

Andrews University
Political Science 460
Area Study: Middle East
Spring Semester 2016

Instructor: Gary V. Wood, Ph.D.
Office: Buller Hall 128
Hours: M/W 12:30-2:30, T/R 11:30PM-1:30 or by appointment
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Required Texts and Materials:

Ellen Lust, *The Middle East*, 13th ed. (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2013).

Additional materials will be placed on reserve at the James White library and you will also receive a number of handouts on issues covered in class.

Course Description:

This course will examine the political history and institutions of selected Middle Eastern countries including: Egypt, Israel, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, and Turkey. The course provides a rigorous historical background to the political, social, and economic processes and transformations that have shaped this region of the world. We will focus on the similarities and differences between these nations in an effort to understand the way in which political systems and institutions have been adapted to nations with diverse cultures and histories in order to meet the various challenges of the modern world.

Related topics will include: the impact of European imperialism, Zionism, Arab nationalism, regional ethnic conflicts, the rise of Islamism, Islam and democracy, and the war on terror.

Course Requirements;

1. Exams: There will be three exams as indicated in the course outline. Students will bring a blue book and a pen to the exams. Exams will include short 4-5 sentence identifications and one or two longer essays. The two midterm exams will be worth 50 points each and the final exam will be worth 75 points.
2. The student is required to write two reviews on articles taken from scholarly journals. Instructions for the article reviews and a list of prominent journals are included at the end of the syllabus. Each review will be worth 75 points.

3. Quizzes. There will be seven quizzes worth 10 points each. Since your two lowest quizzes will not be counted, no make-up quizzes will be given.

4. Class Participation: Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis, to be current on the readings, and to contribute to classroom discussion. More than **five** absences will result in the forfeiture of the 25 point participation component, as will excessive tardiness, early departure, un-preparedness, disruption, and inattention. Three “tardies” are the equivalent of one absence.

Grading:

Mid-Term Exams:	100 points
Two Article Reviews:	150 points
Quizzes	50 points
Participation	25 points
Final Exam	75 points

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 400 points

Grading Scale:

A 93-100%, A- 90-92%, B+ 87-89%, B 83-86%, B- 80-82%, C+ 76-79%, C 70-75%, C- 65-69%, D 55-64%

Missed Exams and Late Assignments:

In fairness to other students, late exams will be given only in the event of documented medical disability or a death in the student’s immediate family. Present such documentation the first time you broach the subject with the teacher. Conflicts with work schedules, school schedules, vacations, or non-emergency family matters are not valid reasons for missed exams. Late papers will be accepted, but penalized one letter grade per day late.

Extra Credit Work:

The student’s time and energy should be devoted to meeting the requirement of this course. For this reason, extra credit assignments will not be offered.

Disability Accommodation:

If you qualify for special assistance under the American Disabilities Act, please see the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made.

Course Outline:

The following is a tentative outline. Reading assignments and dates may be adjusted, but assigned material should be read prior to class.

- Jan. 4: Introduction
 6: The Making of the Modern Middle East: Lust, pages 1-72
 8 Continued
- 11: Social Change in the Middle East. 73-106
 13: Continued
 15 Institutions and Governance: Lust, 107-160
- 18: NO CLASS: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
 20: Continued: Lust 107-160
 22 Economic Development: Lust, pages, 161-209
- 25: Continued: **Article Selection Due Date.**
 27: Religion, Society, and Politics in the Middle East: Lust 209-245
 29 Continued Economic Development: Lust, pages, 99-142
- Feb. 1: Israel and Palestine: Lust, pages 287-366
 3: Continued
 5 Continued
- 8: Israeli Political Institutions and Political Parties: Lust, 537-563
 10: Hamas and Al-Fatah: Lust, 688-716
 12 Continued
- 15: NO CLASS: PRESIDENT'S DAY
 17: Review
 19 Exam 1
- 22: Egypt: Lust, 448-477
 24: Continued
 26. Continued
- 29: Syria: Lust, pages 764-788
- Mar. 2: **First Article Review Due. Student Presentations**
 4. Syria Continued
- 7: Continued
 9: Lebanon: Lust, pages 609-630
 11: NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

- 21: Iraq: Lust, pages 507-536
- 23: The Actors in Iraqi Politics
- 25 The International Community and Iraq

- 28: Continued
- 30: Review
- Apr. 1: **Exam 2**

- 4. Saudi Arabia: Lust, pages 746-763
- 6: Iran: Lust, pages 478-506
- 8. Continued

- 11: **Second Article Review Due. Student Presentations**
- 13: Turkey: Lust, 830-865
- 15. Continued

- 18: The Future of the Middle East: Lust, 367-428
- 20: Continued
- 22. Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAMINATION: WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 10:30-12:30PM