

# POLITICAL SCIENCE 407P/607P MIDDLE EAST IN WORLD AFFAIRS

Prof. Weinberg

Office: MSS 218

Hours: Thursday and Friday from 1:00 – 3:00

Tel: 682-7770

Email: [weinbrl@unr.nevada.edu](mailto:weinbrl@unr.nevada.edu)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Middle East is of enormous economic and political interest to the United States and the other industrialized democracies. It is also one of the most conflict-ridden parts of the globe, witness the current war in Iraq. The countries of the Middle East express a rich culture and reflect a civilization significantly different than the Western one with which we are all familiar. Yet, over the centuries the Middle East has played an important role in shaping the values and outlook of the countries we normally think of as embodying Western civilization. Among other things, the origins of the world's major monotheistic religions are to be found in the Middle East.

The Middle East in World Affairs is a course which offers students an account of the roles the countries of this troubled region play in the international arena. It also provides an introductory discussion of the domestic political situations within several countries of the Middle East. In this connection the course will pay particular attention to the seemingly never-ending Arab/Israeli conflict and to the rise of radical Islamist movements.

## GRADES

Final grades for this course will be based on two examinations, a midterm and final, plus a research paper. Each of these assignments will weigh about equally in determining final grades. Grading will also be done on a plus/minus basis. Students taking the course for graduate (PSC 607p) or honor's credit will be expected to complete a more substantial research project than students taking the course for undergraduate credit. The instructor will distribute guidelines within a month which will describe the expectations concerning the term papers. If students are having any problems about course readings

and class discussions, they are encouraged to communicate with the instructor as soon as possible.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University of Nevada does not tolerate sexual harassment or harassment of any kind of its students or employees. If you experience or become aware of such harassment, please let me know immediately – or contact the Affirmative Action officer (Clark Administration Building 210, 784-1547). Refer also to the Student Handbook and the University Catalogue on this topic. Also, if you have any disability-related needs, please let me know. I will make authorized accommodations in a confidential manner. If you have further questions about this issue, please contact the University's Disabilities Resource Center (TB Suite 101, 784-6000, TDD 327-5131). Refer also to the Student Handbook and University Catalogue on this topic. On matters concerning academic standards and cheating students should consult the University Catalogue, under "Registration and Records", Subsection B. Sanctions for Violation of Academic Standards and Subsection C. Academic Dishonesty Procedures.

## REQUIRED BOOKS

Roy Andersen, Robert Seibert, Jon Wagner, Politics and Change in the Middle East

Ian Bickerton and Carla Klausner, A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Vali Nasr, The Shia Revival

## COURSE OUTLINE

TOPIC: I-An introduction to the Middle East – social, religious and political life

Dates: weeks of August 24 through September 8

Readings: Andersen, pp. 1-55 and Nasr, pp. 17-80

TOPIC: II-THE ROLE OF OUTSIDE POWERS AND THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

Dates: weeks of September 14 and September 21

Readings: Andersen, pp. 56-71

TOPIC: III-MIDDLE EASTERN POLITICS AFTER WORLD WAR II AND THE COLD WAR

Dates: weeks of September 28 through October 5

Readings: Andersen, pp. 72-129 and Nasr, pp. 81-117

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13**

TOPIC: IV -THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

Dates: weeks of October 19 through November 9

Readings: Bickerton and Klausner, entire book

TOPIC: V INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST AND THE RISE Of Islamic Fundamentalism

Dates: weeks of November 16 through December 7

Readings: Andersen, pp. 246--341 and Nasr, pp. 119-273

**TERM PAPERS ARE DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8**

FINAL EXAMINATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:30 – 9:30 AM