The Mahfouz essay is due on October 27 and the Sacco essay is due on November 17. Both essays must be submitted to Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com/static/home.html>. For Turnitin.com the class ID is "2353705" and the enrollment password is "panthers". Late papers will not be accepted. *Each book essay will be worth 15 % of the final grade.*

### Grading Scale

93-100	A	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D
		80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-
						00-59	F

### Schedule of Readings and Class Sessions

Please note dates and readings may be subject to change. Appropriate notice will be given of any changes in class.

*1. Introduction: Islam & the Legacies of the Islamic Empires*  
(8/25, 8/27, 8/29)  
Cleveland, xiii-xviii, 1-35  
Palmer, 1-27

2. *The Ottoman Empire & European Intervention*

(9/3, 9/5, 9/8, 9/10, 9/12) [9/1 – Labor Day, no class]  
Cleveland, 37-148

Deleted: 9/7,

3. *Birth of the State System & the Height of European Control*

(9/15, 9/17, 9/19, 9/22)  
Cleveland, 149-170, 171-173  
Palmer, 27-43 (optional)

Deleted: 9/19,

4. *Independence & State Building*

(9/24, 9/26, 9/29, 10/1, 10/3, 10/6)  
Cleveland, 193-271

Deleted: 9/26,

**Midterm Exam 10/8 & 10/10**

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5. *Egypt*

(10/13, 10/15, 10/17, 10/20, 10/22, 10/24) [10/17 – DR deadline]  
Cleveland 273-274, 301-322, 369-372, 373-382, 392-395, 445-448, 533-537  
Palmer, 44-86  
Mahfouz, entire book

Deleted: 10/12,

**Mahfouz Paper Due 10/27**

6. *Israel & Palestine*

(10/27, 10/29, 10/31, 11/3, 11/5, 11/7, 11/10, 11/12, 11/14)  
Cleveland, 239-271, 337-343, 345-367, 473-478, 499-517  
Palmer, 87-143  
Sacco, entire book

Deleted: 11/9,

Deleted: 10/26,

**Sacco Paper Due 11/17**

7. *Iraq*

(11/17, 11/19, 11/21, 11/24, 11/26) [11/28 – Thanksgiving Break, no class]  
Cleveland, 323, 326-330, 343-344, 397-398, 408-421, 478-490, 519-523, 541-548  
Palmer, 221-260

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8. *Saudi Arabia and the Gulf*

(12/1, 12/3, 12/5)  
Cleveland, 451-472  
Palmer, 178-220

Deleted: Saudi Arabia

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**Final Exam TBA**